The Research Information Center of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S
Fishing Citation

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

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

**SPECIES**

- **LARGEMOUTH BASS**
  - 8 pounds or larger
- **SHELLCRACKER**
  - 2 pounds or larger
- **CHAIN PICKEREL**
  - 4 pounds or larger
- **BLACK CRAPPIE**
  - 2 pounds or larger
- **BLUEGILL (BREAM)**
  - 1 1/2 pounds or larger
- **RED BREAST**
  - 1 pound or larger

**CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK**

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Date: [Blank]

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

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

- Name:
- Address:
- Species of Fish:
- Weight:
- Length:
- Type of Tackle, Boat Used:
- Where Caught:
- Date:
- Catch Witnessed by:
- Registered, Weighted by:

(Signature of Applicant)

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 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

VOLUME 12 NO. 3

AUGUST, 1958

Published monthly by the

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Tallahassee, Florida

Dedicated to the

Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game and Fish

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AUGUST, 1958

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Confusing Map

Gentlemen:

The area shown on the map in the June issue is the South Florida Region. These eastern south and southeast of the South Florida Region comprise the Everglades Region known as the Fourth Congressional District.

Lure Snatcher

Dear Sir:

I recently received my June issue of Florida Wildlife and, as usual, sat down and read it very interestingly. I was prompted to write this letter because of the cover picture of this issue.

I had been catching bass on a small lake in Wisconsin about 150 miles northwest of Green Bay. While I was cutting a small crane perched on a tree at the edge of the lake. Every time my Bass-O-Matic hit the water this crane would make an attempt to fly. After 5 or 6 casts, the crane left the tree and swooped down toward me. I was slowly retiring. At this point I must tell you that I had a small trophy in my boat with me. I noticed a tug on my line, and the crane hit the water. I did not realize that the crane was so large, because the crane was on the edge of the lake, which was higher than I had realized. I immediately stopped my boat and went back to the crane. I was able to get it back in the boat when I had been on the scene for several hours. I then decided to go home and get some rest.

The cover picture of the July issue of Florida Wildlife shows the blacked-out area around St. Petersburg as the South Florida Region. The map shows the area outlined in red and the text on the map reads: "The area shown on the map in the June issue is the South Florida Region. These eastern south and southeast of the South Florida Region comprise the Everglades Region known as the Fourth Congressional District."

Thearea shown on the map in the June issue is the South Florida Region. These eastern south and southeast of the South Florida Region comprise the Everglades Region known as the Fourth Congressional District.

FLORIDA FISHING

Dear Sir:

I have long been waiting to make my first trip to Florida and have been reading everything on your state that I can find. The articles on Fishing Florida's Fresh Waters have helped make my mind to visit Florida for my next vacation as I want to fish for bass, I would like to know what the open and closed season are.

Bass

Miami, Fla.

The three-dollar duck stamp.

Three-Dollar Duck Stamp

Dear Sir:

It is my pleasure to introduce the duck stamp to Florida's waterfowl refuge lands. By increasing the stamp fee and channeling nearly all the receipts into wetlands acquisitions, conservationists and sportmen believe the national waterfowl refuge requirements can be fulfilled within a reasonable time.

S. 2617 also would authorize reimbursement of the Post Office Department for the printing and handling of the stamps as well as for any surveys or studies that may be conducted from time to time.

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries whose chairman is Congressman Herbert C. Bonner of North Carolina. The Bonner committee received its hearing on H. R. 12906, a companion version of S. 2617 early in May, and the Senate action is expected to prompt further consideration.

Insecticides Research Bill

A bill to expand studies on the effects of insecticides and other chemicals used to kill unwanted insects and plants has passed the Senate, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The amendment was withdrawn when Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Carl Hayden of Arizona assured Yarbrough that the matter would be considered at a supplemental budget hearing later this session. Hayden later wrote the Interior and Agriculture Departments asking their needs for pesticides-wildlife research funding.

Bureaucratic Blocks Funds Request

Suspended by Senator Hayden's inquiry, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service obtained Interior Department approval in half for the research program going. The request was forwarded to the Bureau of the Budget, the Administration's watchdog on money matters, where it was rejected. Although the Budget Bureau has denied the Service an opportunity to present its needs to the appropriations committees, conservationists and prominent members of Congress will be insisting that the money be provided in the supplementary appropriations bill.

Reports Cite Fire Ant Control Damage

The need for an immediate full-scale research program is emphasized by the latest preliminary findings of the Fish and Wildlife Service and its cooperators in the Southeast. The reports show a direct loss of animal life in test areas from poisoning following aerial
A snap cast resembles a regular, overhead cast in about the same degree as the Australian crawl is like the breast stroke. If you are a sports fisherman using modern, glass rods in spin, spincast, or plug casting categories, you should be snap casting. Not learning to use this best of all casts is robbing you of much of the pleasure and effectiveness of casting, plus making you a safety risk to your companions.

Snap casting is easy, it is accurate, it is lessfatiguing, and it’s safe to use. Beyond these advantages, snap casting is rewarding in the feeling of accomplishment and in the satisfaction of perfecting a feat of precision timing and coordination to its ultimate end. Stay with me thru this column, and if I succeed in convincing you that pursuing this ideal is worth trying, you will never regret it.

Easy

There may have been snap casters before the advent of glass rods, but I never saw one. My own earlier experience was with solid steel rods, then hollow steel, and, finally, split bamboo rods. To them I bought the best that was available in those times. None of these old rods of mine would have permitted a snap cast as we know it today. I still have a couple of bamboo casting rods, and I’ve just finished trying a new South Bend, 6-foot No. 6-L that was the delight of tournament casters in its day. It’s still a fine rod, but snap cast it will not.

Snap casting is an outgrowth of the glass rod, because only a loss can the rod tip have the extreme flexibility necessary to do the job. Again, not all glass rods are ideal for snap casting. Some solid glass rods are built with suitable tip action, but they are in the minority, while almost all hollow glass rods produced by nationally-known companies have this action built in to a marked degree.

I have found that spinning rods of 6½ feet will snap cast for me better than any other length, and I, also, prefer casting and spin casting rods in 6 foot lengths for the same reason. There is only one way to be sure about a new rod—pick it up and try it. If you are an experienced snap caster, you can tell instantly if the feel is “right.” If you are new to the game, seek expert advice.

With the proper rod and lure weight, snap casting is a cinch. The secret is almost wholly in STARTING THE CAST WITH THE ROD HELD LOW. Remember, the cast DOES NOT START OVER YOUR HEAD. The rod is held low, almost parallel with the water. The back cast is a quick wrist snap, with the forward cast beginning while the lure is in the water, the full power of shoulder and arm. Such casting produces little except sweat on the brow and a fear complex in the other occupants of the boat.

Lobbing a lure produces a high cast very similar to a high, infield fly. In the process of going up and out, it peels off 140 feet of mono to get a 6 foot distance, with the belly of extra line drifting to windward, pulling the lure from the proper destination, or falling to the water in loose slack. Sidewiping is even worse in the accuracy department, the swiper being sure only that the lure will hit the water if he’s far enough from shore.

Achieving accuracy in casting is great deal like getting it in shooting. Trajectory plays a big part. The flat trajectory of flight of the projectile (bullet or lure) from the point of release to the target, the less need for compensating measures. Speed plays the major part in trajectory.

In snap casting, the lure travels at terrific speed directly from rod tip to target in a very flat line of flight. As casting distances increase, more speed must be produced in the cast to keep the lure low and, of course, eventually the speed necessary falls short of the distance required, but, as a rule, casts of 100 feet and even more can be kept flat as last night’s beer.

This flat casting is particularly rewarding when casting for snook and black bass up under hanging brush along a tangled shore line. Precision casting under these conditions is a rewarding experience whether you catch fish or not, but, as a matter of fact, such casting seldom fails to pay off.

No Sweat

Far from the least of snap casting’s benefits is the ease of doing it. Of all casting methods, this is by far the least demanding physically. I’ll not deny that a big hand plus a strong wrist and forearm are big assets in any casting, but even small children and frail ladies find snap casting with a light outfit a pleasure to be enjoyed rather than an ex-hausting chore to be endured, as their facial expressions sometimes indicate.

With longer rods having longer handles, two-handed snap casting makes child’s play of spinning. I have a light, 8-foot rod with a cork handle 22 inches long that I use for bonefish. With the reel mounted mid-handle and my left hand at the rod butt, snap casting the longer distances sometimes necessary for flats fishing requires less effort than digging out my watch to see what time it is.

For two-handed, snap casting with spinning rods, I suggest rods 7½ to 8 feet in length as the ideal. Again, this depends somewhat on the stiffness of the tip section, but most rods carrying nationally advertised brands are just about right.

Safety

Perhaps snap casting is most valuable as a safety measure. It would be difficult for a snap caster to ever hook a fishing companion. If fishing conditions are crowded and, thus, dangerous, a slight exaggeration will put the whole cast out in front of you. You might hook someone in another boat but never in your own. Learning to snap cast is one of the finest compliments you can pay to your fishing buddies. If fishing two or more anglers in a small boat entailed unavoidable risk of gouging one another with hooks, I would still go fishing, accepting this danger as part of the game. Fortunately, this is not necessary. Anglers who cast properly need not fear hooking their companions.

I go fishing quite often with Burt Pruitt, famous fishing guide on the north fork of the St. Lucie River. Thru many years of guiding, Pruitt has developed a system of adequate protection from careless casters. Although Burt seldom wears a hat when ashore, he almost always wears one when guiding a party. The type of cap he wears is an accurate gauge of the degree of casting skill of his party.

When I see Burt wearing a hard, canvas-covered, cork helmet, I know it’s not safe to come near his boat. A wide-brimmed, straw hat indicates a degree of safety with a reserve of caution, while a lightweight, cotton hat indicates mounting confidence.

Once in a great while, I see Pruitt, head bare to the breeze, guiding an angler to his best and secret places. I always make it a point to meet such a visitor. If they are good enough for Pruitt to guide bare-headed, I know I’ll enjoy shaking their hand.
We want to make it a real pil-grimage,” said Dr. H. R. Wilber, president. “It is only by a show of members that the sportsmen’s groups can make their weight felt in legis-lative matters. Not only is the convention important for the transaction of Federation business — it is of vital significance in indicating just who is back of conservation in Florida. A meeting of the Florida Conservation Council will be held in the Florida Hotel in Tallahassee on Friday before the convention begins.

Conservation Suggestions
A real veteran of the St. Johns river fishing scene, Noah J. Tidgman, recently wrote a letter to Dr. H. R. Wilber as president of the Florida Wildlife Federation setting forth some of his opinions regarding con-servation practices on the St. Johns. Tidgman is captain of the house-boat, “Noah’s Ark,” and has guided bass fishermen on the river for nearly a half century. He sets forth the following suggestions regarding bass fishing in the St. Johns:

- A limit of 12 inches to avoid har-vest of underized fish.
- A bag limit of 10 bass during February, March, April and May (spawning season). A hatchery or protected spawning season.
- A bag limit of four bass during (spawning season).
- Without excessive loss from preda-tors.
- A new member of the state Wild-life Federation is the Lake George Wildlife Club, which has remitted state dues for the year 1958-1959.
- “I own the Gulf Marine Supply Company and we sell a quantity of supplies to the local fishermen so you may be certain that I would not be willing to incur the animosity of these people and possibly lose their trade if I were not confirmed in the belief that shrimping will eventually permanently destroy the sport fish in this area.”

Awards Program
Slightly modified rules have been announced for the Florida Sportsmen’s Clubs Conservation Awards program. Now, starting its second year, the program is under the aus-pices of the Florida Wildlife Federation and is sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Company.

Governor’s state awards will be headed by the “conservationist of the year” who will receive a gold medal, a governor’s certificate and a cash award of $100. Other governor’s awards will in clude medals and certificates for outstanding conservationists of the various areas, and there will be similar awards for adult guidance of junior conservation effort. School teachers who have performed outstanding service in conservation instruction will receive gold medals and certifi-cates.

The annual awards banquet, spon-sored by the Sears Foundation, will be held in February, at which time the awards will be presented for activities of the preceding year. As was the case this year, the banquet will be given in Tallahassee.

Sportmen’s clubs will be apprised of rules and details of the program. Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, is chair-man of the awards committee.

Tidal Lands
Numerous comments in the inter-ests of conservation have been based upon the use or development of tidal areas, a matter which is little understood by most casual conserv-a tionists.

Several pages of information on “sour-entrigy tidal lands” have been issued by the office of internal im-provement fund of the State of Flor-ida. Although the details are too com plicated to be included here, there are certain facts about tidal lands that every conservationist should know.

Some of the facts stated in the re-lease are given hereon in greatly abbreviated form:

- Definition: Sovereignty lands are those which were granted to the State of Florida by the United States.
Hunting Season is not far off, and right now is the time to take stock of equipment and do something about those planned changes in sight combinations and gun fit.

Quite frequently, addition of certain inexpensive shooting accessories or modification of the dimensions of a gun’s stock can make all the difference in field performance. Consider...

Many shooters, who now miss too many targets, would benefit from changes in one or more gunstock dimensions before the coming hunting season.

Often needed is less or more drop at comb, position of aiming eye and line of fire, largely determined. With a stock that has too much drop at comb, the shooter will tend to shoot low; with one too high, his shot pattern will center above his targets, if his gun shoots where it is pointed.

Drop at comb is correct when the center of your shooting eye is slightly above the sighting plane or rib, and gives a limited yet full view of the barrel.

You will get the idea if you throw shotgun to shoulder rather than a rifle, at a large mirror, with both eyes closed, and then open your eyes and note the pupil’s position. If your eye is properly positioned a bit above the rib. If you find yourself looking only at the end of your shotgun’s breech, with none of the barrel visible, then you need to raise the height of your gunstock’s comb! Raising the comb of a shotgun or rifle stock can be accomplished by either inverting a piece of matching wood in the present comb, or by facing on a comb pad like the Jostam and Red Head recommended above.

Although the shotgun quite preferably should be a natural gun pointer rather than a sight-conscious individual, still he can more quickly develop that ability if he surely eliminate cross-firing and undershooting errors caused by improper gun alignment.

Installation of double, ivory-bead style sights—a big bead at muzzle and a smaller one about 14 inches to the rear—will help overcome cross-firing errors, particularly. Line up the two vertically for accurate gun pointing.

Lyman Gun Sight Corp. and Williams Gun Sight Company are two firms that can supply double-bead shotgun sights, complete with thread-taps for installing the mid-barrel bead. Some shooters are reluctant to settle down to using either scope or metallic sights; they want both.

For shooters in this category, such mounts as the Weaver Pivot, the Pachmayr Lo-Swing and the Williams QC side mount permit simultaneous use of both scope sight and metallic sights.

There is also the Williams “Ace-in-the-hole” auxiliary peep sight, for use solely in conjunction with the QC line of scope mounts, which permits a changeover from scope sight to previously zeroed peep sight in a matter of seconds. The Dem-Bar auxiliary peep sight does the same job for users of the Redfield Jr. and Boyt style scope mounts.

Once aligned, these auxiliary sights return to an accurate zero setting when taken off and replaced. No need to find a higher front sight on most model rifles.

The Williams style can be had from Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan. The last, second,很漂亮, Conneaut, Ohio, is distributor of the Dem-Bar. Neither product is expensive.

Because Winchester lever-action rifle models, 94, 92 and 71 eject fired cases from top of breech instead of side, front sight is somewhat different. The Williams has had to be used heretofore with equipping these big-game rifles with a low-power hunting scope.

Kent Bellah, entering firearms technician of San Antonio, Texas, gets more efficient scope mounting on a sight-conscious such models by using a Weaver side-mount base and installing it exactly backwards of preferred directions. He says, in a letter to Florida Wildlife’s Gun Editor: “In short, I install the Weaver side-mount on the right (loading) side, rather than on the left. The idea works beautifully and allows optional use of installed metallic sights, if desired.”

A test mounting job on a Winchester Model 94 showed that Bellah’s idea is practical. Owners of Winchester models 94, 92 and 71 desiring more central mounting of a scope sight, please take note.

When in use, the sight is mounted low and directly over the bore—which, logically, it should be—on Marlin rifle models 336 and 39A, the ocular or eye-end of the scope’s tube will generally come to be positioned right over the hammer if eye relief is electronically controlled and absolute hammer control difficult.

Williams Gun Sight Company markets a choice of right or left-hand auxiliary hammer extensions that can be easily installed on the named Marlin rifle models and on such established favorites as the Winchester models 94, 84 and 55. Held in place with a set screw, the side extensions are easily attached, and make hammer cocking simple, fast and safe.

The target shooter can use a large-size, overall diameter disc, with small inner aperture hole, in his rear peep sight because essentially he is an unerringly marksmen compared to the average hunter.

But the competitive hunter needs to see his front sight quickly as well as his game. His sights serve him most efficiently when he obtain s his scope sight and then the rear sight, in the order of priority, from his right side.

Gun editors pretty well agree that such hunting rifle should come factory-equipped with sling swivels. Then the purchaser can easily add a leather sling if he wants one; leave it off if he doesn’t. Best expression of the idea is found in European arms manufacturers, on which sling swivels are usually standard equipment.

The 3/8 inch overall diameter is not so large that useful field of view is obstructed, yet is large enough that the aiming eye naturally seeks its center.

An inner aperture hole of 1/25 size is very popular with deer hunters and snipershooters. Accuracy tests show that the hunter can seldom get too large an inside aperture, but that field accuracy is sure to suffer if the rear sight’s disc has a peep hole so small that it is neither self-centering nor clear at center.

Discs cost very little. This Gun Editor recommends that several of different inner hole size be purchased and tried—preferably a .070, and .083 and a size .125, all in 3/8 inch overall disc-size diameter. You can order rear peep sight discs from Lyman, Williams, Redfield or Marble.

An adjustable, detachable leather sling is one of the most useful accessories the hunter can put on a gun—even a shotgun. It not only makes for easy gun carrying when traveling a woods trail (loaded down with camping gear) but gives steady influence to aim, especially for fast second shots.

Gun editors pretty well agree that every hunting rifle should come factory-equipped with sling swivels. Then the purchaser can easily add a leather sling if he wants one; leave it off if he doesn’t. Best expression of the idea is found in European arms manufacturers, on which sling swivels are usually standard equipment.

The popular Model 99R Savage will take a standard fore-end type of sling swivel installation, being it being necessary only to countersink a holding nut on the inside so that it won’t rub the underside of the barrel. However, the Model 99E Savage has a thinner wood forearm. A thinner nut should be used, and the swivel itself located less than 1 1/2 inches from the fore-end tip.

A necking magazine band, short stud style of front sling swivel teams right up with the Model 94 Winchester. The same type can be had for the Marlin Model 336, if the fore-end cap style is not desired. Whatever the make and model of your gun, there is a sling swivel style to be had from among the Judd, Williams, Jaeger, Phillips, Redding and Michael manufacturers. For hunting, get them with bows that will accept a one inch width leather.
A combination of rear peep sight close to the eye, a bluish inset sight and colored, prescription-ground glasses will often keep a middle-aged shooter's skill par with that of younger marksmen with better-focusing eyes. When this combination begins to fail, he should change to a scope sight—and quickly. Most "old eyes" would benefit from such a change, without further ado.

THE EYES HAVE IT

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

POOR VISION CAN PROVE A TROUBLESOME HANDICAP TO THE SPORTSMAN. FOR SAFE HUNTING NEXT SEASON, TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION NOW.

AMONG SHOTGUNNERS, riflemen, pistol shooters and bowhunters, ownership of the best quality equipment, aside from being desirable, is invariably of great personal importance. Undoubtedly, use of top-notch equipment does help to tip the balance scales favorably when all other factors are nearly equal. For this reason, the average sportsman usually takes good care of his shooting equipment.

But the most important item, one already possessed — his vision — is frequently neglected.

Do you really need glasses? Only an examination by a conscientious ophthalmologist can accurately answer that; he alone can determine how well you actually see.

But probability of need of glasses is influenced by both your age and condition of health. According to the Better Vision Institute, a non-profit organization that makes a continuous study of human eyesight, modern civilization—especially indoor living and close work under artificial light — takes a heavy toll of normal human eyesight. Statistics show that with persons 15 years of age or less —23% need glasses; 30 years of age or less—48% need glasses; 50 years of age—71% need glasses; 60 years of age—82% need glasses; Over 60 years of age—95% need glasses.

Fortunately indeed are those FLORIDA WILDLIFE readers not included in the stated percentages.

To the layman, 20/20 vision is considered perfect. Actually, the score means only that a person of that classification can read letters 3.8 of an inch high at twenty feet. He can still be lacking in one or more factors that go to make up good vision.

What are some of the common vision troubles of sportsmen, particularly shooters?

Myopia or Near-sightedness: This defect usually exists where a shooter sees his sights clearly but finds distant targets blurred. Afield, without corrective prescription glasses, the near-sighted person may easily mistake movements of other hunters for game and consequently be potentially dangerous to all persons within range of his weapon.

The trouble in not seeing distant objects clearly is based on the fact that the natural shape of the eye's lens is too long, with the result that received light incorrectly images in front of the retina and creates a blurred picture. Doctors say the condition is often an aftermath of a case of measles or similar illness during childhood. It is corrected by the fitting of a concave or minus, prescription lens, placed in front of the eye to cause distant light rays to focus properly on the eye's retina.

The trouble is acute for a group. He can read FLORIDA WILDLIFE as exaggeratedly close as only four inches from his eyes, but cannot easily read a calendar hanging on a wall across the room, or clearly define distant objects. The condition is correctible, but only by the wearing of proper prescription glasses.

If an examination by an oculist shows that you suffer from astigmatism, ask to be given optical correction for as little as one-quarter diopter of astigmatic error.

Presbyopia or "old-man eyes": In young eyes, controlling muscles—unless affected by disease—have remarkable and rapid flexibility, enabling eyes to quickly change focus from near to far, or vice versa, with split-second timing and with good definition.

But as the years pass, eye lens muscles lose their elasticity or accommodation; hence the technical term "presbyopia"—from the Greek word "presbyos," meaning old man, combined with "opia" or vision.

Presbyopia is probably present if you cannot read small print closer than approximately nine inches from your face. Correction calls for a convex, or plus, eyeglass lens of required strength.

Far-sightedness is approximately six times more common that near-sightedness, optometrists say.

Astigmatism: In this visual defect, the eye cannot sharply focus all horizontal and vertical lines, due to an error in the shape of the cornea or front surface of the eye, not the lens. Optometrists state that astigmatism has nothing to do with far and near-sighted troubles. The condition is correctible, but only by the wearing of proper prescription glasses.

If an examination by an oculist shows that you suffer from astigmatism, and you are a shooter, ask to be given optical correction for as little as one-quarter diopter of astigmatic error.
The trouble is caused by the eye's lens are stiffening and that the eye lens to see it clearly and comfortably. Your range of vision should be 50 degrees above and below eye-level, center focus point if your eyes enjoy normal fields of vision.

Judgment of Depth or Distance: Depth perception is particularly important to the shotgunning and the bowhunter in estimating distances and lead required for hitting moving game. Serious aiming errors can occur when faulty depth perception occurs.

How accurately can you judge depth or distance? Outdoors, estimate the distance between yourself and a distant object, then pass off the distance for a check on the accuracy of your guess. Make similar tests at different places and record or memorize the results to evaluate the accuracy of your judgments.

Field of View: It is usually your side vision that first picks up movement of game. Enjoyed wide fields of horizontal and vertical vision enable you to detect and keep in view fast moving game that might otherwise escape your sight.

Field of Vision: It is usually your side vision that first picks up movement of game. Enjoyed wide fields of horizontal and vertical vision enable you to detect and keep in view fast moving game that might otherwise escape your sight.

Shooters afflicted with presbyopia should have their eyes checked at least every two years.

Visual Acuity: Just seeing objects in a general way is not enough. The slightest blurring markedly reduces efficiency; you must not only see an object well enough to identify it, but you must also see it distinctly and quickly and be able to recognize it against a variety of backgrounds.

Florida salt water fishing guides, men whose incomes depend on their ability to locate fish and place anglers at the best spots for probable catches, usually are persons of good vision—not always because of rated 20/20 vision but because of having developed a keen sense of perception. They know what to look for and quickly recognize it when seen.

See also visual acuity and contrast sensitivity.

Color Perception: One of every twelve hunters is lacking in some phase of normal color discrimination, ophthalmologists say.

Far-sightedness is six times more common than near-sightedness, ophthalmologists say. Shooters with vision defects usually have trouble seeing the slightest movement or object distant or near by definition. The trouble is caused by light rays bending behind the retina instead of on it. Corrective lenses for a convex, or plus, eyeglass lens of required strength.

(Mixed in with the preceding page)

A near-sighted person usually sees eye's objects clearly but finds distant targets blurred. The trouble is caused by the eye's lens being too long in perfect (the result that distant parallel light rays come to focus ahead of the retina. It is corrected by forming a concave, or minus, prescription lens in front of the eye, to bend light rays before they enter the eye.

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(Continued from Proceeding Page)
A wildlife camp deep in the heart of the Ocala National Forest

CLOSE YOUR EYES and visualize a wooded area with majestic loblolly pines and giant sabal palms dripping with Spanish moss; palmettos, scrub oak, and sand; a sandy beach and a clear, blue lake. Now imagine the kind of wildlife you would expect to find in such a setting. Yes, there were alligators, salamanders, turtles, and snakes; mosquitoes, flies, and chiggers; deer, rabbits, mice, and squirrels; cardinals, blue herons, and ospreys. This was the site of a Florida Wildlife Camp in 1957; the beautiful spot where ninety-six Intermediate Girl Scouts and fourteen staff members camped together for two weeks, practicing the Girl Scout Promise and Laws and sharing the habitat of their wildlife friends.

The camp was a co-operative venture—another fine example of cooperation between local Girl Scout groups and a state conservation agency. Four Florida councils appointed a special committee to plan and carry out the encampment in accordance with Girl Scout standards. The site, located in the Ocala National Forest near Silver Springs, had been offered for the use of the Girl Scouts by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The Commission did more than furnish the physical plant; it provided three young college students, former outstanding members of the Junior Conservation Club, to serve as full-time camp counselors and program consultants for the two-week period. One gave the girls fascinating information about the balance of nature; another told about the mammals that had been mounted and placed in the museum on the site; a third gave the life and history of the common fish.

One troop unit had the unusual experience of going on a hike with a world-famous naturalist, who pointed out edible plants on the site that could be used for emergency food. The Junior Conservationists helped the girls complete activities for the Conservation, Mammal, Reptile and Amphibian, Bird, and Adventurer badges.

Program activities were very like those in all other Girl Scout camps. There were cookouts, evening campfires, wide games, a Scout's Own, and an overnight on the other side of the lake. And every day there were also the wonders of wildlife and woodlore.

Temporary name tags helped the scouts to learn the variety of trees about the Eaton campsite.

This poster was kept up to date as a running account of the wildlife observed around the camp.

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A white-tailed deer left this track on a record of its visit to the clay pit near camp.

A conservation staff member shows a camper how to paint the scar left by cutting off a tree limb.
Clear water and a brisk current characterize the S. Marks River below Talahassee. It is similar in nature to many of the streams of the northwestern Panhandle.

Part Four:
Northwest Florida Region

FISHING FLORIDA'S FRESH WATERS

By JIM FLOYD

From scrappy sunfish to tackle-bustin' alligator gar, the Northwest Region offers angling variety aplenty.

When two or more Northwest Floridians get together, the talk just naturally turns to fishing. And more often than not, the conversation is wrapped up in cane poles, bream, and shellcrackers. Last there be a misunderstanding, not all bream and shellcrackers are taken by the cane polers. The past ten years have seen increasing numbers of fishermen joining the fly rod and popping bug fraternity. What better recreation could be found anywhere than drifting down one of Northwest Florida's numerous rivers, popping a bream bug or floating a cricket under the overhanging willows?

The Northwest Region is comprised of the sixteen counties making up Florida's Third Congressional District. The Region stretches from the Aucilla River on the east to the Perdido River on the west, with Georgia and Alabama on the north and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. This is the section of the Sunshine State that is commonly referred to as the "Panhandle." Though bass and other game fish are found in abundance, here the bluegill and its relatives—the panfishes— reign supreme.

The words bream, shellcracker, warmouth, and stump-knocker bring to the mind of many fishermen visions of the famed Dead Lakes. Wildlife Officer Tom McDaniel of Gulf County says such visions are only natural, for the Dead Lakes are known not only for the excellent bluegill "bream" fishing found among the cypress trees that stud its rich waters but also for the limit strings of other panfish produced. The Dead Lakes straddle the Gulf-Calhoun County line near Wewahitchka and actually represent backwaters of the lower Chipola River, one of the Apalachicola's most important tributaries. With plenty of cover and an abundance of food its rich waters are truly a haven for the fish and a natural for the fisherman.

Scenically the area is much different from other parts of the state having, some would say, a desolate beauty. Officer Allen Legrone, also of Gulf County, agrees with McDaniel on the panfish possibilities of the Dead Lakes but adds that fishermen who choose to seek out bass and pickerel will find abundant subjects in the flooded-out cypress forest.

As a fisherman departs the Dead Lakes following the course of the Chipola River, he drifts past some of the most tranquil and beautiful scenery to be found anywhere in Florida. Where the Chipola joins the mighty Apalachicola, a fisherman would likely enjoy (Continued on Next Page)
under certain conditions. In Talquin are vast schools of shadines, which are small, threadfin shad. These congregations of bait fish are periodically attacked by hungry bass. At such times, a flurry of activity on the lake’s surface is a sure indication of highly catchable large-mouths at hand. A small lure, either spoon on plug, often trailing a streamer fly is the indicated medicine to offer the schoolers.

Rhodus, along with a host of Wildlife Officers from both Leon and Gadsden Counties, acclaim Lake Talquin as being top-notch for both bass and panfish. Montgomery points out this is just "hard-down" good fishing waters all the way from the dam to the Gulf of Mexico. Montgomery swears by the waters of the Escambia River and its many tributaries. He points out that along with the many miles of rivers and creeks, and numerous lakes in the Northwest region, there is an astounding number of fish ponds under management by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Montgomery says 1,143 to be exact.

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Irvin Speice, area supervisor of the second law enforcement area consisting of Washington, Holmes, Jackson, and Bay Counties, referred any request for fishing information to the Wildlife Officers working these counties. However, Speice did state that to his way of thinking, the Choctawhatchee River, running from the state line to the Gulf of Mexico, produced as fine fishing as could be imagined by any angler.

The Chocotawhatchee, described by many as a miniature Apalachicola Delta River, produces excellent panfish and bass catches. According to Warren Ward, Wildlife Officer in Holmes County, an angler desiring truly selective fishing should search out the numerous cut-off sloughs and lakes along the Chocotawhatchee drainage. Ward described these sloughs and lakes as areas generally flooded during a high water stage and cut off from the river during normal or low water. Most such lakes are connected to the Chocotawatchee by small, uncharted creeks and are difficult to locate, but once located, ZOWIE! Bill Miller and R. K. Henderson, Wildlife Officers in Walton County, proclaim the Choctawhatchee Delta as tops for bass fishing, and pointed out that live bait in all possibility produces the best strings, while artificial lures produces the largest fish. Both officers agree that while the reputation of the delta is good because of its bass, the shadackers produced in this area are often overlooked.

Traveling to the western end of the region and contacting Bill Lee, area supervisor of the first law enforcement area, as to his knowledge of the best fishing within this area of four counties, Lee’s comment was, “Well, son, if you want to find better fishing than that found on the Escambia River, you’re just gonna have some more traveling to do.”

Bill’s opinion is backed up by the wildlife officers in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, all acclaiming the virtues of the Escambia River and its tributaries. For bass and shell-crackers, the officers advise the delta with live bait or artificial baits. For bluegill, red-bream, warmouth, and stump knockers, crickets, catalpa weevil or even the lovely earthworms will produce limit strings from the many creeks and sloughs. Coming in for equal acclaim through this area are the Blackwater, Sheal, and Yellow Rivers.
to waste while water is badly needed.

Suppose, then, you would erect an inexpensive salt water cutoff or dam across North Bay at its narrowest point, to keep the salt tide out and the fresh waters of the Econfina and other tributaries in. What would happen?

Well, according to a thorough engineering study, this would result in a magnificent lake about five feet above the present level of the bay, covering 5,000 acres and with a volume of approximately 10 billion gallons of fresh water. This is estimated to be an ample water supply of all the needs of a city the size of Detroit or Philadelphia. More than an answer to Panama City's projected water needs. And an answer to a fisherman's prayer!

This plan is not just an engineer's pipe dream. Panama City is one of Florida's fastest growing cities, both in population and in industry. Its citizens know they will need more water if this growth is to continue, and they think that the North Bay project is the best way to get this water — and plenty of it! The study has been made, plans drawn, a bond issue favorably voted on, and now negotiations are under way to get the project started.

Florida's sportmen should wish the folks at Panama City the best of luck on this undertaking. First, because it means a fine, new 5,000 acre lake for boating, bass fishing, and other smaller tributaries.

There is already serious talk about the creation of a huge fresh water lake in the Tampa area, by blocking off a section of Tampa Bay from tidal salt water. If the North Bay project at Panama City succeeds, and Tampa learns the lesson, we may look toward a time when fresh water sports fish, like bluegills, might be produced on a scale never before seen on the Florida west coast — and from a place that was once a shallow salt water "bog."
The fight to conserve Florida's toy deer has been long and strenuous, but...

HAVE THE KEY DEER BEEN SAVED?

By CLEVELAND VAN DRESSER

In August 15, 1957 the National Wildlife Federation made the following announcement from its Washington, D. C. headquarters:

"The bill to establish a National Wildlife Refuge for the Key deer and other wildlife in the subtropical habitat between the Florida mainland and Key West, was passed by the Senate August 12. The House accepted the Senate amendments the next day, clearing the measure for the President's signature. So ends successfully a long campaign by conservationists to secure preservation of a representative area of natural habitat for the rare Key deer and thus secure the perpetuation of this small and distinctive animal."

A lot of work by a lot of people had gone into the enactment of that law. Strong opposition from real estate promoters in the Keys had to be overcome. One of the main objectors was the Lower Keys Property Owners Association. Arguing for the bill were the Audubon Society, the U. S. National Museum, various local conservation groups, the Wilderness Society as well as the Fish and the Institute. Altogether it was quite a battle, and when it was finally won, to all intents and purposes it was a signal victory for conservationists, as was aptly pointed out in the italic portion of the Federation's August 15 announcement.

The bill even went further than merely declaring a refuge for the Key deer. It authorized an appropriation of $35,000 to acquire necessary land.

It would appear, on the surface at least, that these joyous announcements spelled an end to the threatened extinction of the pigmy deer of the Florida Keys. Actually—and it is an unhappy but nonetheless realistic statement to make—the Key deer are not much better off today than they were in 1950 when the battle to save them began in earnest.

The enemies of the Key deer are certain short sighted real estate developers and subdividers who see for themselves immense profits in building hotels, residences, motels and beer joints on the string of coral islands which extend from the southern tip of Florida's mainland to Key West. In the past seven years that area has experienced a real estate growth comparable only to the fantastic "boom" of the mid 20's. In the face of this expansion, key after key has been skimmed bare of vegetation and the harassed deer have been literally bulldozed from their homes.

The plight of the Key deer is not so widely known nor has the story of their precarious existence been so dramatized. Nevertheless, the key situation is as perilous as that of the Key deer. The battle to save the Key deer is not so widely known nor has the story of their precarious existence been so dramatized. Nevertheless, the key situation is as perilous as that of the Key deer. The battle to save the Key deer is not so widely known nor has the story of their precarious existence been so dramatized. Nevertheless, the key situation is as perilous as that of the Key deer.
**GET 'EM EARLY**

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

IT WAS THAT TIME of morning when at any moment you expect the sun to come bursting over the eastern horizon. We three—A. L. Wilke, Paul Bryan and I—were drift fishing a stretch of the Kiasmme River, about 17 miles below the Highway 66 bridge. The dock, seemingly wert current was moving too fast for us to work the pockets in the bordering hyacinths properly with yellow-colored poppers. We'd cast ahead of the boat into narrow openings, chugging into the current, battling doggedly. We weren't getting any bragging-size specimens but nonetheless were hungry.

The author with a five-pounder caught early one summer morning on a black eel lure.

This feeding spree continued for perhaps thirty minutes. Then abruptly it quit. There was no gradual slackening off. One minute the bass were hitting like mad; the next we couldn't coax a nibble.

We fished for a couple more hours and caught only three, maybe two, bass. Headed back up river, we met my two other fishermen. No luck, they reported. Evidently they hadn't been out earlier when the bass were hungry.

This was no isolated incident. Numerous times I've found my better fishing in that magic hour between dawn and sun-up, which I regard as the most productive time of day.

**That magic period between dawn and sun-up is the most productive time of day**

I practically every other cast. The bass would race out and find my better fishing in that magic hour between dawn and sun-up. As the morning progresses more and more boats will be evident on the water.

That small group which is out early normally is composed of fishermen who catch most of the fish. My favorite fishing spot is sixty miles from my home. In order to be on the lake early, I am out of bed and on the road by 3:30 a.m. By 5 o'clock I am fishing. My friends think I am nuts, but they invariably drop the hint that they will be glad to take any fish off my hands that I am unable to use.

The quit who authored that ageless axiom "the early bird gets the worm" surely was a fisherman. I'll trade you any other three hours of a day for that hour from dawn until sunrise, and I bet my best fishing rod that I'll consistently catch the most fish, providing that everything else is equal.

This early-start routine isn't limited to bass anglers, by any means. All fish are motivated by the same basic factors—seasons, weather, water temperature, etc.—which dictate feeding habits. Generally, you'll always find your best action early in the day, may you be fishing for bass, crappie (speckled perch), bream, or what have you.

**For example, Allen Bloodworth and I were fishing for catfish one humid summer morning. There was just enough light to distinguish shape from shadow. We were standing on**

the bank of a tree-lined river, casting our bobbers out in the current and allowing them to ride down and around to the bank.

There was a certain junction just where the bobbers reached the end of the lines and started sweeping in toward bank where every catfish in the river must have been congregated. At the precise moment when a bobber began curving against the strain of line and current, it would disappear. These were spirited channel catfish, about two-pounds apiece, and they were eager for battle once hooked.

Fast and furious action prevailed for the better part of an hour. Then it began to wane. Soon we were catching a fish on every third or fourth cast. Shortly it ceased altogether.

**This was no isolated incident. Numerous times I've had good fishing early, only to see all action die later in the day.**

Few fishermen will dispute the claim that early morning and late afternoon are the two top fishing periods of the day. Of the two, I'll take the morning anytime. Fish are primarily nocturnal feeders, as are most creatures of the wild. They might start foraging sometime prior to dark and will continue to feed until after dawn. Sometimes they may not start until midnight or later. But normally they will feed until dawn, and often on into the morning. The quietsness that prevails early and late is conducive to feeding.

That word quietness is the clue, I believe. In early morning, activity is at a standstill. Nothing is moving about to disturb the fish's feeding pattern. Shifting winds have created somewhat of a vacuum. Fish are able to feed by sound vibrations, their favorite method especially when food hunting at the surface.

This is why a top-water bait is effective in early morning.

I recall one morning, a few moments before the eastern sky started lighting up, when I was standing on a dock waiting for a friend. We had a bass fishing date. The air was calm and quiet. A gasoline lantern illuminated the dock, radiating a faint glow over the mirror-smooth surface. With nothing better to do I rigged up a fly rod and baited with a live minnow. I dropped it off the end of the dock, letting it settle on bottom before raising it a few inches. Momentarily I felt a slight tug on the line.

Hungry? No to me. Many times I've had good fishing early, only to see all action die later in the day.

**Sure**

**"Why is that?" I naturally asked.**

"The crappie are biting good from about 2 o'clock until dawn," he explained. "But after that things slow down."

Sure enough, I got at his place an hour or so before daybreak and caught some nice fish. But, as he had warned, the fish had not been hungry until the sun climbed over the horizon.

Early morning is an especially rich time for catching fish during the hotter months. The heat keeps the fish deep and sluggish during the day, but after a cooling night, the fish are ready to move into the shallows to feed briefly early of a morning.

My job as outdoors editor of a daily newspaper requires that I do much fishing and experimenting. My usual routine is to get out before dawn, fish all morning, and return to my office in the afternoon to write my column. I do this once or twice a week.

I started this way and tried it for

(Continued on Page 28)
**Everglades Magic**

By MAX HUNN

Linda “Tish” Hunn bites her hook with a choice northworn. She hopes there is a customer waiting for the offering in the waters just below the road culverts.

Linda’s red and white bobber danced a rapid jig, and then suddenly it went under and stayed. “I got one, Daddy!” she screamed, as I looked up from the rear of our station wagon where I was finishing rigging my own red.

“I’ll catch some,” she pertly replied with all the assurance of a veteran fisherman.

“They’re all right, but keep your casts away from the brush,” I cautioned as I rigged her spinning line with a red and white plastic float and a small hook. Maybe she’d hook some bream ’midst those confounded gars. At least I could hope so. If so, we’d both be happy.

Linda hurried off to try her luck. Fortunately she had handled a spinning rod before, and while she wasn’t a distance caster, she was fairly accurate. Here this was an advantage for a poor cast, east spell-ed disaster.

She fished her bait out into the rushing water bustling under the culvert, and watched the float dance in the little froth forming on top of the small pool where the water plunged from the culvert to the swamp.

There was a steady plop, plop, plop of fish exploding in the water. It was an unanny noise to be breaking the otherwise peaceful quiet of the remote ‘Glades. I figured the gars had corraled a school of minnows and was making their dinner out of their flesh. But that was no sign there were any other fish there.

The Everglades magic was working. Nearly every cast netted a strike, although not always a landing. Linda squealed with delight each time her bobber danced and went under, and she landed her share of bream before she accidentally kicked her worms into the stream. But no bass would bother with worms—beneath their dignity, I guess.

I was equally busy hooking and playing both bass and bream. It was hard to tell what you had for they both struggled violently aided by the rapid rushing water. They were hitting so eagerly, I decided to experiment to see whether the lure or the time was most important. It undoubtedly was the latter, although I found I had lures they’d ignore, and lures they’d sock, and lures which rated only 50-50. However, surface lures were absolute failures. All strikes came on underwater-type flies and streamers.

The most effective lures were underwater streamers, and the bigger the lure, the bigger the bass. I found if I used a small streamer and hook I got a small bass. With a large streamer, a combination of feathers and rubber tails, I hooked the two most respectable bass—probably 5 lb to a pound each, and these we kept. However, I got more strikes and landed more fish—bass and bream—with a little gold spin-

We drove along a time-scarred road and found it’s a twisting, time-scarred road, quietly deteriorating in the depths of the Everglades, a moment in theutable minds of men during the building of the Tamiami Trail. Once it was to have been the main highway. Now it loops around going nowhere in particular, and seldom sees a road gang as each solid bump reminds you.

It winds its way south from Mon­roe Station along a canal largely overgrown by brush tangles that make an experienced fisherman shudder, meandering and zigzagging through a soggy cypress swamp and during the wet season it meanders strictly under water.

It’s a favorite hunters’ access to the remote ‘Glades and cypress land bordering the Everglades National Park, and is used by some veteran fishermen who know the country and who don’t mind paying heavily with lost lures in return for spas-moths espectacular fishing — in numbers if not in weight.

At certain times of year when the waters begin to recede in the ‘Glades, fishing pandemonium breaks loose for those who make the run from the sawgrass country. The lowering water drives the fish who’ve been spawned in the sawgrass into deep canals and pools scattered along such virtually abandoned roads. And they’re usually frantically hungry. It’s the magic of the Ever-glades.

Then, fishermen have a field day, particularly with spinning equip­ment if they’re sharp casters and can handle themselves in two by four holes, and don’t mind decorating the brush with broken tackle.

The gear they use in the magic was working in this area, so I de-cided to check, combining this with a long promised fishing expedition with my 10-year-old daughter, Linda.

Some of the well authenticated reports were fabulous. One expert Miami fishing writer and releasing over a hundred bass during a day’s outing. Of course, the bass weren’t large, running from a half to a pound and a half—they’d be bigger later on if the water re-mained up in the ‘Glades—but they put up a good fight on light spinning tackle. And the odds favored them due to the locale. They didn’t have to be ecaxed too much. And, add­ing to this were the bream who persisted in trying to act like bass, I discovered.

We halted our car’s small pace just before a bump in the narrow, tree-lined road, indicative of a cul­vert beneath. Good fishing spot? Maybe, maybe not.

I didn’t worry too much for the outing with Linda and her new spin­ning rod was just as important as catching fish—although being a con­firmed angler, I knew I’d count the fish for the record book.

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Hi-Fi Crows

The gun shy crows of Jenkins' Woods fell all over themselves to our woodland ambush.

By MORRIE NAGGIAR

Immediately the room bulged with the full-throated clamor of a flock of crows whooping it up over a heavily laden banquet table. Doors opened and heads pecked cautiously inside to see what was going on. Quickly I turned down the volume and listened to a couple of minutes of real crow talk. There was no fooling about it; this was the pure quail as far as I was concerned. I hoped the crows felt the same way about it.

For a moment did I hesitate over the mound of correspondence and other papers that demanded attention. Events took their natural course. "I have a little job to take care of. I'll be out of the office the rest of the day," I told Marilyn.

"It will only take me a few minutes to run home and pick up my shotgun," she answered, ignoring the feeble efforts to gloss over my plans.

"Well, O.K. I'll meet you back here in a half hour." I had figured on auditioning the jet age caller on a solo hunt but then even the best laid plans of mice and men ... I wondered over the advisability of having a secretary who was also an avid hunter.

An hour later we pulled up in the farm yard at the Jenkins' place. Axel, busily engaged in one of the endless chores that keep him hopping on his north Florida farm, passed up the chance to observe the initial run of the crow talker. His expression as he examined the compact little battery operated record player broadcast the fact that he did not think there would be much to it.

"Don't think it will work, eh Axe?" I chided him.

"I didn't say that." "Nope, you didn't have to." Axel grinned sheepishly. "I'm thinking you're going to have to come up with something better than you bought one to hunt ducks and geese thinking you're going to have to fool 'em for a good spell. They're smart." "Could be. We'll be by with the evidence, or the lack of it, after a bit."

We drove down a sandy woods.

(Continued on Next Page)

A combination of plywood silhouettes and half-bodied paper mache decoys adds an extra pay-off touch to the startling realism of the crow talk given out by the Atom Age critter caller.

A simple blind is effective for controlling targeted hunters. A head net eliminates light reflections from face. This skin Aliore is often the culprit when decoying crows and other birds suddenly flee off from blind.

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road skirting the edge of Jenkin's ill-fated corn patch. A bit of pine woods, fairly free of underbrush, and right at the edge of the corn field looked like a good spot to set up shop. In an earlier attempt to get in some after season gunning, I had picked up a papier mache decoy set consisting of an owl and a pair of crows. With a couple of plywood cutouts I'd made up following a plan in a back issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE (June 1957), it looked like maybe we had the makings of a good set of decoys to add authenticity to the calling.

For a shooting blind we selected a clump of brush within easy range of the decoys. A few branches were stuck in the ground to serve as a front screen. With our camouflage netting jackets it seemed certain that we would be well enough hidden from the sharpest eyed among the crows. At any rate from a distance it looked good. We loaded the shotguns, started the turntable revolving, slipped a "riot-call" record into place and sat back to watch results.

No sooner had the needle touched the plastic disc immediately by a knot of the black rascals. Low they came and flying fast, heads swiveling from side to side looking for the party.

"Shoot when you see a good chance," I whispered. One crow spotted the papier owl and pitched toward it with pinions whistling. Absorbed in the problem of trying to overtake the diving bird with the barrel of my 12 pump, I realized I had played hob a fraction of a second after the ounce of chilled 6's roared out of the barrel.

(Continued from preceding page)

Herring Gull, Larus argentatus.
This is the common sea gull of both the Atlantic and Gulf coastal areas. Although it is not infrequent southward into the Keys, it is along the northern and northwestern coasts where the species attains its greatest abundance in Florida. During the hot months of summer, all but the non-nesters are absent from the state. The birds nest from Maine and North Dakota northward into Canada and southern Alaska.

In the adult plumage the Herring Gull presents a striking appearance with its gray mantle, pinkish feet and legs, and white-spotted black-tipped wings. The bill is yellow with a large spot of red near the tip.

Up until the time the individual attains its fourth year, the plumage is a drab brownish mottled with creamy white. The bill of young birds is flesh colored with a gray-black tip.

The Herring Gull shows a definite preference for the coastal areas and is seldom encountered in any great numbers back from the coast. Natural foods of the species consists of a variety of animal matter such as fish, crustaceans, shellfish, insects, and marine worms. Garbage and fishing wastes, along the well settled sections, provide much of the food of this gull.

Ring-Billed Gull, Larus delawarensis.
The ring-bill in adult plumage is a readily identified gull. As the common name implies, a dark ring around the bill is a conspicuous feature of the species. The legs are yellowish, frequently with a definite greenish cast. The tail, white in the adult plumage, is conspicuously banded with black in immature birds.

The ring-bill is somewhat smaller than the Herring Gull and, in general body conformation, gives the impression of a more delicate bird than the blockier Herring Gull.

This species is one of the most common of the country's gulls. Inland it is likely to be the species that gathers in the wake of the farmer's plow to feed on earthworms and insect larvae exposed by plowing activities.

The bird nests from the lower portion of Labrador across to southern Alaska and southward to the vicinity of the Great Lakes and in the Pacific Northwest.

In Florida the Ring-billed Gull is common during the winter months where it may be found anywhere along the coasts and about many of the inland lakes.

Laughing Gull, Larus atricilla.
The contrasting plumage pattern of black, white, and lead gray makes the Laughing Gull a standout in any gathering of sea coast birds. During the winter months, this gull is much more conservatively attired. At this time it is more likely to be found in the company of terns and other gulls.
Colonial seabirds, showing an apparent
the Gulf-Caribbean area.

Bonaparte’s Gull is a widely distributed
winter resident of the state. The
birds make their nests on low
nests in the Gulf-Caribbean area. It is a
species that is occasionally
seldom reported in the colder
seasons.

Its characteristic call, sometimes
"screech-owls" and
the mainly white primary feath-

The Gulf-Caribbean area. It is a
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the mainly white primary feath-

The eye that keeps your finger pointing at the object, without the necessity of shifting the position of your finger or head, will be your "master" eye.

Test No. 2, and the one most likely to impress you forcibly, is to pick up your shotgun, rifle or pistol and aim at some selected target with both eyes wide open. Then, maintaining your aim, close your left eye only. Does your weapon still point to impress you forcefully, is to pick up your shotgun, rifle or pistol and handed, but the tests show that you pointed right on target is your aiming with the left eye, but they have a left from there.

There are special, offset stocks and sight combinations which permit aiming and shooting a rifle or shotgun from the right shoulder while aiming with the left eye, but they are made only for right-handed men. It is far better for a shooter possessed of a left "master" eye to change over to his left shoulder and learn to shoot from there. It will seem awkward at first, but a little practice soon brings a feeling of naturalness and real expertness is possible. Both Col. Townsend Whelen and this writer first learned to shoot from the right shoulder, but later had to change over to left when changes in eyeglass occurred.

Admittedly, it takes time and serious practice information so that a left-handed shooter to master rapid fire operation of a bolt-action rifle than other types. For this reason, lever, slides-on and autoloaders usually are the southpaw's best bets for hunting.

Two-eyed Vision: Although it is his "master" eye that serves as a left-handed shooter's best, two-eyed vision helps greatly in seeing depth properly. The statement, "two eyes are better than one" is an obvious truth, and good shooting technique is to keep both eyes open when taking aim. But it often takes time and perseverance to learn to shoot with both eyes open. Meanwhile, scores may suffer.

In learning to shoot with both eyes open, expert Rudy Ritchen recommends that the shotgunning temporarily by-pass Skeet in favor of trap-shooting. He says, "Do it this way: First, close one eye when you have the gun up to your shoulder and line up the sights as they should be, the center bead sight just under the front sight. Then when you call for your trap target to be released, open the non-aiming eye and shoot the target with both eyes open. By using this method, you have properly aligned your sights before opening both eyes and will be locking straight down the barrel. After some practice, you'll be able to keep both eyes open from start to finish. Skeet and field shooting will come easier to you after so practicing trap shooting."

Rifle and Pistol Target Shooting: For competitive target shooting, using metallic sights, it is rarely possible to obtain prescription glasses that will give sharp definition of both front sight and distant target. Where a choice must be made, best results will stem from seeing the front sight sharp and clear at the expense of a slightly blurrer target. The theory—proven correct by tests—is that one can align a sharply defined blade front sight more accurately on a slightly fuzzy target than vice versa. Usually, your eye doctor can fit you with a special pair of shooting glasses that will give you the best possible vision for shooting, although such will be unsuited to general wear.

Talk over your vision problems with your eye doctor. Tell him you want the best possible vision for shooting—preferably corrected curve lenses that give a prescription, or useful area, strength the same at all distances as in the middle. Take along your gun or hunting bow and demonstrate how you hold and aim it, that the doctor may better understand your optical needs.

If bi-focals are indicated, have the close vision portion of your shooting glasses set low so that it can be used for close seeing when walking, making sight adjustments and for loading operations, but will not tend to border too closely on the most utilized distance-seeing portion of the glass.

HI-FI CROWS (Continued from Page 32)

The bird plumped in a shower of feathers as the load caught him squarely. But he was not the only casualty. The owl decoy rocked. The compact, metal-coated, battery operated record player is exactly carried into the field. In addition to crew call revolver, a second hunting partner's smoothbore erupted to send a charge of shot tearing into the bird. He dropped straight down with a quiver.

Axeel never has been out to see the Hi-Fi crow caller in action. He has been too busy admiring his bumper crop of hybrid corn.
HAVE THE KEY DEER BEEN SAVED? (Continued from Page 25)

part of the tiny animals in the face of almost overwhelming odds. In 1950 it was determined that $100,000 would be needed in order to save the future of the toy deer. The following year, 1951, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission sent a biologist to the Keys to make a study of the situation. The results were encouraging—it was estimated that the deer had increased from 30 to 57 in a year’s time. Monsieur de Boone and Crockett Club stepped into the breach and appropriated $3,000 to pay for a warden to guard the remnant of the herd. The next year, 1951, the National Wildlife Federation took over the assignment, appropriating a like amount. Warden Jack Watson was hired to do the job. His duties consisted in preventing tourists and souvenir seekers from roaming over the Key deer range, digging up the young deer in the sand dunes, searching for driftwood, tree snails and orchids, and in general, mutilating the land.

In January of 1954 the Fish and Wildlife Service announced that arrangements were well underway to lease land, mostly on Big Pine Key, for a deer refuge. During these pre-cautionary years conservationists and wildlife lovers sounded an avuncular chorus for the preservation of this threatened fauna. The result of all this commotion, much of it directed at Congress, finally bore fruit in the form of the bill creating a national wildlife refuge which was signed by President Eisenhower in September of 1957.

However, the future of the Key deer is by no means assured. They actually do not have a permanent home. The Fish and Wildlife Service has aimed for lease land of 5,000 acres, mostly on Big Pine Key. This is to be an inviolate sanctuary where the tiny animals will be assured of sufficient water, food and an area that will permit them to breed and in-crise. Admittedly at present there is more than 1,000 acres under lease. As a matter of fact there were 17 lease arrangements in effect at the start of 1957. Before the year was out, three of them had been cancelled under the 90-day clause which is in effect with all leases.

The vital question is how long can the lease arrangement hold out? As time passes and real estate promoters increase pressure on present land-owners, how many more leases will be cancelled during the coming months?

The amazing part of the entire situation is the present status of the Key deer. In the face of continued delay in establishing an actual refuge, the animals have managed to increase in numbers. Twenty years ago man hunted the diminutive deer with dogs and often shot their prey as they were swimming from key to key seeking escape. In more recent years, the main killer of the Key deer (outside of the bulldozer) has proved to be the automobile. Hunting the stag or deer was, at one time, not so much a sporting pursuit as it was a means of putting meat on the table. Collies herded sheep, the northern, long-coated breeds pulled sleds; the big fellows such as the German shepherd, Boxer and Doberman pincher were primarily guard dogs, and most of the terrier breeds were molded by selective breeding into courageous, pint-sized protectors of small game and varmints.

Many individual dogs of these breeds still perform these deeds and functions, but what of man’s 20th Century needs? Has any breed been developed to help us cope with our complicated problems of modern life? They say that our traffic problems are here to stay, but is there a dog specifically bred to help children cross streets? Dogs have been known to find lost golf balls, but no breed exists with the instinctive tendency to do so.

There is a wide-open field for the serious dog breeder who wishes to help humanity by developing a breed dedicated to helping man out of one of his modern dilemmas. And just think what a fine memorial you’ll create for yourself by giving your own name to your new breed. You’ll join such company as Lord Sealyham, Louis Doberman and others. And lest you think it beneath your dignity to lend your name to a breed to bear, remember that the shaggy, life-saving dogs of the Alps were named for the good and holy St. Bernard de Montigny.

The Shaggy Swimmer

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FAR FEWER NEWFOUNDLANDS than there are members of many other breeds, it is remarkable how often one finds references to this grand old breed in dog literature through the years. Most of the stories told about Newfoundlanders concern their wonderful swimming abilities. Many persons have been saved from drowning by these dogs giant of depopulation.

One such story might almost be called typical. Many years ago a vessel went aground off the village of Lydd, in Kent, England. The surf was four feet high and seemingly endless. It seemed to be no hope for those aboard the ship. No hope, that is, until a man appeared on the beach accompanied by his Newfoundland dog.

The man pointed to the ship in distress, placed a short stick in the dog’s mouth and gestured toward the water. As a matter of fact it is, “the intelligent and courageous fellow at once sprang into the sea and fought his way through the waves.” As he neared the vessel, a crew member tied a rope to another stick and threw it to the dog. The Newfoundland dropped the first stick, grabbed the second and started for shore.

Although he was washed under the waves time and time again, he made it, safe and sound.

Another Newfoundland displayed good sense in a different way. This one also lived near the sea. He always ignored the invalid who would sit behind the typewriter with his feet up. As one account tells it, “the intelligent and courageous fellow at once sprang into the sea and fought his way through the waves.” As he neared the vessel, a crew member tied a rope to another stick and threw it to the dog.

He held it, and all hands were rescued.

As a matter of fact it is, “the intelligent and courageous fellow at once sprang into the sea and fought his way through the waves.” As he neared the vessel, a crew member tied a rope to another stick and threw it to the dog. The dog grabbed his tormentor by the scruff of the neck, walked to the end of a nearby dock and deliberately dove into the water. The Shaggy Swimmer

GET EM EARLY

(Continued from Page 27)

seven months. It was dandy. I was watching lots of fish and getting a fair share of interesting research information. Then I got to wondering about the validity of my fishing tests. I was only fishing in the mornings and not giving the afternoons a fair shake.

So I reversed my procedure. I worked inside in the mornings, fished the afternoons. It was nice getting to the office early and fresh, idly sitting behind the typewriter with a hot cup of coffee. Only one thing was wrong with the system. I wasn’t getting as many fish.

After two months I abandoned this idea and went back to my initial work plan. I’ve stuck with it since, except on a rare occasion when a client prefers to fish in the afternoon. I see no reason for changing anything in the future either. Why should I? Now I can enjoy good fishing and still have time to take care of my office chores. This argument is good enough for me.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1958

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS

Florida's 1958 Fall weather follows the same general pattern of the last two years, chances are that Opening Day fly fishing may be done in shirt sleeves, without hunting coat or, at most, with only a light jacket required. Our usual warm weather of early hunting season is why hunting clothing should preferably be lightweight and worn in layers that can be shed as the temperature declines from a usually chilly dawn reading to a comfortably warm mid-day reading.

However, by the first week of December you may experience cold, windy weather that will tend to chill a person through the thickness of outdoor clothing! Deer and duck hunters know that at day-break on a cold morning it seems as if Nature can suddenly open the door to a gigantic deep freeze. Sometimes around dawn, already cold air gets much colder and usually a hunter becomes and remains chilled until the sun gets fairly high in the sky. When a cold day also has wind from the north or coming across water, the chill may last longer.

Nestled is clothing that provides warmth without bulk or weight.

One of the most practical outdoor garments for the Florida hunter—especially the deer hunter and waterfowler—is a lightweight sweaters insulated vest.

FWFT&T especially likes the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog Listing No. 608443, priced at $6.57, plus tax.

The Sears' garment is both well-made and good looking: Olive green, quilted pattern, water repellent rayon satin outer fabric and lining covers insulating Orlon batting, and the garment is trimmed to extend below the belt line and down over kidneys in rear of outer vest where you see to feel most coldly. The vest's zipper front closes to chin, and small pockets are provided for lighter clothing or the comfortable knit collar. Elastic side inserts give freedom of movement.

Three large pockets are conveniently located on the front of the vest.

Availabe in chest sizes 6 to 48, inclusive.

Sears Fall & Winter general catalog regularly lists the vest.

The vest can be worn over the hunting coat or, at least, fitter, closer to the heart.

The jacket to be worn, whether in fresh or salt water, is dependent on the thickness of the middle coat, and since it is the weight of the line that bows the rod in fly casting. Given such a balanced outfit, an angler will find fly fishing great sport.

Equally important to the attainment of balanced fly casting tackle is the fly reel used. If selected by weight in proportion to the rod used, the fly reel will contribute much to easy feeding or re-spooling of line, as required.

FWFT&T likes the appearance and stream performance of the new Garcia Pridex and Beaudex models single-action fly reels, available in several sizes.

Especially noteworthy features include a one-piece frame, precision machined from aluminum metal: a lifetime precision bearing for the spool and shaft; a mechanism that can be changed to either right or left hand model reel and choice of either single or double drag feature. The chief difference between the Garcia Pridex model and the Garcia Beaudex listing that is the Beaudex has a cam operated adjustable drag and a two way level wind gauge.

In both the Pridex and the Beaudex, a constant line tension adjustment when playing a fish. A spare set of drag parts comes with each reel.

Other features worthy of mention are the recessed style handle and the release clip for easy speed removal.

While both the Pridex and the Beaudex can be had in a variety of sizes, priced from $15.80 for the 3-inch wide Pridex to $21.75 for the 3.5-inch lightweight version of the same model; the Beaudex 3-inch and the 3.5-inch wide models are $21.75. There is a wide variety of accessories available for both models, such as: drag weight, handle, and spool removal or change of drag feature.

The Hutchinson engine turning tool will deteriorate any metal—round or flat—but without the use of lubricants or compounds. Price of the tool is $1.00, complete with abrasive tips. Extralarge tips are for 5, for precision work; extra small tips are for delicate work. Maximum chuck capacity of any of the new tips is 1/8 inch, at no extra charge. Unless otherwise specified, the standard straight shaft style tool with two abrasive tips and instructions for using it based on personal preference.

FWFT&T suggests that extra tips be ordered and some of them used for practice work, prior to doing any jeweled pattern work on rifle bolts and breech blocks. Also, take time to make a simple V-shaped wood cradle to hold metal parts firmly during the moments the abrasive tip of the tool is in contact with the metal; the resulting work will have a more professional appearance.

The Hutchinson engine turning tool is well worth its price, and amateur and professional gunsmiths alike will please with its performance.

BAY, RIVER AND A DAM (Continued from Page 23)

North Bay presently is about one third as salin as open sea water. The great flow of fresh water from or spring and from the Congina and, to a lesser extent, from three other small tributaries, keeps the bay fresh for most of the year. Without the ingenious planning for the lake, the dam will completely prevent the entrance of tidal water back into the lake. Drains at the top and bottom of the dam will discharge excess water so that there will be a continuous outward flushing of the lake.

Including the plans for the dam, there is nothing more than the planning engineer says that if the lake is put into operation during the rainy season, the lake will be cleared of salt water in just a short time. With more than 300 million gallons of fresh water pouring bodily over the weir, it might be said that "short time" will probably be very short indeed.

The Panama City planners and the Gulf Waterway Division have more to go on than speculation. Within the state of Florida there are several small lakes created by damming off tidal water, and these are now producing fresh water game fish. Lake Maggoire, in the Tampa area, is such a lake. But the best and most comparable example is to be found just across the border in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation decided to revamp some 1,000 acres of salt water lakes at that popular state park into a fresh water game fish paradise, with the Gulf of Mexico just across the dunes. This would give excellent fresh and salt water fishing within a stone's throw of each other.

The Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation, with the Alabama Department of Conservation.
The project began in 1956; the lakes will probably be opened to the public for fishing in the summer of 1958!

So it looks like Floridians are participating in fresh water sports activities.

**JR. CONSERVATIONIST**

Mr. John Collins, outgoing President of the League, gave a farewell address.


Jaycees present were: Fred Rogers, President; Louis Brown, and Bob Grotton; Chairman Boys Work. Bud Coppanger was also a guest. Others present were: Herb Mayhew, Advisor for the Alapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club; Sam Higgins, Sr., Advisor for the Broward County Jr. Anglers Club; W. A. Reynolds, Advisor for the Pahokee Junior Wildlife Club, and his son, W. E. Reynolds.

Boys and girls from all parts of Florida are now participating in the 1958 Encampment at the Youth Conservation Camp. They are learning more about the great out-of-doors and Conservation. The program includes: Hiking, Animal Tracking, Conservation Crafts, Swimming, Boating, Fishing, Riflery, and others.

If you haven’t already been to the Youth Conservation Camp this year, we hope to see you there before the season closes.
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