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Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

## Fishing Citation

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

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

| SPECIES  |   |
|--|---|
| LARGEMOUTH BASS<br>_____ 8 pounds or larger      | SHELLCRACKER<br>_____ 2 pounds or larger  |
| CHAIN PICKEREL<br>_____ 4 pounds or larger       | BLACK CRAPPIE<br>_____ 2 pounds or larger |
| BLUEGILL (BREAM)<br>_____ 1 1/2 pounds or larger | RED BREAST<br>_____ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle, Bait Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Catch Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

VOLUME 12 NO. 3

# Florida WILDLIFE

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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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

AUGUST, 1958

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#### CONFUSING MAP

Gentlemen:

Your map on page seven of the June issue has me confused. It shows the blacked-out area around St. Petersburg as the South Florida Region. Can that be correct? There appears to be a considerable area "south" of the section marked.

B. Reynolds  
Atlanta, Ga.

● The area shown on the map in the June issue is the South Florida Region. Those counties 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 this very interesting magazine. I was prompted to write this letter because of the cover picture of this issue.

In the summer of 1954, I was casting for bass on a small lake in Wisconsin about 150 miles north of Chicago, and while casting I noticed a small crane perched on a tree at the edge of the lake. Every time my Bass-O-Reno hit the water this crane would make an attempt to fly. After 3 or 4 more casts, the crane left the tree and swooped down at my lure that I was slowly retrieving. At this point I must tell you that I had a small fox terrier in my boat with me. I noticed a tug on my line, and the crane lit in the water. I did not realize that in grabbing my lure the crane had one of the hooks of my lure caught in the web of one foot, and could not take off to fly. My dog jumped into the water and was heading for the crane. I had to disregard the crane and row my boat to head off the dog. I finally got him back in the boat, and also my line around one of his legs. I had to hang on to the dog to keep him from jumping in again after the crane. I wonder if you can appreciate my predicament. I saw two boys on shore near my cabin, after several gestures and a lot of shouting, they got into a boat and came over to help.

The boys took charge of the dog, and I headed for the crane. I wanted to get him

into the boat, but had some respect for that sharp pointed bill of his. Fortunately I had a burlap bag in my boat to put the fish in that I had yet to catch, and after some trouble and help from one of the boys in the other boat we finally got him to shore.

One of the natives of this part of the country said that if the crane was put in the sun to dry, it could take off again, so after about 15 to 20 minutes of this treatment, it finally took off on its own.

Some of my friends cast a cynical smile when I told them of my experience, but I shall frame this picture of the owl and hang it in my den as a reminder.

Harvey O. Tosch  
Chicago 41, Ill.

♦♦♦♦

#### 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

#### THE COVER

by Wallace Hughes

A shady cove on a peaceful pond, a cane pole, a bobber, a can of worms, and a length of line with a bream hook attached—these are the ingredients of a peaceful summer day.

If, as can happen even in Florida, the fish seem to have their minds as well as their eyes on delicacies other than those dangling from the hook, that's all right, too. It is almost a sure bet the unseen fisherman upon whose bream bobber the dragon fly is resting will come to with a mighty start when the lurking redbreast makes a swipe at the luscious insect.

Who knows what tales of giant bass lurking the depths of Possum Pond may be aborning as this little drama is enacted.

Waters has helped make up my mind to visit Florida on my next vacation as I want to fish for bass, I would like to know what the open and closed season are.

J. Bent  
Milwaukee, Wisc.

● There is no closed season on fresh water fishing in Florida. Legal daily bag limits may include eight bass, 25 panfish and eight chain pickerel.

♦♦♦♦

#### SMOKED MULLET

Gentlemen:

If Mr. Gutsell, whose letter appeared in the July FLORIDA WILDLIFE, likes smoked fish, he should try our own Florida mullet. If anything can beat our good smoked mullet, I have yet to taste it.

E. Greenway  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

#### DISAPPEARING MARSHLANDS

Dear Sir:

During the war years, I was stationed for several months at various bases around Florida and used to enjoy some mighty fine duck hunting in the east coast marshlands. Last fall I retired from the Navy and headed for a long awaited duck hunting trip in those areas. Very little of them are left. I shot plenty of ducks around Titusville and Okeechobee, but if these places go the way the rest of Florida is going, your state will soon have little appeal for duck hunters.

J. J. Little  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

♦♦♦♦

#### NATURAL HISTORY

Sir:

I have just finished reading the Natural History issue from cover to cover, and the Florida Game Commission is to be commended. The majority of America's outdoorsmen fail to see anything but game and fish. The articles on the birds, moths, alligator and trees were outstanding. And the wonderful presentation of material on such insignificant pests, the ants and mosquitoes, should be read by all.

I enjoy hunting and fishing immensely, but am always aware of the many oddities of nature when I am in the field.

L. Radcliff, M. D.  
Baltimore, Md.

♦♦♦♦

#### COVER FRAMING

Dear Editor:

Your July issue just arrived and I am enclosing 25¢ for a second copy. I do not want to mutilate this issue but must frame the beautiful bird painting on the cover for our living room. This will make the fourth FLORIDA WILDLIFE cover that we have had matted and framed.

D. C. Bigelow  
Birmingham, Ala.

## THREE-DOLLAR DUCK STAMP

CLEARED FOR THE HOUSE by unanimous Senate action is S. 2617, the bill which would increase the duck stamp fee to \$3 and devote virtually all the revenue for the acquisition of wetlands for migratory waterfowl, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. S. 2617 has the support of major national and State conservation and sportsmen's groups as well as the Department of the Interior.

In addition to accelerating the waterfowl refuge program, S. 2617 would authorize use of stamp funds for the purchase and lease of potholes and small wetlands that are important for waterfowl nesting. This provision would apply particularly to Minnesota, the Dakotas, and eastern Montana where hundreds of small marshes comprise the greatest waterfowl nesting grounds in the United States. The potholes would not be managed as inviolate sanctuaries.

Under the terms of S. 2617, the Secretary of the Interior could open up to 40 per cent of all waterfowl refuges for public shooting. He would be required to hold a public hearing in conjunction with each opening sought.

Enactment of S. 2617 would help overcome weaknesses in the existing duck stamp law which have permitted the use of a lion's share of the stamp receipts for routine operating expenses of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Only a small part of the \$52 million collected from sportsmen from the sale of duck stamps over past years has been used to purchase waterfowl refuge lands. By increasing the stamp fee and channeling nearly all the receipts into wetlands acquisition, conservationists and sportsmen 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 recessed its hearing on H. R. 12006, 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 of the effects on fish and wildlife of insecticides and other chemicals used to kill unwanted insects and plants has passed the Senate, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The proposal, S. 2447 by Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, has been referred to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. No hearing has been announced by committee chairman Herbert C. Bonner of North Carolina on either S. 2447 or H. R. 783, a companion bill by Congressman Lee Metcalf of Montana.

The bills focus congressional attention on the acute need for a greatly expanded research program to uncover information about the direct and long-term effects of the poisonous compounds used for agriculture and forestry on fish, game, and other animal life. Basic studies are needed so that guidelines can be formed for the methods, times, dosages, and amounts of chemicals that may be applied for insect and plant control without harmful and lasting effects on fish and wildlife populations.

#### Move Made for Increased Appropriations

A move was made to amend the Interior Department appropriations bill by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough of Texas to get \$300,000 to launch the insecticides research program in the coming year beginning July 1.

The amendment was withdrawn when Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Carl Hayden of Arizona assured Yarborough 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 funds.

#### Budget Bureau Blocks Funds Request

Spurred by Senator Hayden's inquiry, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service obtained Interior Department approval to ask for \$270,000 to get 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 supplemental 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

(Continued on Page 37)

# FISHING

BY CHUCK SCHILLING

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 snapping. 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 less fatiguing, 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. I scraped and saved to buy 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. 63-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 in glass 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 spincast 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 rod tip is still traveling back.

The quick reversal of wrist movement causes the rod to flex sharply in the tip section. The forward cast is powered almost entirely by ROD ACTION ALONE. Remember, the more muscles you put into this cast, the less likely you are to master it. Snap casting is almost entirely a matter of rod action plus timing.

One of the best ways I know to learn to snap cast is to back up against a high wall. With your back touching, practice your casting. To cast from this position, you must exaggerate the snap just a trifle, but not much. In my own case, the lure usually travels less than a foot behind my head in my normal, relaxed casting.



Timing is something else again. This can be learned only by practice. Best advice is to make very short casts at first. Putting muscles into your casting will rob your timing of the sharpness required.

## Accuracy

I have never seen a really accurate caster who didn't snap cast in one degree or another. Again, let me emphasize that overhead casting and snap casting are worlds apart. To simplify things, let's stick to spinning from here on out. Everything we say will, also, apply to casting and spincasting.

I see so many casters who use the overhead motion but who are actually lobbing their lures out rather than casting them. Far too many anglers let their rods go all the way back and down, sometimes touching the water (or hooking their fishing companion) on the back sweep. They seem to be taking extreme care that their rods do no work at all, while they heave at the lure with 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 65 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. Sideswiping 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 a great deal like getting it in shooting. Trajectory plays a big part. The flat-



This is the normal snap cast using a 6-foot hollow glass spincast rod, 10-lb mono, and a ¾-ounce lure. With the shorter, stiffer rod, the cast is completely in front of the caster.



This is a slightly exaggerated snap cast using a 6½-foot rod, 8-lb mono, and ¾-ounce lure. Again the cast takes place entirely in front of the caster.



Here is a normal snap cast with the 6½-foot spinning rod. The lure still does not go back of head. The cast put ¾-ounce plug out 103 feet, distance seldom used in actual fishing.

ter the line 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 overhanging 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 headgear he chooses 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. ●

# FLORIDA CLUB NEWS

Federation Notes  
By CHARLES WATERMAN

**W**ILDLIFE FEDERATION MEMBERS are expected to flock to Tallahassee Sept. 13 for their annual convention.

"We want to make it a real pilgrimage," said Dr. H. R. Wilber, president. "It is only by a show of numbers that the sportsmen's groups can make their weight felt in legislative 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 Floridan Hotel in Tallahassee on Friday before the convention begins.

\* \* \*

## Conservation Suggestion

A real veteran of the St. Johns river fishing scene, Noah J. Tilghman, recently wrote a letter to Dr. H. R. Wilber as president of the Florida Wildlife Federation setting forth some of his opinions regarding conservation practices on the St. Johns.

Tilghman is captain of the houseboat, "Noah's Ark," and has guided bass fishermen on the river for nearly half a century.

He sets forth the following suggestions regarding bass fishing in the St. Johns:

A limit of 12 inches to avoid harvest of undersized fish.

A bag limit of four bass during February, March, April and May (spawning season).

A hatchery or protected spawning area to be provided by the state. (Tilghman feels 4-inch bass may be successfully released in the river without excessive loss from predators).

A seining program in the lakes for removal of rough fish.

\* \* \*

## Marathon Meeting

A delegation from the Florida Wildlife Federation attended the

convention of the Outdoor Writers' Association of America at Marathon Shores in the Keys during June.

The meeting, which attracted an overflow crowd of writers to Key Colony, featured one of the largest fishing programs ever held for the national group with visitors given a choice of deep sea, back country or flats fishing.

Representing the federation were Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Du Bon and Mr. and Mrs. Don Southwell.

\* \* \*

## Appreciation

Charles H. Callison, conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation recently sent a letter of appreciation to Senator S. L. Holland as a result of the latter's support of the conservation reserve program.

Mr. Callison said:

"We appreciate your good work as a member of the Senate subcommittee on agriculture appropriations in restoring the cut made by the House in the advance authorization for the conservation reserve program and in bringing about modification and clarification of House inserted language that threatened to modify the unique and broadly beneficial wildlife aspects of the conservation reserve."

## New Club

A new member of the state Wildlife Federation is the Lake George Wildlife Club, which has remitted state dues for the year 1958-1959.

## Shrimp Conservation

Closing of all inland waters to shrimp trawling is proposed as a conservation measure by Francis W. Taylor, president of the Warren Fish Company, Inc., of Pensacola.

In a letter to Dr. H. R. Wilber, Wildlife Federation president, Taylor criticizes present practices of fishing inland areas for "bait shrimp" and points to his belief that many

fish are destroyed by this practice.

His comments include the following statements:

"The excuse that shrimping in inland waters is essential for producing bait shrimp. . . . You know that such an excuse is ridiculous and that most of the "bait" is eventually for human consumption. If it is essential to produce bait shrimp why not catch them in traps or as they were caught years ago by cast nets?"

"In the case of Pensacola Bay, commercial shrimping is legal. However, I would like to see you check on the tremendous quantities of small fish that are destroyed. In this fishery there are more than 10 pounds of edible fish destroyed for every pound of shrimp caught. Then too, the bottom of the bay is swept clean and in many cases made unattractive for fish life.

"While there is no doubt but pollution does kill future fish population, I think that the damage is negligible to that of trawling for shrimp.

"I own the Gulf Marine Supply Company and we do 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 fishing 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 auspices of the Florida Wildlife Federation and is sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

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 include gold medals, governor's certificates and cash awards of \$50 each in the following divisions:

Outdoor writing, forestry, soil con-

servation, game and fresh water fish conservation, salt water conservation, club public relations, adult guidance of junior conservation effort, junior conservation.

Regional awards are to be given in the same divisions, an award of a gold medal, a certificate and \$25 cash going to leaders in each of the previously listed classifications in each of the five game and fresh water fish commission districts.

Local club awards will include 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 certificates.

The annual awards banquet, sponsored 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.

Sportsmen's clubs will be apprised of rules and details of the program. Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, is chairman of the awards committee.

## Tidal Lands

Numerous controversies in the interests of conservation have been based upon the use or development of tidal areas, a matter which is little understood by most casual conservationists.

Several pages of information on "sovereignty tidal lands" have been issued by the office of internal improvement fund of the State of Florida. Although the details are too complex for a brief description, there are certain facts about tidal lands that every conservationist should know.

Some of the facts stated in the release are given herewith in greatly abbreviated form:

Definition: Sovereignty lands are those which were granted to the State of Florida by the United States

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# JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

**T**HE JUNIOR CONSERVATION CLUB LEAGUE of Florida held its annual Delegates' Convention in Stuart, Florida, recently. Host for this Convention was the Stuart Junior Conservation Club with its sponsor, the Jaycees.

Eight clubs were represented, with 19 delegates present representing almost 300 Junior Conservation Club members. Those present were: Vernon Jones and Bill Brown from the Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club of Ocala; Ed Cuccio of the Hialeah Junior Conservation Squadron; Jim Maloney and David Genevive of the Broward County Junior Anglers Club; Robert Post, St. Johns Junior Conservation Club; Mike Bays and T. J. Platt of the Leesburg Junior Wildlife Club; Ken Harms of the Dade County Junior Conservation Club; Ronnie Stokes and Paul Carter of the Allapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club, Miami; and Richard Walsh of the Stuart Junior Conservation Club. These were in addition to the outgoing League Officers: President — John Collins of Stuart; Vice President — Tommy Christopher of Stuart; Secretary — Bill Bays of Leesburg; Treasurer — Tom Mawhinney; and Directors — Earl DeBary, Ocala; Sam Higgins, Ft. Lauderdale.

The main order of business was the election of new League Officers. Nominated were: President — Tommy Christopher and Tom Mawhinney; Vice President — Ronnie Stokes; Secretary — Ed Cuccio, Bill Brown, Dave Genevive, and Richard Walsh; Treasurer — Paul Carter and Bill Bays.

Elected were: President — Tommy Christopher, Vice President — Ronnie Stokes, Secretary — David

Genevive, Treasurer — Paul Carter. The two Directors present, Earl DeBary and Sam Higgins, were re-elected. These officers will serve until June, 1959.

Other business was discussed. Rifle Teams will be organized within each club, also survival teams (2 to a team) and camp teams (2 to a team) for competition.

The Constitution was amended, omitting the office of Sgt. at Arms.

District Meetings can be called by the District Director. Board Meetings may be held at the same time.

Standing Committees and Special Committees will be appointed this year.

It was recommended that a Senior Advisory Council to be composed of 11 members be set up. Purpose of this council would be to assist the Junior Conservation Club League in making decisions, etc.

The Certificates for the 7 degrees in the Society of the Florida Wildlife Conservationist were approved. Also certificates for campers.

Several revisions were made to the Merit Point System.

Tabulations of Merit Points should be recorded monthly.

The League Bulletin, The Conservation Wheel, will be edited by the League Secretary.

At this Convention, the Annual Banquet was held. Emcee for the occasion was Dr. Jim Henry, who also gave the Invocation. The principal speaker was Mr. Ernie Lyons.

The Mayor of Stuart, Mr. Ken Stimmel, was presented to the group. Fred Sturges, State Coordinator of Sportsmen's Clubs for the Game and Fresh Water Commission, was also introduced.

(Continued on Page 42)

# muzzle flashes

By EDMUND McLAURIN

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/or 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 the world in field performance. Consider . . .

Many shotgunners, 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, where position of aiming eye and line of aim are largely determined. With a stock that has too much drop at comb, the shotgunner 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.

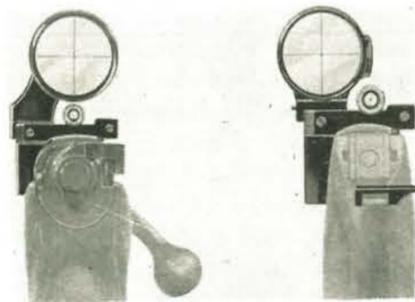
You will get the idea if you throw shotgun to shoulder in front of a large mirror, with both eyes closed, and then open your eyes and note if the pupil of your aiming eye is positioned a bit above the rib. If you find yourself looking only at the end of your shotgun's breech, with none of the barrel 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 inletting a piece of matching wood in the present comb, or by lacing on a comb

pad like the Jostam and Red Head ready-mades.

Also important to shotgun pointing is the pitch or angle of the fitted butt plate, which influences how much the barrel tips away from true vertical when the shotgun is resting squarely on its butt plate. Correct stock length and drop mean little if butt plate pitch is incorrect.

The more the butt plate's pitch, the lower a shotgun will shoot and greater will be the tendency of the gun butt to slip upward when the shotgun is shouldered quickly. If the butt plate frequently slips down under your armpit when you shoot, then the reverse is true; the butt plate has too little pitch down, with the result that the gun barrel tends to point up and shots go higher.

Although angle of barrel pointing can be changed by altering the pitch of the butt plate, the primary purpose of pitch is to keep the gun firmly and comfortably at shoulder. If you already enjoy correct butt plate pitch, see that it is maintained when you have a recoil pad or new butt plate installed.



FW's Gun Editor believes in choice of either scope sight or metallic sights, mounted as low as possible and directly over the bore. But many hunters are reluctant to settle down to using one style of sight; they want both. The illustration shows how both can be permanently mounted and used as desired.

Although the shotgunner 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 eliminates cross-firing and undershooting errors caused by improper gun alignment.

Installation of double, ivory-bead style shotgun 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-tap for installing the mid-barrel bead.

Some hunters 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 maintenance 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-Bart auxiliary peep sight does the same job for users of the Redfield Jr. and Buehler style scope mounts.

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

The Williams style can be had from Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan. Bob Brownell, Montezuma, Iowa, is distributor of the Dem-Bart. Neither product is expensive.

Because Winchester lever-action rifle models, 94, 92 and 71 eject fired cases from top of breech instead of side, an offset style of scope mount has had to be used heretofore when equipping these big-game rifles with a low-power hunting scope.

Kent Bellah, enterprising firearms technician of Saint Jo, Texas, gets more efficient scope mounting on such models by using a Weaver side-mount base and installing it exactly backwards of printed 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 of the receiver, 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 a scope sight is mounted low and directly over the bore — where, 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 critical, making fast and absolute hammer control difficult.

Williams Gun Sight Company markets a choice of right or left-hand style auxiliary hammer extensions that can be easily installed on the named Marlin rifle models and on such established favorites as the Winchester models 94, 64 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 .052 inner peep hole, in his rear peep sight because essentially he is an unhurried marksman compared to the average hunter.

But the small and big-game hunter needs to see his front sight quickly as well as his game. His sights serve him most efficiently when he obtains instant alignment of front sight and visibility of target whenever he brings rifle to shoulder, between eye and target. Best for him is a peep sight disc of not larger than 3/8 inch overall diameter, with center aperture .093 or larger in size.



A combination of fast metallic sights and the steadying influence of a gun sling makes the lever-action Winchester Model 94 one of the fastest and most accurate short-range weapons the deer hunter can select.

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 .125 size is very popular with deer hunters and snap-shooters. 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 an .070, and .093 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 strap 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 steadying influence to aim, especially for fast, second shots on running game.

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.

Some of the current American gun models do come with sling swivels attached, but there are also some highly popular models that do not, and fitting them with sling swivels calls for use of special styles other than a set that can be screwed in the wood of the fore-end and 2½ to 3 inches ahead of the toe of the stock.

Fore-end cap style sling swivels are ideal for rifle models like the Marlin 336 and Marlin 39A. End-cap sling swivel installation is equally practical on the standard Remington models 740 and 760, which lack the swivels incorporated in the ADL grade 740's and 760's.

The popular Model 99R Savage will take a standard fore-end type of sling swivel installation, 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 99EG Savage has a thinner wood forearm. A thinner nut should be used, and the swivel itself located not less than 1½ inches from the fore-end's tip.

An encircling 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 sling. ●



A combination of rear peep sight close to the eye, a blade front 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

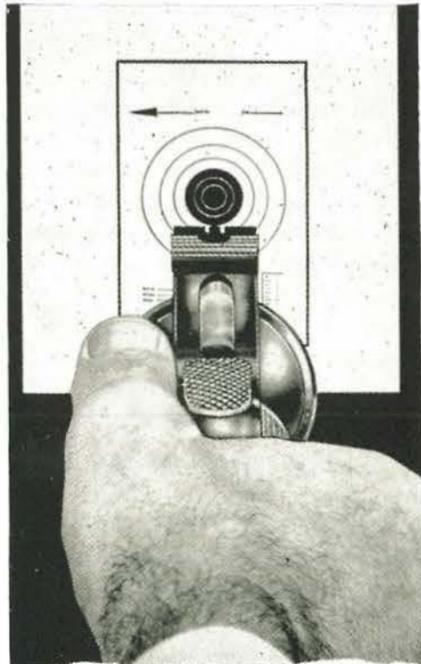
POOR VISION CAN PROVE A TROUBLESOME  
HANDICAP TO THE SPORTSMAN. FOR SAFE HUNTING  
NEXT SEASON, TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION NOW.

**A**MONG 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



The pistol shooter, holding his handgun at arm's length, often has trouble seeing his sights distinctly; only in magazine illustrations will he see both sights and target bold and black, as shown. Usually color contrast exists. Prescription glasses and a center, instead of the pictured six o'clock, hold will generally improve scores, especially in rapid-fire stages.

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.

Fortunate 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 writer belongs to this 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 targets, without glasses. However, with glasses he sees well enough to shoot quite well at all average target and hunting ranges.

**Hyperopia or Far-Sightedness:** The far-sighted shooter usually has trouble seeing his gun's sights, while distant targets are generally seen in sharp definition.

Here, the shape of the eye's lens is too short, with the result that parallel light rays reaching the eye's relaxed lens focus behind the retina instead of on it.



Some shooters have what is sometimes jokingly referred to as "tunnel" vision—that is, ability to see only a small central field without shifting the head. Such persons may fail to see another hunter walking into the line of fire, and represent unsafe hunters no matter how conscientious they may be.

Correction calls for a convex, or plus, eyeglass lens of required strength.

Far-sightedness is approximately six times more common than 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.

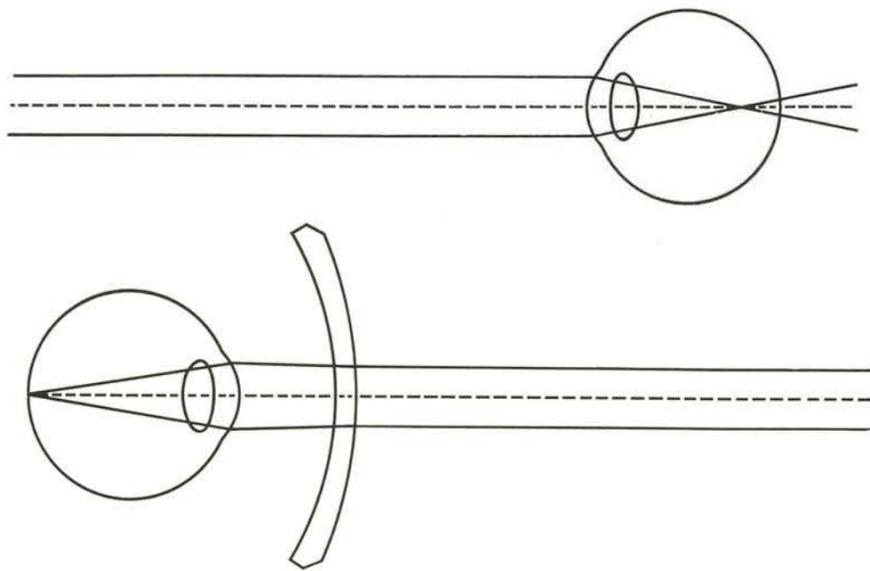
If an examination by an oculist shows that you suffer from astigmatism, and you are a shooter, ask to be given optical correction for as little as one-quarter diopter of astigmatic error.

**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 "presbys," meaning old man, combined with "opia" or vision.

Presbyopia is probably present if you cannot read small print closer than approximately nine inches from

(Continued on Next Page)



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

(Continued from Preceding Page)

your eyes. It means that eye muscles are stiffening and that the eye lens is flattening. As the conditions worsen, you gradually have to hold print farther from your eyes in order to see it clearly and comfortably.

As Dr. William H. Wood, Florida optometrist, points out, there is nothing that can be done for a shooter about this condition with glasses, aside from supplying the hunter with the best possible distance vision prescription, and recommending that he use firearms equipped only with rear peep sight or scope.

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

**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.

Many shooters have what is jokingly referred to as "tunnel" vision—that is, ability to see a small, central field without shifting the head. Such persons usually fail to see other hunters who may walk into the line of fire, and represent unsafe hunters, no matter how con-

scientious they may be.

Various factors temporarily and permanently affect side vision. Certain modern drugs, after effects of disease, alcohol, tobacco and fatigue can narrow the effective band of one's visibility.

How good is your side vision? You can easily find out:

Select and fix your gaze on some object straight in front of you and at normal eye level. Next, hold a pencil in your right hand and extend it straight out to your right, at shoulder height. Without shifting your front-focused gaze, can you see the pencil? You probably cannot at such a sharp angle... Keep moving the extended arm and pencil forward little by little until you see the pencil, while still gazing fixedly forward. Note the approximate angle at which the pencil first comes within range of your vision. Repeat the test on your left side and note your field of vision on that side.

Ophthalmologists say that you should be able to see the pencil at least 75 degrees on each side of your center line of sight, without moving your head.

To test the visual range of your up and down vision, hold the pencil directly overhead, while again fixing

your vision on some distant, eye-level object. Keeping eyes focused forward, slowly lower your arm and grasped pencil in a downward arc until it appears in your view from above. Make the same test up from below your waist. 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 shotgunner and the bowhunter in estimating distances and lead required for hitting moving game. Serious aiming errors can occur where faulty depth perception exists.

How accurately can you judge depth or distance? Outdoors, estimate the distance between yourself and a distant object, then pace 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.

Indoors, stand two empty .30-06 or similar caliber cartridge cases upright, an inch apart on a table bathed in shadowless light. Place a book or a strip of wood flat in front of them so that you cannot see where the bases of the empty cartridge cases touch the table. Move back approximately twenty feet and get your eyes level with the neck ends of the upright cartridge cases.

While you close your eyes momentarily, have someone move one or the other of the cartridge cases a half an inch closer or away from you. When your assistant says "Ready!", open your eyes and say which cartridge case appears closer to you and approximately how much distance separates the two. Average eyes should detect half inch movements accurately eight out of ten tries. Good two-eyed vision will discern one cartridge case set only one quarter of an inch ahead of the other.

**Color Perception:** One of every twelve hunters is lacking in some

phase of normal color discrimination, optometric scientists say.

Despite the fact that most hunters put their faith in red as a personal safety color, tests show that red is one of the most difficult colors to see in the woods of autumn, by both color-blind persons and those with normal vision. The color-blind persons see red as a shade of gray; to normal eyes shades of red can frequently look like browns or blacks, especially in the dim light of early morning or late afternoon.

On the other hand, yellow is the color most easily and quickly seen by all persons. To the color-blind group, yellow has eighty times the visibility of red, and to normal eyes it is at least five times superior, tests show.

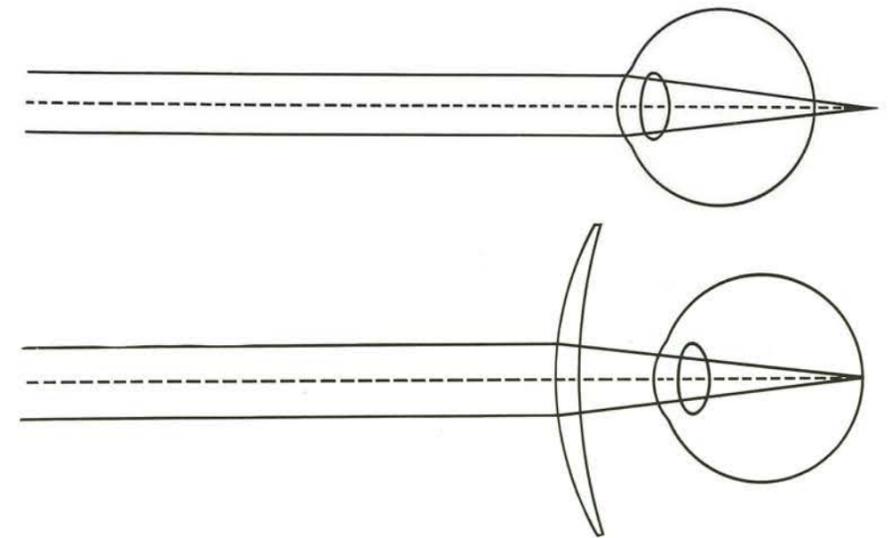
Wear a yellow cap, shirt or paneled hunting coat this season and enhance your safety factor afield; hunters will see you better, but game will not, eyesight research technicians declare.

**Visual Acuity:** Just seeing objects in a generally identifying 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 against familiar backgrounds.

This knowing what to look for and to quickly recognize it when seen is why some hunters fill their game bags year after year while rivals hunting the same areas do not.

There is also a marked difference in the hunting safety record of the two groups. Hunters deficient in visual acuity, accurate color recognition and depth perception account for twice as many hunting accidents



Far-sightedness is six times more common than near-sightedness, optometrists say. Shooters with such vision defect usually have trouble seeing their sights, but see distant targets in sharp definition. The trouble is caused by light rays focusing behind the retina instead of on it. Correction calls for a convex, or plus, eyeglass lens of required strength.

as persons with normal or prescription corrected vision, safety records show.

Also accident prone are the inexperienced hunters who lack the ability to distinguish the game hunted against a variety of natural backgrounds. As Dr. R. M. Shackelford, Jr., optometrist affiliate of the American Optometric Association, recently stated, "The danger of an inexperienced man with a gun stems not from the fact that he cannot see or isn't as smart as you, but because his mind is not conditioned to interpret what he does see."

Deer hunters, particularly, would benefit from gunless observation trips between seasons to areas where Fall hunting is planned. Getting to know the terrain and game to be hunted, as seen from different points of the compass and at different periods of the day, helps to develop visual ability to later make accurate, safely-fired shots under all sorts of encountered light conditions.

**"Master" Eye Domination:** Because our eyes are located some distance apart, each eye sees close-up objects slightly differently. Nature has taken care of this situation by giving one eye mastery over the other when objects close at hand are

viewed. It is what the "master" eye sees that the brain accepts and utilizes to a great extent.

When two eyes vary in strength, the stronger will be found to be the "master"; when the two are the same strength, there may be some question. Knowing which eye is the "master" eye is of cardinal importance to gunners and bowmen, for it is with the "master" eye that most accurate shooting can be done.

There are two simple tests for determining which of your eyes is of the "master" designation. For conclusive findings, beyond all doubt, try both.

First test is to simply point your right hand's index finger at some object, both eyes wide open. Then, still pointing at the object, and being careful not to move your finger or eyes from the original alignment, close one eye and note whether or not your finger is still in line with the object at which you are pointing... Now open the closed eye and close the other one, also without moving your extended finger or shifting your line of sight... During one of the tests, the extended finger will appear to "jump" off the object at which you are pointing; in the other, it will remain in fixed

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Campers learned to recognize the harmless reptiles they encountered. The one being examined here is a blue indigo snake.



A counselor examines the habits and markings of the deadly poisonous coral snake he caught.



Holding a baby alligator takes a bit of courage; the reptile house had two—just for one week.



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

# WILDLIFE and WOODLORE

By SUE HAMMOCK

Reprinted from the GIRL SCOUT LEADER

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, Tree, 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.



A conservation staff member shows a camper how to paint the scar left by cutting off a tree limb.



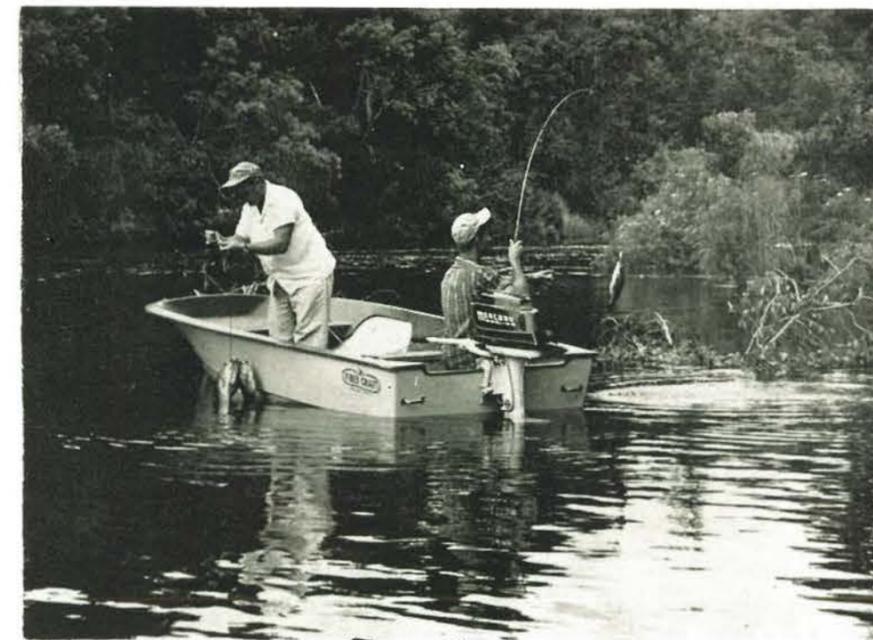
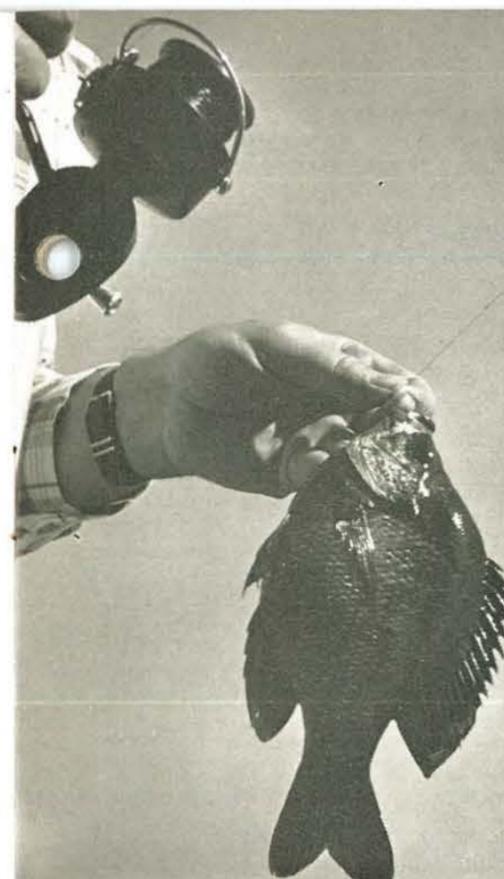
A white-tailed deer left this track as a record of its visit to the clay pit near camp.





Clear water and a brisk current characterize the S. Marks River below Tallahassee. It is similar in nature to many of the streams of the northwestern Panhandle.

Part Four:  
Northwest Florida Region



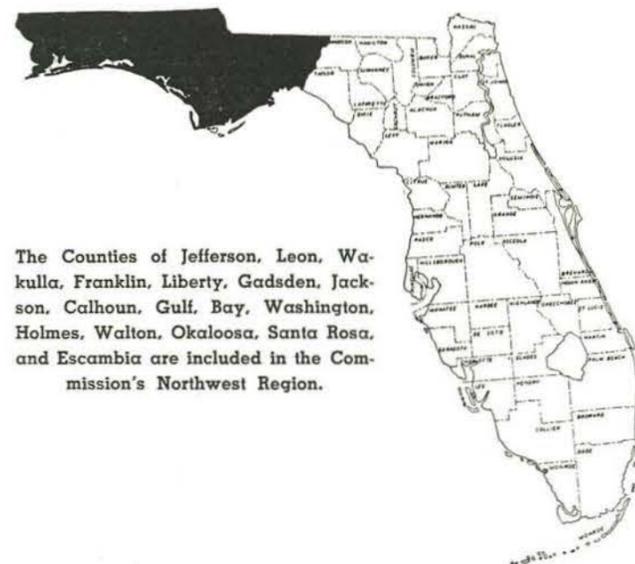
Photos by Wallace Hughes

Above: Bass fishermen will usually find subjects plentiful and willing practically any time of the day or night on Northwest Florida's lakes and streams. Left: Panfish have long been considered the cane polers game but increasing numbers of fishermen are learning the joys of spinning and fly fishing for the scrappy "spiny-rays."

# FISHING FLORIDA'S FRESH WATERS

By JIM FLOYD

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



The Counties of Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Bay, Washington, Holmes, Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia are included in the Commission's Northwest Region.

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. Lest 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 en-

*(Continued on Next Page)*



Photo by Bill Hansen

The redbreast (left) and the shellcracker or red-ear are two of the highly regarded panfish available to the Florida angler. There are many other species of spiny-rayed fishes in the waters of the state.



Photo by Wallace Hughes

Scaling the catch is the interlude between two pleasurable experiences; catching the bream and eating them.

under certain conditions. In Talquin are vast schools of shadines, which are small, threadfin shad. These congregations of bait fishes 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 largemouths 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.

Wildlife Officer Maseo Langston says not to overlook the Ochlockonee River below the Talquin dam for both bass and panfish. Maseo points out this is just "hard-down" good fishing waters all the way from the dam to the Gulf of Mexico.

On the eastern end of the Northwest Region is Jefferson County. This county has one of the most beautiful and least known rivers in Florida. Wildlife Officer Charles Favre and Carlton Smyly say that a trip down the Wacissa River is



Photo by W. Hughes

Catfish angling is not only a pleasurable pursuit but it also yields what many Floridians hold to be the best eating fish in Florida waters.

Eglin Air Force Base boasts a lineup of excellent man-made ponds scattered about its far flung acres. Fishing is open to the public.

truly an experience for any fisherman. Both officers agree that the trip is not for the weak as skill with a push pole is as essential as skill with fishing tackle to successfully cope with the stream. The cold clear waters produce some scrappy, tackle-busting bass.

Favre and Smyly recommend Lake Miccosukee as being an excellent spot for the angler who prefers to take his sport without undue exertion. Lake Miccosukee, after undergoing several years of drought, has once more regained its former water level, and is presently producing limit strings of bluegill, stump knockers, and other panfish.

Jim Barkuloo, the wiry fish biologist for the Northwest Region, studied long and hard when approached on the subject of what he considered the best fishing waters within the region. He refused to comment on what he considered the best waters for, like all biologists, he stated there were too many factors to be considered. However, Jim did disclose his favorite body of water as being the Chipola River by saying, "A must in the life of every fisherman is a float trip down the



Photo by Bill Hansen

The warmouth, sometimes called warmouth perch or warmouth bass, is a willing biter and a pugnacious member of the sunfish clan.



Photo by Morrie Naggjar

Chipola." Barkuloo stated that the Chipola not only abounds in scenic beauty, but is also the home of the hardest fighting bass to be found anywhere in Florida, the "Coosa" or "Red-eye" bass. Jim pointed out that along with the many miles of rivers and creeks, and numerous lakes in the Northwest region, there is also an astounding number of fish ponds under management by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Jim says 1,143 to be exact.

Irvin Spence, 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, Spence 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 desired by any angler.

The Choctawhatchee, described by many as a miniature Apalachicola 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 Choctawhatchee drainage. Warren 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 Choctaw-

hatchee by small, uncharted creeks and are difficult to locate, but once located, ZOWIE!

John 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 produce the largest fish. Both officers agree that while the reputation of the delta is good because of its bass, the shellcrackers 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 virtues of the Escambia River and its tributaries. For bass and shellcrackers, the officers advise fishing the delta with live bait or artificials. For bluegill, red-breast, warmouth, and stump knockers, crickets, catalpa worms or even the lowly earthworm will produce limit strings from the many creeks and sloughs. Coming in for equal acclaim through this area are the Blackwater, Shoal, and Yellow Rivers. ●

(Continued from Preceding Page)

counter Wildlife Officer Carl Culbreth of Franklin County. Carl recommends as perfect for panfish and bass any one of the myriad of creeks, sloughs, and tributaries that lace the lower Apalachicola. It is on the Apalachicola that the famous river red-breast and catfish come into their own. Any fisherman who has pulled his boat onto the river bank to cook and eat his catch will swear by the river red-breast and channel catfish. Nowhere are there found fish superior in taste to those caught on the "Big River."

The Apalachicola from Jim Woodruff Dam near Chattahoochee to its mouth on the Gulf of Mexico 107 miles downstream is truly a fisherman's paradise. Modern launching ramps can be found at Chattahoochee, Blountstown, and Apalachicola. Numerous fish camps and boat landings are located along the Apalachicola River and its many tributaries. Starting with the high banks and majestic oaks found along the headwaters, the Apalachicola flows past the gum and hardwood hammocks, seeping through the jungle-like swamplands of the lower river to finally end within the sea of marsh that is the Apalachicola Delta.

When the Corps of Engineers completed Jim Woodruff Dam near Chattahoochee there was created a vast fresh water reservoir which boasts some excellent fishing. However, Fred Jackson and Brantley

Goodson, Wildlife Officers working this section, report the fishing below the structure is actually superior to that in the reservoir. Goodson cites records of striped bass taken from these waters, while Jackson remarks on the large bream taken by the fishermen who line the river banks for miles below the dam.

When questioned about prospective bass fishing in Northwest Florida, Walter Larkins, Area Supervisor of four of Northwest Florida's sixteen counties, suggested Wildlife Officer Ollie Montgomery of Franklin County as a source of information. Ollie swears by the waters of the Apalachicola Delta, saying that year in and year out, these marsh-surrounded waters will produce more pounds of bass than any other place in Northwest Florida. Most fishermen seeking a limit string on the Delta, choose to fish with live bait, with shrimp rating most of the attention. Officer Montgomery also stated that the bass prospects in tidal-controlled Lake Wimico are not to be passed over lightly by any angler.

Area Supervisor Rhodus Hill declares that Lake Talquin is without a doubt the region's hottest spot for bass, and backs up his claim with the fact that Lake Talquin is one of the few spots in this part of the state where "school bass" are encountered. The "schoolers" are conventional largemouth bass but circumstances make "gang feeders" out of them



Photo by Wallace Hughes

## A BAY, A RIVER AND A DAM --

Equal 5,000 new acres of fresh water fishing

By HORACE LOFTIN

**J**UST NORTH OF PANAMA CITY, in the Florida Panhandle, a small but remarkable stream gathers runoff from 160 square miles of good hunting and fishing country, while adding to its total volume from springs of crystal-clear water. This creek, the Econfina, is famed for its purity and good bass fishing.

Every day of the year the Econfina empties some 300 million gallons of fine fresh water into an arm of the sea near Panama City. This prodigious quantity of fresh water now serves only to sweeten the salty water of this estuary, North Bay, and is soon swallowed up in the vastness of the Gulf of Mexico.

Meanwhile, the people of Panama City are faced with a serious problem — a shortage of water for the domestic, industrial and sporting needs of its fast-growing population! Here is a situation of water going

Recreational possibilities will be multiplied many times over by the creation of a 5,000 acre fresh water lake where now is a shallow salt water "flat."

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 smaller 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 sportsmen 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 bream, bass and waterfowl. Secondly, because it is another right step in conservation and wisest use of our natural resources. And thirdly, because it may pave the way for the conversion on similar shallow, brackish-water areas into productive fresh water lakes across Florida.

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 will be produced on a scale never before seen on the Florida west coast — and from a place that was once a salty estuary.

The Panama City planners and the Fish Management Division have more to go on than speculation. This photo shows a simple but effective fresh water-salt water control structure in south Florida.



Photo by D. Webb

But before, in our enthusiastic imagining, we have Tampa Bay populated with largemouth bass, we'd better look closer at the chances for developing good fishing in the projected North Bay lake. Remember that this involves damming off an area of what is now salty water, complete with a standing population of salt water fish. How long will it take for all or most of the salt to disappear from the new lake? What happens to the salt water species — will they compete with the fresh water gamesters? Will the lake have to be stocked? Will rough fish have to be eliminated?

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has already begun looking for answers to these and similar questions. It has studied the results of similar salt water impoundments elsewhere. It has surveyed the existing fish population of North Bay, Econfina River and other minor tributaries leading into the bay. It has taken readings of the present salinities and chemical conditions of these bodies of water. The data obtained has given the Fish Management Division hard facts to work on in planning for and managing the forthcoming North Bay lake sports fishery.

Field work on North Bay, Econfina and other tributaries got underway in December 1956 and was completed the following February. The Fish Management Division scientists hauled gill nets, spread rotenone, dropped explosives and tugged an otter trawl until they had a fair sample of what's in the water.

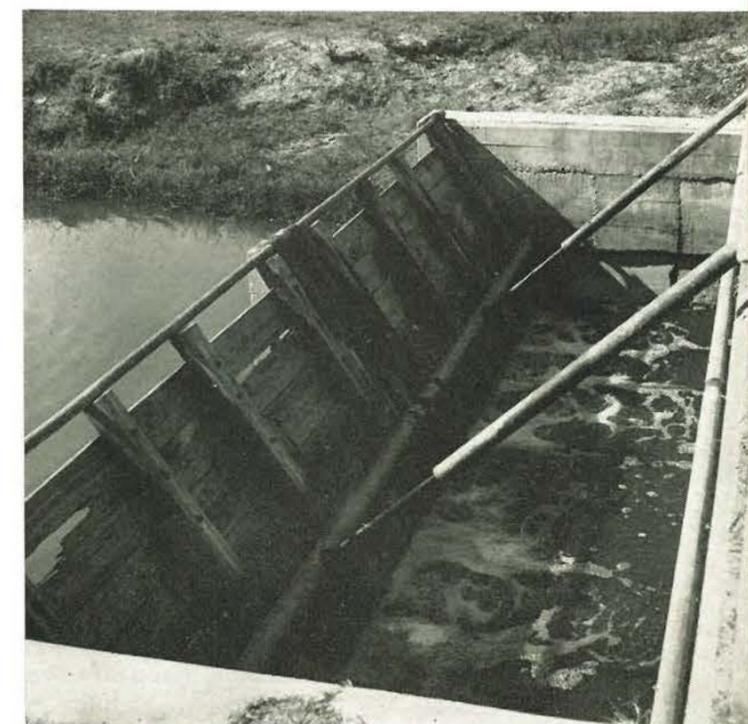
They captured 61 different species of fish. Thirty-four of these were fresh water fish, and 27 were predominantly salt water forms. In the bay where salt water conditions prevail, 25 out of 29 species taken were marine. At fresh water stations up the rivers, there were 31 fresh water fish to six salt water varieties.

What will happen to the salt water species impounded behind the new dam? According to the Fish Management Division survey report, you can expect some individuals to survive long after the North Bay lake has lost its saltiness. However, these marine fish will not be able to reproduce sufficiently to maintain their numbers, and so survival of the marine fish population over a period of years is highly improbable.

On the other hand, the scientists found that there is an excellent fresh water game fish population already present in the Econfina and other tributaries. Past experience has shown that when such populations are present in tributaries leading to newly created lakes, it is seldom necessary to stock the new lakes. Thus, the Fish Management Division believes the North Bay lake will have no trouble in becoming well filled with fresh water sports fish.

Along with the game species, North Bay lake tributaries will furnish a ready supply of "rough fish." Because of the size of the projected new lake, it will hardly be economically feasible to exterminate these rough fish. This fact does not worry the fishery scientists, though. They point out that these predatory species are a powerful force in maintaining a proper balance in the fish population. This is especially important in such areas as the North Bay lake, where new, uncontrolled populations of fish like bluegills might quickly overpopulate the water.

What about saltiness? The survey discovered that  
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Within the state of Florida there are several small lakes created by damming off tidal waters. Lake Maggioire, in the Tampa area, is such a lake. Here is shown details of one type of water control structure used at Maggioire.

What makes the Key deer so valuable? Why are wildlife lovers fighting for their survival? The animals do not represent any appreciable economic benefit, nor do they figure very strongly from the sportsman's viewpoint. The toy deer is a symbol to conservationists, however, and that is all important.



### The fight to conserve

Florida's toy deer has

been long and strenuous, but --

## HAVE THE KEY DEER BEEN SAVED?

By CLEVELAND VAN DRESSER

ON 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 insure the perpetuation of this small and distinctive animal.*" (The italics are mine, the purpose of which will be brought out later).

On September 13, 1957 the Wildlife Management Institute, also of Washington, announced the news that President Eisenhower had signed the bill authorizing the establishment of the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge, and furthermore stated that the "law gives the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service the authority to acquire up to 1,000 acres for refuge purposes by purchase, donation or exchange."

These two national organizations had a right to feel pride in the passage of the Key Deer bill, for they had fought unremittingly for its passage for a number of years. The actual passage of the bill was brought about by Florida Congressmen Charles E. Bennett, Dante B. Fascell (who originally opposed the measure) and Paul G. Rogers.

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 National Audubon Society, the U. S. National Museum, various local conservation groups, the Wilderness Society as well as the Federation 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 "refuge" as it now exists, consists of three acres given by the Crane Estate contingent upon building a headquarters building, plus some 6,000 acres, mostly on Big Pine Key, leased from private landowners. These landowners can terminate their leases upon 90 days notice whenever they choose, and financial pressure, mainly from real estate de-

velopers, is becoming increasingly acute.

As matters stand now, the much publicized bill simply authorizes the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land by gift, purchase or exchange, to make the refuge a reality. As stated before, \$35,000.00 has been authorized for land purchases. At the going rate for real estate in the Keys that amount of money would hardly buy enough land to provide running room for a couple of healthy dogs, let alone range for the 200-plus deer deemed necessary for the perpetuation of the Key deer. In short, the fate of the Key deer is still uncertain, and it is going to take some fancy maneuvering on the part of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service with some very real assistance from conservation interests to save the little animals from total extinction.

Conservationists and wildlife lovers view the possible loss of these tiny creatures as a major calamity. Despite the claims of real estate promoters to the contrary, it has been definitely established that the Key deer are a distinct species and will not survive anywhere but on the Florida Keys where they have lived since long before America was discovered by the white man.

The plight of the Key deer has been likened to the historic battle now going on over the entire North American continent to save the majestic whooping crane. The case of the whooping crane has reached international proportions, and anyone who reads a newspaper, listens to radio or views television, knows of the spectacular fight being waged to save the 30-odd remaining whoopers from extinction. 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 deer situation is as perilous as that of the whooping crane. The fight to save them is grim and difficult, as the forces that would exterminate them are, by their own definition, the forces of "progress."

Conservationists claim we have had enough wildlife losses, citing the historically famous cases of the extermination of the passenger pigeon, the great auk, the heath hen and other species of wildlife. They feel that a slight shove in the wrong direction, and the Key deer will disappear into the same abyss from which there is no return.

What makes the Key deer so valuable? Why are wildlife lovers fighting for their survival? The animals do not represent any appreciable economic benefit, nor do they figure very strongly from the sportsman's viewpoint.

The answer, according to conservationists, is that the

A patrolman examines the dropped antler of one of the midget deer on Big Pine Key. The real estate boom poses one of the major threats to the existence of the Key deer.

toy deer represent a symbol. Wildlife lovers stoutly maintain that man does not have to destroy living things in the path of his expansion. Just because a precise dollar and cents value cannot be placed on certain of Nature's children does not mean they are worthless.

Thoreau once said that some things were put upon this earth for man to enjoy—not necessarily to use. On this basis, conservationists firmly believe that Florida's Key deer are beyond price—their true value is the beauty of living things whose worth can no more be calculated than can a selling price be placed upon a golden sunset.

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 skinned bare of vegetation and the harassed deer have been literally bulldozed from their homes.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is charged with providing a haven for the animals, has made several attempts in the past to save the deer from certain destruction. It hasn't been easy, as numerous roadblocks have been thrown up by real estate developers, Monroe County officials (who disliked the idea of losing out on tax money) and certain persons interested in the so-called "development" of the Keys.

Tracing the history of the Key deer over the past eight years portrays a gallant fight for survival on the

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

## 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—L. A. Wilke, Paul Bryan and I—were drift fishing a stretch of the Kissimmee River, about 17 miles below the Highway 60 bridge.

The deceptively swift current was moving us too fast for us to work the pockets in the bordering hyacinths properly with out yellow-colored poppers. We'd cast ahead of the boat into narrow openings, chugging the lures two or three quick times, then retrieve and hit other forward spots.

But the bass didn't mind the unorthodox presentation of baits. They were on the feed. We got a strike on practically every other cast. The bass would race out into the current, battling doggedly. We weren't getting any bragging-size specimens but nonetheless were enjoying grand sport.

This feeding spree continued for perhaps thirty minutes. Then abruptly it quit. There was no gradual slacking 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 cigar-size bass. Heading back up river, we met 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 daybreak and sun-up, or even earlier. Fact is, this happens more often than not.

Why, then, don't more fishermen take advantage of this period when fishing is apt to be better than any-

time else? Most are lazy, I imagine. They care more about personal comfort than catching fish. Neither rainstorms, cold, stifling heat nor early morning hours can discourage the good angler. He knows that to succeed one must play the game to win.

Perhaps you have noticed the weekend routine of most run-of-the-mill anglers. A handful will start fishing at dawn or before, with a few others straggling out around sun-up. As the morning progresses more and more boats will become evident on the water.

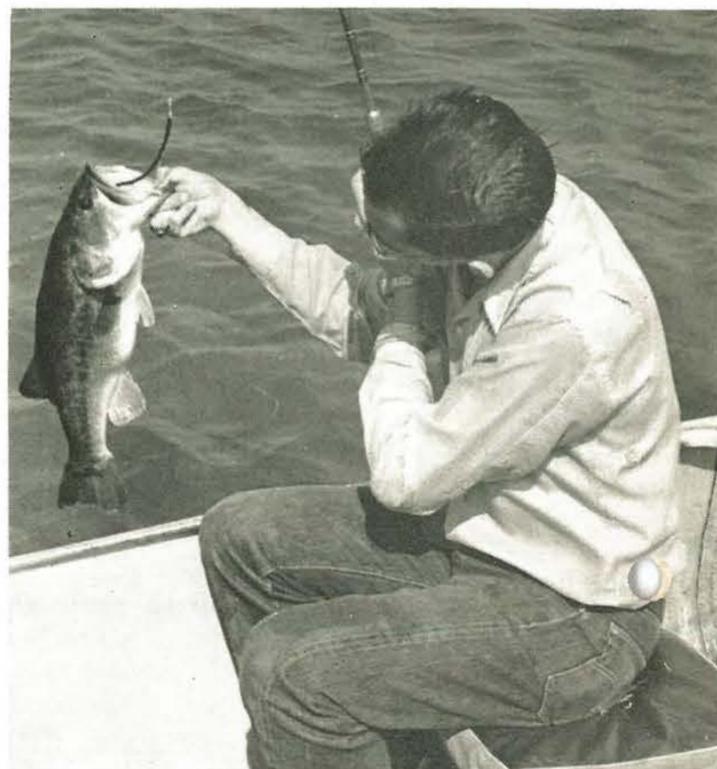
That small group which is out early normally is composed of fishermen who catch most of the fish.

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 quip 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'd 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.

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



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 bobber rigs out in the current and allowing them to ride down and around to the bank.

There was a certain junction just when 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 float. Shortly it ceased altogether.

Strange? Not to me. Many 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 quietness that prevails early and late is conducive to feeding.

That word quietness is the clue, as I see it. 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 mo-

ments 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 bait. I set the hook sharply. The fish raced around the end of the dock, flouncing wildly as I heaved it above the water. It was a saucer-size crappie.

When my friend arrived I was knee deep in action. He hurriedly rigged a line and joined the fun. We forgot all about bass fishing. When activity eventually died we had a stringer loaded with good eating.

I guess we were fortunate. Later, in my newspaper office, I telephoned several sources to get a fishing report for the day. Things were pretty slow, was the general reply. I thought about this report later as I sat down to a delicious lunch of crisp brown crappie filets.

On another occasion I called a dock owner on a lake that is roughly fifty miles from my home. I questioned him about current fishing conditions since I planned on driving up the following day.

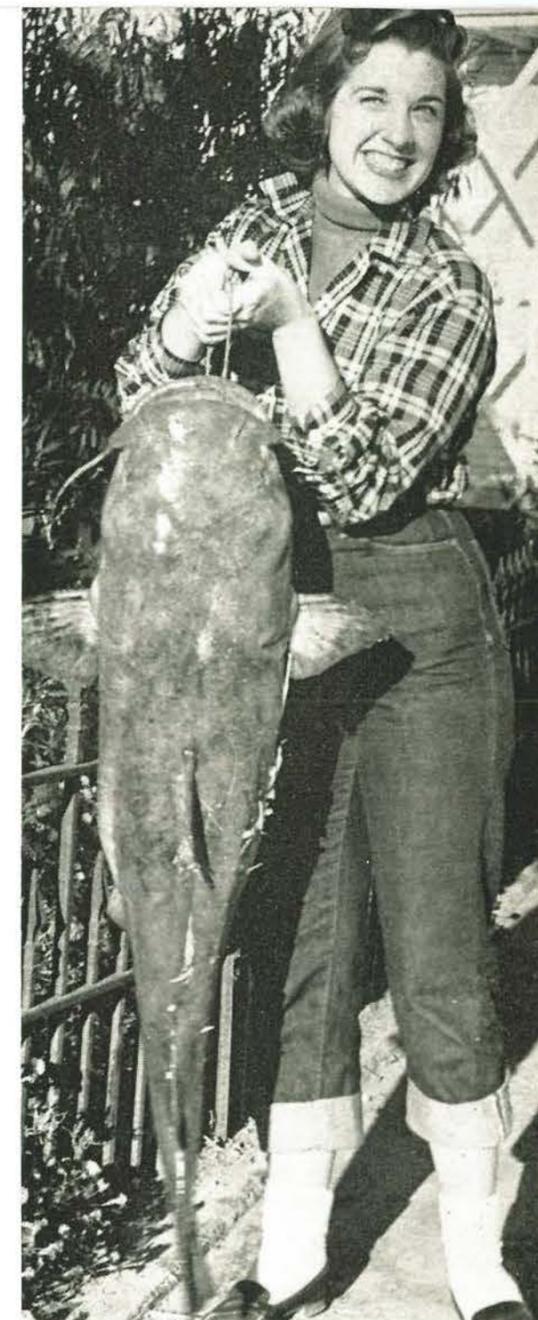
"It's terrific," he reported enthusiastically. Then he quickly added, "If you get here early enough."

"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 quit hitting soon after the sun climbed over the horizon.

Early morning is an especially ripe time for catching fish during the hotter months. The heat keeps the fish deep and sluggish during the day.



This bragging-size catfish was taken on a trolline. It got itself into trouble sometime between 4:00 and 7:00 A. M.

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 experiment. 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 39)

IT'S A TWISTING, time-scarred road, quietly deteriorating in the depths of the Everglades, a memento to the changeable 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 time and again 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 spasmodically spectacular 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 wise in the ways of 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 Everglades.

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 off tackle.

The grapevine reported the magic was working in this area, so I decided 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 fisherman reported landing and releasing over a hundred bass during a day's outing. Of course, the bass weren't large, running from a

We drove along a time-scarred road and found

## Everglades Magic

By MAX HUNN

half to a pound and a half—they'd be bigger later on if the water remained 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 coaxed too much. And, adding to this were the bream who persisted in trying to act like bass, I discovered.

We halted our car's snail's pace just before a hump 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 day lost if I didn't land a few on artificials, no matter what their size.

The white, fleecy clouds which are almost standard issue in South Florida, made it an ideal outdoor's day as I got out and walked to the edge of the culvert. Yep, there were fish. Hundreds of them judging by the constant changing parade of shadows in the crystal clear water.

But they appeared to be needle-nose gar, despised by every angler, but there nevertheless.

"Will we get any fish, Daddy?" queried Linda with the bouncing enthusiasm of a 10-year old.

"Umm, maybe," I grunted. I certainly didn't want to bet on this or any other spot along the old loop road today after this inspection. But I'd promised her a chance to fish, and what did we have to lose? We'd driven the 60-odd miles from our

home south of Miami already.

"We'll try," I continued. "You can use worms on your spin line. I'm going to see what they do with an underwater spin streamer."

"O.K. I'll catch some," she pertly replied with all the assurance of a veteran fisherman.

"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 short, cast spelled disaster.

She flicked her bait out into the rushing water hurtling under the culvert, and watched the float dance in the little froth forming on top of the small pool where the water plunged off into the cypress swamp.

There was a steady plop, plop, plop of fish exploding in the water. It was an uncanny noise to be breaking the otherwise peaceful quiet of the remote 'Glades. I figured the gars had corralled a school of minnows coming through the culvert, and were making hash out of them. But that was no sign there were any other fish there.



Linda "Tink" Hunn baits her hook with a choice earthworm. She hopes there is a customer waiting for the offering in the waters just below the road culverts.



And there is. No sooner does the choice morsel touch the water before there is a flurry of water, a sharp jerk on the line, and a fat Everglades canal bream is on.

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 rod.

"Pull him in," I suggested, as she cranked on her reel.

And she did. It was a quarter-pound bream who put up quite a scrap against the light spinning rig aided by the swift water which gave him more power than his weight warranted. First cast, first fish. Well, the blue gills were hitting on worms. Now would anything else hit on artificials?

I moved alongside Linda, carefully made my cast to place my fly float and streamer in the middle of the little torrent and watched the streamer dart around frantically in the swift water.

Wham! I felt a healthy tug on my line. I, too, had hooked something on my first cast. It put up quite a scrap, and when I finally reeled him in, I found I'd hooked a slightly bigger bream, who apparently wanted to make like a bass. He'd refused to give up even when I got him out of the water.

We released both fish for they were too small—although many people like to eat 'em that size—and settled down to some fast and furious fishing.

The Everglades magic was working. Nearly every cast netted a strike, although not always a lander. 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 ¾ 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-

ner and a red and white rubber skirted gang hook. This seemed to be the best of the lot this particular day. But fish being what they are, it might not even rate a strike next time.

In a little less than two hours, I hooked and released 22 small size bass, some 20 bream and to add to the piscatorial picnic landed half a dozen fresh water catfish, who joined the act in its closing moments. Strangely when the catfish started hitting, the bass and bream quit.

However, it was getting late and the sun already was casting long shadows when we headed back up the decrepit road towards the Tamiami Trail and home.

Like all fishermen, I found it impossible to pass up likely holes, and in the process managed to hook three more bass—these running larger—before we left the back 'Glades country. With these the red skirted spinner was the weapon.

"Is there really magic in the Everglades?" Linda asked as we headed home.

"Nature's fishing magic at this time of year, I guess," I answered, thinking of a score of nearly fifty fish hooked, landed and released in less than two hours. Yes, there's Everglades magic for a fisherman who'll hunt for it. It's there. You've just got to know where and when to find it. ●

Marilyn NeSmith checks over the portable "Call of the Wild" Hi-Fi set as Morrie Naggiar plants the squawk box's speaker at a distance from the blind. Speaker is camouflaged with branches or grass when in use.



Photos by Jake Johnson

# Hi-Fi Crows

The gun shy crows of Jenkins' Woods

fell all over themselves

to our woodland ambush

FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE DEPTHS of the distant cypress head came the desultory cawing of a flock of crows resting after the morning's foraging. Axel Jenkins looked up from the thoughtful contemplation of the remnants of the newly-sprouted corn crop. Black devils, he muttered, shaking his fist in the general direction of the timber. There the midnight-hued agents of destruction lounged safe and secure in their fortress of thorny thicket and swampy woods.

There would be time to replant the crop perhaps but what would be the good of that. Hybrid seed costs money, to say nothing of the time and effort involved in reworking the field. And for what? As soon as the tender plants poked through the surface the crows would crowd around for the feast.

Axel and some of his sportsmen friends from town had made several attempts to thin out the crow population. Results were practically nil. Now and again one of them might down and overly confident bird that bumped within reach of their guns. But these were rare instances that came seldom even during the quail season when they were afield practically every day. The wily creatures seemed possessed of some special sense that kept them clear of men with guns.

Then there came a day along toward the middle of spring. On that particular morning, there was work piled up a foot high on my desk. I had just started to make a bit of headway on some of the immediate

By MORRIE NAGGIAR

attention stuff when the postman dropped off a bomb-shell that blew the balance of the day to a fare thee well.

"Sure doesn't look like much, if that thing is the Hi-Fi set you've been waiting for all this time." Marilyn NeSmith, our front office secretary looked over the O. D. painted metal box that housed the battery operated record player.

"It isn't supposed to be a decoration," I pointed out to her. "This gadget is the newest thing for calling in wild critters of different kinds."

"You're kidding, of course," she asked dubiously.

"Not a bit of it. This little rig was so effective on ducks and geese that the Federal government made it illegal to use this sort of caller."

"So you bought one to hunt ducks and geese with?"

"Of course not. You know better than that. The outfit that makes it has come out with some other records that are legal to use." I unwrapped a couple of call records, plugged in the speaker and slipped one of the discs onto the turn table.

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 poked 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 quill as far as I was concerned. I hoped the crows felt the same way about it.

Only 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 Jenkin's 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 Ax?," 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 that to fool a crow. I know—I've been trying 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 full-bodied papier 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 camouflage suited hunters. A head net eliminates light reflections from face. This skin glare is often the culprit when decoying crows and other birds suddenly flare off from blind.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

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 silhouettes 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 than the loud raucous conversation of a convention of hopped-up crows rolled through the piney woods. By actual timing it was less than a minute and a half before the first crow came boiling out of the depths of the woods looking for trouble. He was followed



Photo by Morrie Naggiar

If there are crows in the vicinity, there is no waiting for action. In less than a minute and a half after the needle touched the plastic call record this flock of crows came barreling into the decoys.

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 paper 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.

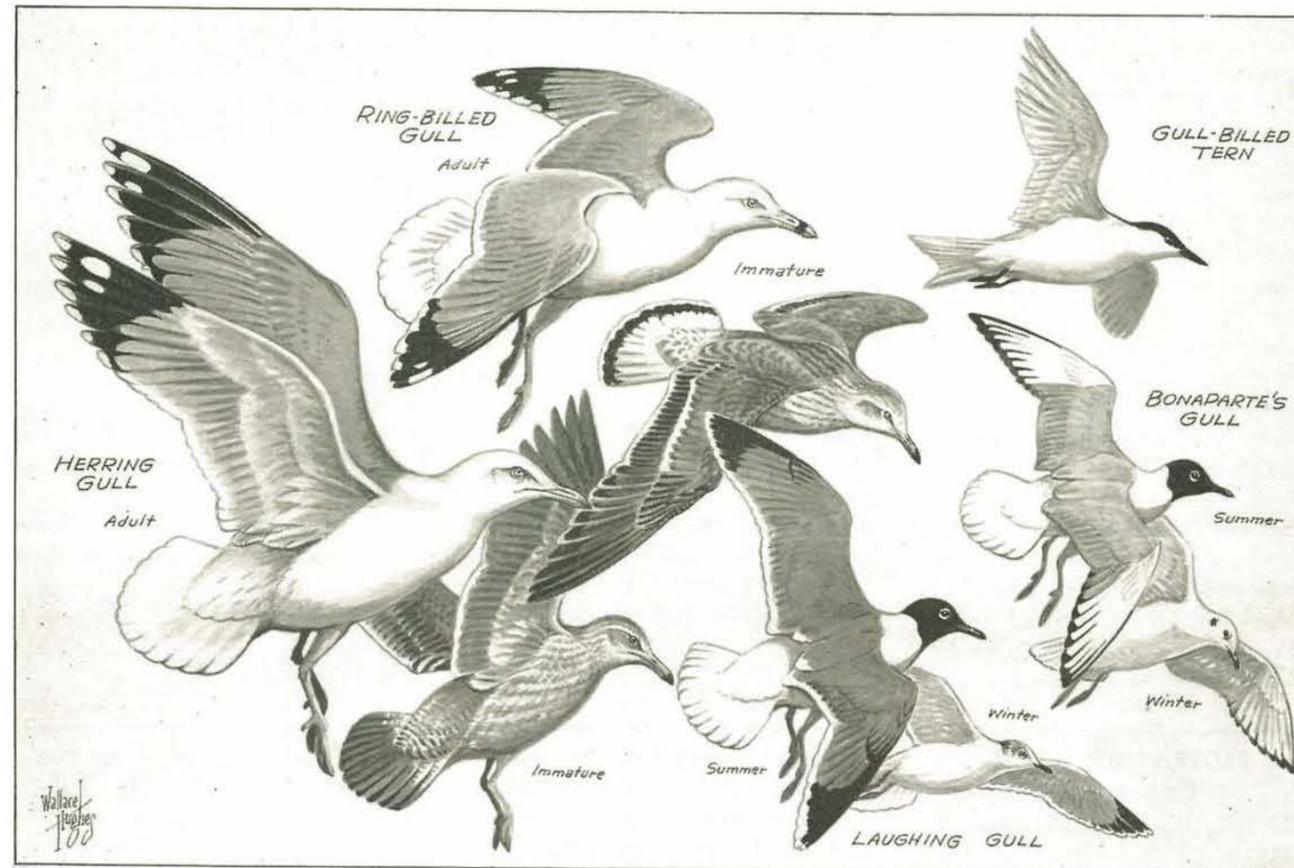
(Continued on Page 37)

Left: A crow, swinging in over the pines in search of the riot advertised by the Hi-Fi Judas, pitches earthward as a charge of 6's overtakes him. Below: Successful hunters examine one of the crows bagged with the aid of the amazingly effective Call of the Wild device.

Photos by Jake Johnson



## FLORIDA BIRDLIFE



### 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

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season the spectacular black head and neck plumage is replaced by white feathering with a tinge of hair brown on the head.

The Laughing Gull is a permanent resident of the state. It nests in colonies, showing an apparent preference for low sandy islands off shore. It is the only gull to nest in the Gulf-Caribbean area. It is a species of the warm water areas and seldom is reported in the colder sections at any season.

Its characteristic call, sometimes sounding rather goose like, gives the species its appropriate common name.

#### Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

In the summer plumage this small black-headed gull is readily distinguished from the Laughing Gull by its bright orange-red legs and feet, and the mainly white primary feath-

ers. The wings are much paler than those of the somewhat similar Laughing Gull.

In the paler winter plumage, the single dark spot on the head coupled with the birds small size make it easy to recognize in the field.

Bonaparte's Gull is a widely distributed winter resident of the state. They are proficient fishermen when they locate schools of bait fishes in shallows or close to the surface, dipping the minnows on the wing. Crustaceans, snails, and marine worms are mainstays of the diet along the coast. They are not adverse to scavenging when the opportunity presents itself.

#### Gull-billed Tern,

*Gelochelidon nilotica*

This bird with its heavy black bill, slightly forked tail, and stocky body build is rather easily identified in the field. Its peculiar rasping call

is also a good identification point. This call has been characterized as a dry, rasping, insect like *kay-ty-did*, and a short, single note repeated several times in rapid succession.

The species was subjected to a great deal of pressure during the time when many birds were sought to meet the demands of millinery fashion. They were at one time edging close to extinction but have recovered fairly well under the protection extended to them in recent years.

The Gull-billed Tern is more inclined to seek out insects than some of the other terns. Small crabs, frogs, worms, and a variety of other animal life makes up the diet.

On the eastern coast the species nests from about southern New Jersey southward. It is a year around resident of Florida where it is encountered about the inland lakes as well as on the coast. ●

#### FEDERATION NOTES

(Continued from Page 9)

at the time of admission to the union in 1845.

Sovereignty lands include all tidal bottoms, the bottoms of navigable fresh water lakes and the beaches and foreshore along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The only exceptions to state ownership of these lands are in the cases of certain land grants made before Florida was acquired by the United States and subsequent conveyances made by the state itself.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers exercises jurisdiction over matters of commercial navigation in sovereignty waters but the state holds title to the underlying bottoms and sets policy regarding their use. Responsibility for state jurisdiction is vested in the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund — an ex officio board composed of the governor and four cabinet members.

Tidal lands underlying water of un-navigable depth and adjacent or close to upland are usually considered "riparian" to that upland and the upland owner enjoys ingress and egress rights to the area. However,

he does not own the bottom and any alternation of the bottom on his part must have approval of the state. He does have the preferred right to purchase the bottom adjoining his property if it is subject to sale.

If the "sovereignty tidal land" is separated from any upland by navigable water it is considered non-riparian and no party has superior claim to the land.

The trustees maintain a policy of permitting any use or improvement of tidal bottoms as long as it is consistent with the public interest.

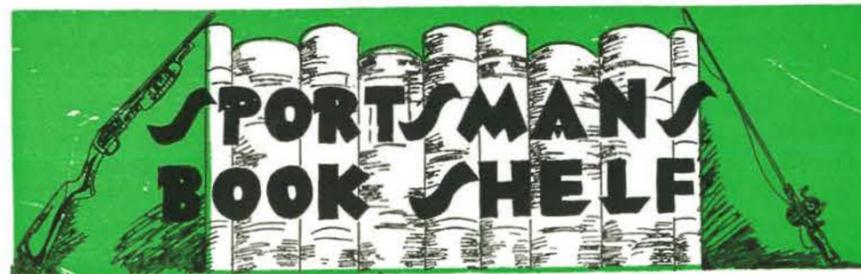


"Bulkhead lines," which are established by local authorities, usually counties or municipalities, are lines beyond which further extension, creating or filling of land or islands will not be permitted. A bulkhead line is the maximum limit of solid fill, regardless of whether or not the fill is retained by an actual bulkhead.

Where bulkhead lines have not been established by a county or municipality, any riparian owner may make a written request for a line to the local authority. If the local authority does not set up a bulkhead line within 60 days, application may then be made to the trustees of the improvement fund.

Permits from the trustees to dredge, fill or erect coastal structures does not release the permittee from meeting whatever requirements may be imposed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, which represents the federal government in waters of the state.

Persons interested in tidal lands conservation practices should acquire the complete bulletin from the trustees. ●



**HOW TO CATCH BASS**, by Philip Rice. Published by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 383 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y. 178 pages, illustrated with line drawings. Price \$3.50.

Bass are ideal game fish—temperamental, unpredictable, exasperating, and exciting.

Now everything (and there is much to know) about how to catch this worthy prize is told in this completely up-to-date handbook, written by a man who has fished rivers, lakes, and streams from the northeastern corner of our country to the west.

HOW TO CATCH BASS is filled with many secrets of bass fishing, with the thrills and magic that lure fishermen.

Because bass are abundant and can be fished for in some states during every month of the year, they are the most sought-after of all fish. According to the latest census, more than sixteen-million fishing licenses are sold each year. Fishing is the "right" sport and bass the "right" fish.

How to Catch Bass gives direct and clear advice and many helpful hints on the approach, on casting, hooking, playing, and landing bass. In addition, it discusses the seasonal and regional habits of both small-mouth and largemouth bass and the ways of fishing for them. It describes the kind of equipment necessary — rods, reels, lures, lines, and leaders, and suggests the best tackle. In lively, easy narrative style, it cites many incidents and anecdotes dealing with specific points, including the proper way to locate the best waters, the best temperatures and particular spots, and the right time in which to find bass. It even tells

how to fillet and cook the fish, once caught. Not only is it important to have the right skills, advises the author, but the fisherman must learn how to combine his know-how with his own "fishing sense."

Beginners will find practical, objective, basic instruction in HOW TO CATCH BASS. The average fisherman will learn how to improve his fishing skills and increase his enjoyment of this interesting and challenging sport.

**I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT AN ELEPHANT**, by Havilah Babcock. Published by Henry Holt and Company, 338 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. 184 pages. Price \$3.50

Packed to the gullet with yarns of big game jaunts to misty never-never lands across the seas? Surfeited with wild tales of rich men's hunts, far beyond practical reach of the gent with family ties and modest income? Draw up your arm chair and join Havilah Babcock, the bird shootin' professor in a ramble through the broom fields and briar patches of the back forty. The menu? Seven ounces, more or less, of the greatest little feathered critter that ever disturbed the equanimity of the most self assured scattergunner.

"I don't want to shoot an elephant," says the author, nor stalk a



"Now what?"

Rocky Mountain goat, be treed by a Cape buffalo, or bag a white rhinoceros. I don't want to do anything big. What I want to hunt weighs seven ounces, not seven tons.

The dictionary calls him *Colinus virginianus*, but various frustrated citizens have been known to call him other things. By habit and habitat he is an Unreconstructed Rebel if ever there was one. In the South, where gunning for him is both a pastime and a passion, he is still called partridge by everybody who voted for Grover Cleveland (These old boys are still shooting birds down here). You Yankees, who can name things better than you can hit them, insist on "bobwhite quail." Well, that sets him apart. But he doesn't depend on the English language to get that done. He sets himself apart."

The eighteen articles and stories in this collection — many of which have already appeared in FIELD & STREAM and other sportsmen's magazines — are concerned mainly with birds and dogs.

A sampling of the chuckle packed pages reveals the story of "Son of a Bishop," a strong-willed bird dog whose field name was changed by a nimble-witted Phi Beta Kappa, on a hunt with a dignified Methodist preacher.

What happens when a bunch of avid bird hunters decide to fore-swear their favorite sport is revealed in "Cousin Quesenberry Butts and the Boiled Owl." When a wife tries to make a gentleman gunner out of her spouse, admittedly a shotgunning clodhopper, it does not take long for her to realize her error. "Temporary Gentleman" reveals the stark facts of the case.

Here and there through the book, adding yet another touch of spice to an already more than adequate brew are such gems as "Money Does Grow On Trees," "Don't Let 'Em Spit On You," and "Shirttail."

If you are not already a Havilah Babcock fan, we are giving heavy odds you will be before you get half-way through this, the most entertaining and educational book it has been our pleasure to review in many a moon. ●

## THE EYES HAVE IT

(Continued from Page 15)

alignment. 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 forcefully, is to pick up your shotgun, rifle or pistol and aim it at some selected target with both eyes wide open. Then, maintaining your aim, close your left eye only. Does your weapon still point at its target? Without shifting eyes or shooting position, open your left eye and close the right. . . . The eye that keeps your sights and gun barrel pointed right on target is your "master" eye.

Suppose you are normally right handed, but the tests show that you have a left "master" eye?

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 makeshift affairs at best. 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 Colonel Townsend Whelen and this writer first learned to shoot from the right shoulder, but later had to change over to left when changes in eyesight occurred.

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

**Two-eyed Vision:** Although it is his "master" eye that serves a shooter 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 Etchen recommends that the shotgunner 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 looking 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 blurred target. The theory—proved correct by tests—is that



How good is your side vision? Ophthalmologists say that you should be able to see a pencil at an angle of at least 75 degrees on each side of your eye-level, center line vision without shifting your head. It is usually your side vision that first picks up movement of game when you are hunting.

one can align a sharply defined blade front sight more accurately on a slightly fuzzy target than vice versa.

The aiming bull may appear somewhat gray and fuzzy, but so long as the front sight looks distinct and black, high scores can be made by aligning the blade front sight right on the center of the bullseye, where generally the slightly blurred target will appear blackest to the shooter's aiming eye. Where no color contrast exists between aiming bull and front sight, the customary six o'clock position hold is perhaps better.

Such target shooters should not hunt with glasses that give only sharp definition of rifle sights; otherwise, they might easily mistake the blurred movements of another hunter for those of game.

They can, however, use a scope sight advantageously. A scope sight gives a decidedly better view of game, at all average shooting distances, and can be aligned more precisely than metallic sights. Also, when properly focused, a scope sight can be made to compensate for minor vision errors, should the shooter not already possess needed prescription glasses.

If you wear bi-focals, use the distance seeing portion of your eyeglass lens for correctly aiming a scope sight.

Major General Julian S. Hatcher, one of the nation's foremost authorities on shooting subjects, recently stated: "For the most efficiency when hunting, for the best scoring in competitive shooting, every shooter should have his eyes examined and, if necessary, obtain prescription glasses. If no corrective lenses are needed, then a glass especially designed for shooting conditions should be worn every time he fires. It is the one time that you don't wear glasses that a serious eye accident from a blown primer or stray shot is likely to occur."

When having prescription glasses fitted, there are several points to remember.

Regular wear, reading glasses usually focus at 18 inches or less, and

distance lenses focus at a considerable distance from the eyes; hence, ordinary reading glasses are seldom of much value for shooting.

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 edges 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 segment 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.

It would seem, therefore, that whether deciding a highly popular issue with an "Aye" vote, or hunting safely and enjoyably, the eyes have it. ●

Here in Florida, the Northeast Optometric Association, Box 1327, Jacksonville, is especially interested in good hunting vision and field safety, and offers a free pamphlet that outlines just what happens in the aiming eye when we make a shot with our favorite gun. Ask for a copy of "That Shootin' Eye."

## HI-FI CROWS

(Continued from Page 32)

The bird plummeted in a shower of feathers as the load caught him squarely. But he was not the only casualty. The owl decoy rocked under the chock. I had managed to pattern the paper phoney with the edge of the charge. But things were happening too fast to worry about that right at the time. Crows seemed to be milling everywhere, diving at the owl, careening through the tree tops from all angles, and occasionally dropping in a flurry of feathers as a tube full of shot caught up with them.

The birds seemed to pay no attention to their flock mates dropping around them. Once I started to swing on a bird bearing in directly over the blind. Just as I started to tighten down in the trigger, my



The compact, metal-cased, battery operated record player is easily carried into the field. In addition to crow call records, a squealing rabbit predator call disc is available.

hunting partner's smoothbore erupted to send a charge of shot tearing into the bird. He dropped

straight down with a quiver.

By now, unmindful of the rumpus, the crows milled wildly, swooping at the decoys. We scrambled wildly for shells, shooting and reloading at a furious rate.

Then suddenly it was over. The surviving crows, reluctant to abandon the field altogether, landed in tree tops not far out of shotgun range. They would have made wonderful scope sighted rifle targets. Next trip a rifle would be included in the outfit.

At any rate, as we gathered up the gear for the return to town, it was with the feeling that at last the key to some mighty fast and furious shooting had been found.

Axel 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. ●

## INSECTICIDES RESEARCH BILL

(Continued from Page 5)

application of pelleted heptachlor for fire ant control up to 70-85 per cent. Kills include fish and aquatic life, song birds, quail, rabbits, squirrels, field rodents, cats, a calf, armadillos, hawks, owls, a crow, and red fox cubs. Laboratory analysis revealed sufficient quantities of the poison in the body tissues of the animals recovered to have produced death. Approximately 270,000 acres in nine southeastern States have been treated for control of the imported fire ants to date.

### Ant Control Program Not Only Culprit

The fire ant control program is not the only activity that poses a jeopardy to fish and wildlife. The hearing record on S. 2447 in the Senate documents instances of severe mortality to fish and game following large-scale applications of chemical poisons for the control

of forest and agricultural plant and insect pests. It is the potential magnitude of the fire ant program and the use of chemicals known to be 15 or more times as toxic to wildlife than DDT that is raising grave concern. The Fish and Wildlife Service must obtain the basic information so that it can give guidance to the Department of Agriculture and State agencies in their control programs. More powerful poisons will be used for the ever-enlarging control programs of the immediate future.

### Action Being Sought

Chairman Bonner of the House Committee continues to receive requests that prompt and favorable action be taken on S. 2447 and H. R. 783. Others are urging House and Senate Appropriations committee chairman Clarence Cannon of Missouri and Carl Hayden to include the needed funds in the supplemental money bill. ●

## 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 to insure 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. Meanwhile the Boone and Crocket Club stepped into the breach and appropriated \$5,000 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 topsoil and shrubs, 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 precarious years conservationists and wildlife lovers sounded an anvil 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 far from assured yet. They actually do not have a permanent home. The Fish and Wildlife Service has aimed for at least 1,000 acres, mainly 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-

crease. 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?

In 1950 the Fish and Wildlife Service estimated it would cost \$100,000 to buy enough land for a Key deer sanctuary. Included in the 1957 Key deer bill is \$35,000 for land purchase. The cost of land on the Keys has risen considerably since 1950, and the \$35,000 available today is nowhere near enough money. The 1957 bill says, in effect, that land can be acquired by the Fish and Wildlife Service by "purchase, donation or exchange." With only \$35,000 in the kitty, the Fish and Wildlife Service is in a mighty poor position to do any buying. "Donation" can be pretty well written off the books. With land values zooming in the Keys, it is hard to believe that anyone owning land in the desired area is going to



"Everybody's got deer heads."

give it away. As for "exchange," the Fish and Wildlife Service does administer several small islands in the Keys, but they are already bird sanctuaries, and certainly should not be considered in any sort of "swap" with private interests.

All of which leads to the unescapable fact that more money is needed for outright purchase of the necessary land. The only feasible way to get that money is an increased appropriation from Congress.

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. Speeding motorists take an annual toll of the animals, especially at night when the deer are blinded by the headlights of cars.

Despite all of these hazards, the harassed animals have managed to increase from an estimated low of 30 in 1950 to more than 150 at the beginning of 1958. Surely such valiant efforts to survive on the part of these tiny animals should be rewarded with a reasonable chance to live. The least of Nature's creatures should be allowed that. Man does not always have to destroy in the path of his much publicized "progress." ●

The 15.5-acre parcel of land on Big Pine Key, Florida, which the North American Wildlife Foundation donated to the Department of the Interior, is the "kick-off of land acquisition for the entire Key Deer Refuge program."

The land was donated to the Federal Government on April 30, and the deed was presented to Secretary Seaton by Mr. C. R. Gutermuth, secretary of the foundation.

## dog chatter

By GEORGE CROWLEY

**M**ORE THAN 100 BREEDS of dogs are recognized by the American Kennel Club and the majority of these came into existence long ago to perform specific functions for their masters. All the sporting breeds, including the setters and spaniels, were developed to help men find game at a time when the head of the household had to go afield to provide food for his family.

By the same token most of the hound and working breeds were originated to carry out certain tasks. 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 pinscher were primarily guard dogs, and most of the terrier breeds were molded by selective breeding into courageous, pint-sized destroyers 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 Menthon.

### The Shaggy Swimmer

**A**LTHOUGH 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 Newfoundlands concern their wonderful

### GET 'EM EARLY

(Continued from Page 27)

several months. It was dandy. I was catching 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 any time 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. ●

swimming abilities. Many persons have been saved from drowning by these shaggy giants of dogdom.

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 roaring furiously and there 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 gave a command. 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. 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, and all hands were rescued.

Another Newfoundland displayed good sense in a different way. This one also lived near the sea. He always ignored the insults which the little dogs yapped at him during his daily walks until one day a small terrier went too far and nipped him on the hind leg. With that, the big dog grabbed his tormentor by the scruff of the neck, walked to the end of a nearby dock and deliberately dropped the terrier into the water. When the little fellow had been thoroughly ducked and seemed in danger of drowning, the Newfoundland jumped in and saved him!

Who says a dog has no sense of humor?

\* \* \*

In Petersburg, Ind., a dog trained by a mail carrier to help in his deliveries is suspect in the daily disappearance of a bundle of newspapers which is left in front of a local restaurant each morning. Reason: the newspapers are always found in front of the Post Office with other newspapers which are to be delivered by the postal men. ●

# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS



If Florida's 1958 Fall weather follows the same general pattern of the last two years, chances are that Opening Day hunting will 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 climbs from a usually chilly dawn reading to a comfortably warm mid-day recording.

However, by the first week of December you may be hunting the same areas in weather that will tend to chill a person through the heaviest 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. Sometime 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 much longer.

Needed 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 feather-light sleeveless insulated vest.

FWFT&T especially likes the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog listing No. 6D8443, priced at \$6.57, plus postage.

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 tailored to extend below the belt line and down over kidneys in rear—body areas where you seem to feel cold most acutely.

The vest's zipper front closes to chin, and snaps are provided for tighter closing of the comfortable knit collar. Elastic side inserts give freedom of body movement.

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

Available in chest sizes 36 to 48, inclusive.

Sears' Fall & Winter general catalog regularly lists the vest. Order direct, or through nearest retail store.

FWFT&T recommends the Sears, Roebuck insulated vest without reservation. The garment is one that every deer and duck hunter should own.



Compared to other types seen in the hands of Florida Anglers, relatively little fly fishing tackle is in active service—yet fly fishing is one of the most fascinating of sports, whether the angler fishes fresh water or salt.

As outdoor writer Edmund McLaurin states in one of his tackle texts for the annual FISHERMAN'S HANDBOOK, the use of fly rods and fly lures for the taking of Florida salt water fish is not a new idea. Back in the '80's, an Englishman took his bamboo fly rod and a canoe into the Florida Everglades in successful quest of tarpon. Today, Phil Francis, Joe Brooks and other Florida anglers are doing the same thing. You might as well get in on the fun, too, and you can—with proper tackle.

Successful use of fly rods, whether in fresh or salt water, is dependent on the logical matching of rod and line, 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 hard alloy metal; a lifetime spool bearing and shaft; a mechanism that can be changed to create 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 is that the Beaudex has a cam operated adjustable drag and a two way hard line guard.

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

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

Both the Pridex and the Beaudex can be had in a variety of sizes, priced from \$18.50 for the 3-inch width Pridex to \$21.75 for the 3½-inch lightweight version of the same model; the Beaudex 3-inch and the 3½-inch width models are \$21.75. There is also a 3¼-inch mediumweight Beaudex version at \$26.95, and a 4-inch medium-weight model at the same price.

Examine the new additions to the Garcia tackle line at your local sporting goods store, or write the Garcia Corporation, 268 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, for an illustrated folder describing the new fly reels.



Gun mechanisms, especially those of the bolt action type, can be given an attractive, permanent, jeweled damascene finish, quickly and easily with a new, inexpensive engine turning tool available from R. E. Hutchinson, Sutton, Massachusetts.

The simple tool chucks into any drill press, and is used at any speed between 500 and 4,000 r.p.m.

To use the Hutchinson simplified engine turning tool with professional results, have metal surfaces clean and polished before mounting and using the tool in the drill press.

When the metal to be treated decoratively has been thoroughly cleaned and polished, apply the tool to the work with light pressure, making overlapping circles as the tool's abrasive tip damascenes the metal attractively. Best appearing work occurs when the outer edge of one circle overlaps the preceding one at center.

Use caution when the abrasive tip of the tool hangs over the edge of the metal, as

this destroys the abrasive tip very quickly. However, worn abrasive tips are easily removed with any sharp pointed tool and new ones tapped in place with hammer or mallet.

The Hutchinson engine turning tool will decorate any metal—round or flat—without the use of lubricants or compounds.

Price of the tool is \$1.00, complete with abrasive tips. Extra tips are 25c for four, postpaid. In case your drill press has a maximum chuck capacity of only ¼ of an inch, Hutchinson can furnish the tool with ¼ inch shank, at no extra charge. Unless otherwise specified, the standard straight shank style tool will be shipped, along with two abrasive tips and instructions for using the tool.

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 be pleased with its performance.

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

North Bay presently is about one third as salty as open sea water. The great flow of fresh water from the Econfinia and, to a lesser extent, from three other small tributaries, keeps the bay "diluted." According to engineering plans 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.

Making a "guesstimate," the planning engineer says that if the lake is put into operation during the rainy season or at a time of high rainfall, the lake will be cleared of salt water in just a short time. With more than 300 million gallons of fresh water pouring into the lake daily, that "short time" will probably be very short indeed!

The Panama City planners and the Fish Management Division have more to go on than speculation. Within the state of Florida there are



FOR hard outdoor wear, as associated with camping, hunting and fishing, a narrow dress style sport belt is frequently unsuitable.

This is especially true where several accessories, such as knife, camera, snake bite kit and cartridge pouch are strung on a narrow width dress belt, held to the wearer's correct waist measurement by a friction-type buckle lock; the total weight of attached articles tends to make a narrow belt sag and pull uncomfortably.

What is needed for rugged outdoor wear is a strong, Western-style belt of fairly wide width, featuring a buckle that hooks or locks securely until manually released. To these basic features, many outdoorsmen like to add a bit of eye appeal through stamped or carved designs on belts and initialed or outdoor theme buckles.

While browsing around in THE QUALITY SHOP, 613 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FWFT&T discovered a most attractive, sturdy

and reasonably priced Western-style belt and buckle combination, made by a Denver, Colorado, saddle firm and ideally suited to active outdoor wear.

The belt itself, available in choice of tan or black, is 1½ inch width top grain saddle leather with flower embossed design and polished edges, double snap fasteners for easy removal or change of buckle and a holding loop for the extra overlapping end.

The slightly curved buckle is of heavy nickel-silver, both engraved and embellished with contrasting gold color flower designs in the four corners, and features purchaser's choice of gold color elk or horse head central figure, or an attractively engraved design without corner rosettes but with polished center for engraving of initials. Overall size of the buckle is 2½x3¾ inches. A hook on one end is inserted in the corresponding waist size hole in the leather belt to lock belt and buckle to any desired circumference.

The belt-buckle combination is rugged enough to be practical to the sportsmen group of wearers as well as an attractive item for general wear by Florida ranchers and equestrians.

The entire unit—leather belt and metal buckle—carries a \$5.50 price tag, postpaid. Be sure to state desired belt color, waist size and first choice center figure design, when ordering.

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's Gulf State Park.

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.

It took the Alabamans less than two years to do the job. As in the North Bay plans, they erected a salt water cutoff across a channel that connected the lakes with the Gulf. Water from the lakes could flow out, but no salt water could sneak back in. Even though the lakes depend solely on run-off from the adjacent land for fresh water, it was only a few weeks before they were fresh enough to support breeding populations of fresh water game fish.

Having a smaller area to deal with and without large tributaries to dump a continual fresh supply of rough fish into the lakes, the Alabamans were able to poison the lakes, remove the surviving salt water species and rough fish and restock the lakes with a balanced pop-  
(Continued on Next Page)



"Dear Ed: I feel that my place in your life has been filled by another so I am stepping aside — — —"

(Continued from Preceding Page)

ulation of fresh water sports fish. 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 Florida sportsmen will have a good thing from the foresightedness of the people of Panama City—a 5,000 acre lake filled with fighting bream and bass. But let's not forget the real purpose of the

### JR. CONSERVATIONIST

(Continued from Page 9)

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

Denver Ste. Claire, Supervisor of Youth Conservation Education for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and Executive Secretary of the Junior Conservation Club League, presented the Annual Awards. Junior Conservationist of 1957 went to Bill Bays of Leesburg, Outstanding Junior Conservation Club of 1957 went to the Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club of Ocala; Outstanding Senior Counselors to Mrs. Marie Puckett, Advisor for the St. Petersburg Jr. Rod and Gun Club, and Mr. W. A. Reynolds, Advisor for the Pahokee Junior Wildlife Club. John Collins accepted Mrs. Puckett's award in her absence. A special award was presented to the Stuart Junior Conservation Club for raising the most money during the 1958 Tag Day.

Jaycees present were: Fred Rogers, President; Lewis Brown, and Bob Grotton; Chairman Boys Work.

Bud Coppanger was also a guest.

Others present were: Herb Mayhew, Advisor for the Allapattah 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 Con-

lake: the conservation and fullest use of a great natural resource, water! Here's how they plan to put the North Bay lake to work!

Drinking water will come from a pumping station near the mouth of the Econfina, where it is always pure. Some 50 million gallons a day can be delivered to Panama City through a pipeline from this point. Industrial water — approximately 250 million gallons a day—can be

servation 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.

Mrs. Westphal, Mrs. Bryden, and Mrs. Kenyon are doing a wonderful job in the kitchen. The campers are really enjoying some good southern home-cooked meals.

Mr. Tompkins, Director; and Mr. Bindner, Assistant Director; along with their staff of Senior and Cabin Counselors are doing an excellent job leading the campers throughout their stay at the camp.

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

### Around the State

Allapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club — Bobby Greenberg has been appointed as Acting Secretary for this club during the summer months. Lloyd Johnson, regular



"So! The minute I turn my back—"

obtained from the lake proper, where the water may not be of as high quality as the river water but adequate for the purposes of industry.

The people of Panama City are to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts on this foresighted program. They are cutting out a pattern of good conservation which all sportsmen can hope other Florida areas will follow. ●

Secretary, has been selected as a Nature Conservation Counselor for the Boy Scouts this summer. Mr. Jim Martinoff, Fishing Editor from the Miami News was guest speaker for one of their club meetings and, on behalf of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, presented a \$25 U. S. Savings Bond to Lloyd Johnson for his outstanding conservation work.

Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club — Calvin Davidson, winner of their recent Membership Drive, was presented with a hand axe. The club was given a talk on "Planting Duck Feeder Food in Ponds," by a State Forest Ranger.

Hialeah Junior Everglades Conservation Squadron — This club recently enjoyed a shooting trip and is at the present time planning another campout.

St. Johns Junior Conservation Club — This club presented the Junior Conservation Club Ritual at the Mill Creek School. Various members of the club participated as Protector, Defender of Soils and Minerals, Defender of Wildlife, etc. The President, Lawrence Oliver, presented members of the club with Bobcat patches. Chipper Zimmerle and Cindy Hubbard received their Ranger patches.

Stuart Junior Conservation Club — In addition to the four officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the Stuart Club now has three new officers:

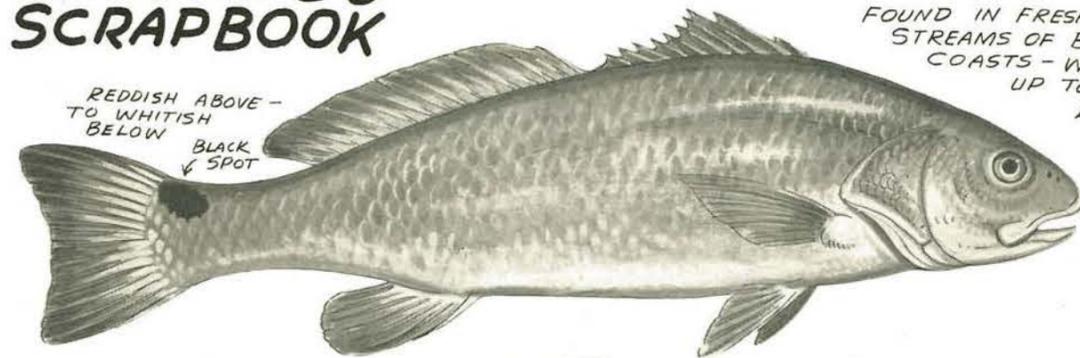
Point System Secretary — Bruce L'Heureux; Vice Secretary — Eddi Gifford; Vice Treasurer — Micky Chason. ●

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S SCRAPBOOK

### REDFISH OR CHANNEL BASS *Sciaenops ocellatus*

FOUND IN FRESH WATER STREAMS OF BOTH COASTS - WEIGHT UP TO 75 LBS.

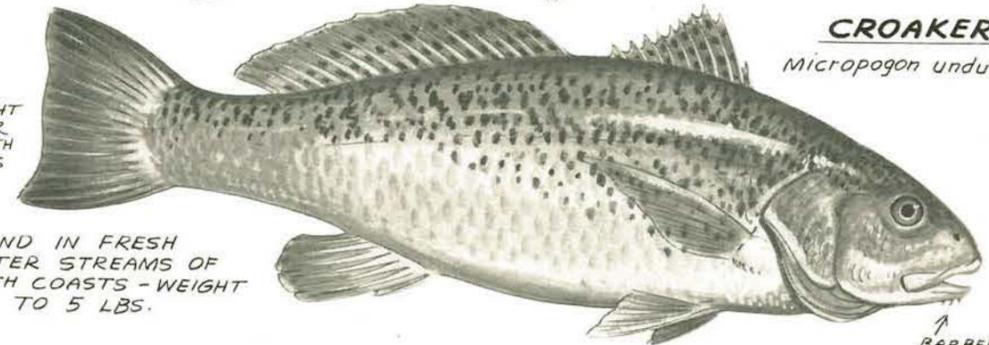
REDDISH ABOVE - TO WHITISH BELOW  
BLACK SPOT



### CROAKER *Micropogon undulatus*

FOUND IN FRESH WATER STREAMS OF BOTH COASTS - WEIGHT UP TO 5 LBS.

COLOR LIGHT TAN - PALER BELOW - WITH DARK SPOTS

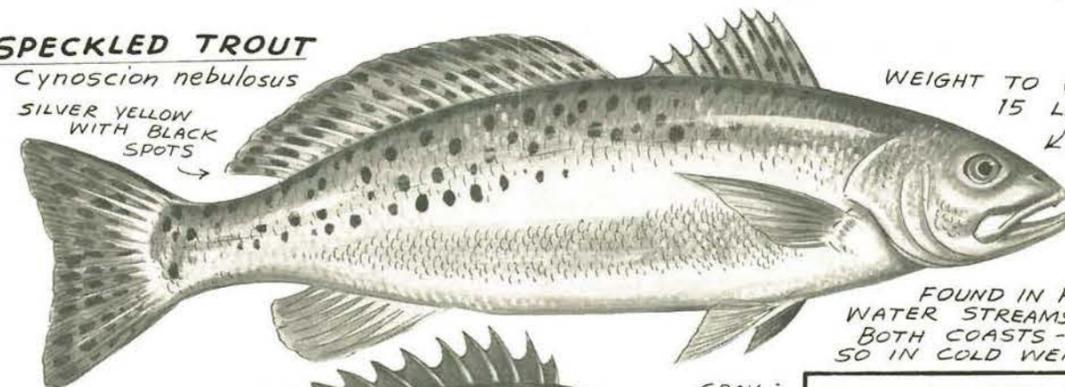


BARBELS

### SPECKLED TROUT *Cynoscion nebulosus*

WEIGHT TO OVER 15 LBS.

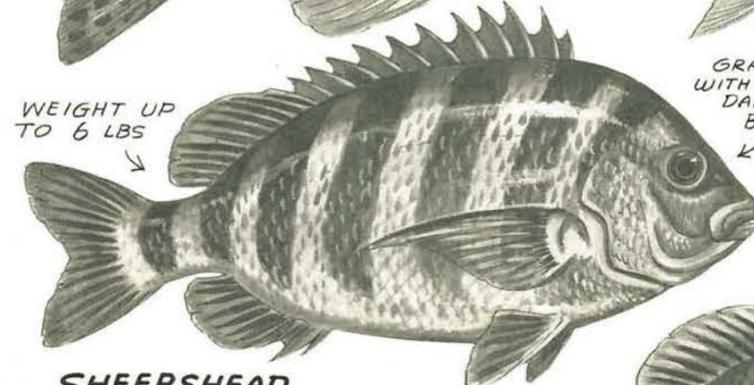
SILVER YELLOW WITH BLACK SPOTS



FOUND IN FRESH WATER STREAMS OF BOTH COASTS - MORE SO IN COLD WEATHER

WEIGHT UP TO 6 LBS

GRAY WITH DARK BARS

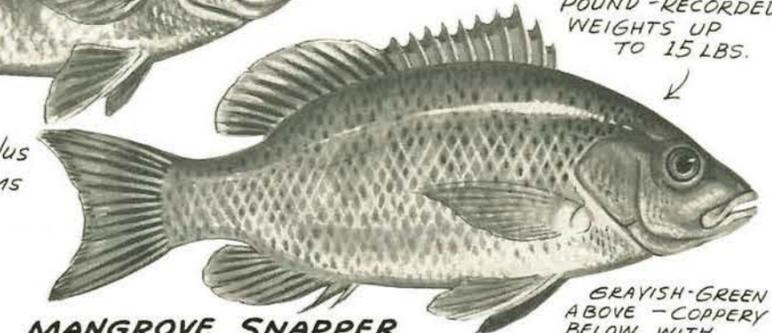


### SHEEPSHEAD *Archosargus probatocephalus*

FOUND IN FRESH WATER STREAMS OF BOTH COASTS -

### SALT WATER FISHES FOUND IN FRESH WATER

FOUND IN FRESH WATERS OF BOTH COASTS - AVERAGE WEIGHT ABOUT ONE POUND - RECORDED WEIGHTS UP TO 15 LBS.



### MANGROVE SNAPPER *Lutjanus griseus*

GRAYISH-GREEN ABOVE - COPPERY BELOW WITH INDISTINCT DARK SPOTS

### CORRECTIONS

APRIL 1958 SCRAPBOOK - PICKEREL SHOULD BE PICKEREL

JUNE 1958 SCRAPBOOK - LEPISOTEUS SHOULD BE LEPISOSTEUS



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