Hunters Asked To "Play Square With the Birds"

Benefits to be derived from the restrictions placed on the harvesting of canvasback and redhead ducks during the coming hunting season will depend to a great extent upon the honesty of those hunters who can "spot a canvasback a mile away" and the earnestness of those who are not sure of the species until they have the bird in their hands, according to Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

Most of the good hunters can be expected to "play square with the birds," and do no illegal shooting intentionally or otherwise, Mr. Leffler said, but he added that there is ample evidence every year of activity by those who refuse to play by the rules. Every possible effort will be made by Federal and State officials to see that the lawbreaker does not undo the good which will be accomplished by those who restrict their shooting.

The restrictions are expected to be especially effective in those areas where canvasbacks and redheads are known to concentrate year after year and where hunting them has become somewhat of a specialized activity. But since these species are widely distributed during the migration and wintering periods the hunters of many States must face up to their responsibilities of looking carefully before pulling the trigger on incoming ducks.

Mr. Leffler sounded a word of caution to the hunter who can not readily identify the birds which are coming in on his blind — urging "if you already have cans or redheads in your bag and see some more ducks coming in, wait until you can be sure that they are not cans or redheads before you shoot."

Mr. Leffler followed this suggestion with a second one: "Make an effort to learn how to identify these species and other species when they are coming in. Conditions might any year force us to limit the kill on any one of a dozen species, or even grant a bonus bird of another species. Hence what you learn this year will be of value in other years. Your State fish and game department will aid you and so will the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Descriptions, pictures and posters will help but a lot depends upon how closely an individual observes the birds on and above the water. It will pay those who have considered a duck as merely a duck to learn a little more about them."

Under the 1958-59 regulations, hunters in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways are limited to two redheads or canvasbacks in the aggregate in the daily bag and four in the aggregate in possession.

SPECIAL AWARDS RECEIVED

The "General Excellence" award for Florida published magazines, with circulations over 5,000, went to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's monthly publication, Florida Wildlife. The trophy, sponsored by the Florida Newspaper and Radio Project, was awarded at the annual fall meeting of the Florida Association of Magazine Publishers at Miami Beach.

In addition to the "General Excellence" award, Florida Wildlife received honorable mentions for Picture Stories, and Typography. Other Florida magazines in the larger circulation category receiving awards and honorable mention were Florida Outdoors, Tropical Living, Sunfish, Florida Speaks, Florida Grower and SeaFarer.


FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE biologists won all the technical publications awards presented at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, at Louisville, Kentucky.

It was the first time in the history of the awards, presented by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, that one state won both top awards.

Biologists of the Game Management Division of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission winning the awards were Charles M. Loveless, of Fort Lauderdale; James A. Powell, of Lantana, and John L. Sinecock, formerly of Sebastian.

Loveless' award was for the best technical paper presented at last year's conference. Title of the paper was "Clipping Study and Techniques in Marsh Ecology Investigations."

Sinecock and Powell cooperatively prepared a paper judged to be the best paper published in the annual book "Transactions of the North American Wildlife Conference." Title of the paper was "An Ecological Study of Waterfowl Areas in Central Florida."
**R** Felipe's subjective questions and problems of shooters are reaching this Gun Editor's desk in increasing numbers. Whenever possible, individual detailed replies are made direct. However, many of the questions asked are of general interest. Here are some from a recent mail…

**Question:** For stalking and for occasional use for deer hunting, what gauge and barrel length should I select in a single barrel pump or autoloadung shotgun? Should the gun have a ventilated rib and a selective choke device?

**Answer:** Since you plan to use one gun for both upland bird shooting and deer hunting, don't go below 10 gauge — a bore diameter in which shotgun slugs and buckshot loads will perform quite well. Barrel length should be 26 inches or less, and preferably with a selective choke attached and included in that overall barrel length measurement. Use a different rib for fast gun pointing, and, for the trap and Skeet shooter, the flat-ribbed, ventilated type tends to dissipate heat waves, arising from a fast-fired barrel. However, for rugged field service, this Gun Editor prefers either a solid rib, as available on the Ithaca Model 37R, or the deluxe ventilated rib being installed on all makes of shotguns by Simmons Gun-Speciation. Rising from 8.1, this is the standard.

**Question:** I installed a Lyman micro-cron-shot receiver sight on my bolt-action big game rifle, but even with the elevation slide screwed down until it rests on the receiver my rifle fired inches high at 100 yards. The rifle has a sighting radius of 27 inches between front sight and rear sight at the top of the peep aperture. How much higher should a new front sight be?

**Answer:** Reference to a handy chart prepared by the Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middlefield, Conn., shows that a rifle with 27-inch sighting radius, that Sights five inches high even with rear sight slide in lowest position, needs a front sight .0375 of an inch higher than its present one.

**Question:** Should I select in a single length should I select in a single

**Answer:** Ithaca Model 37R, or the deluxe hunting, what gauge and barrel what gauge and barrel lengths would you select in a single barrel pump or autoloadung Results: A question like this often puts a Gun Editor on the spot! No matter how logical the reasons influencing his final selections, some readers are sure to disagree with his named choices. Buying a firearm is as personal as acquiring a custom-made suit of clothes. However, all factors considered, the following listings rate this Gun Editor's vote for the top six — but not necessarily in named sequence:

- Remington Model 760 — slide-action
- Winchester Model 94 — lever-action
- Marlin Model 336 — lever-action
- Savage Model 99 — lever-action
- Winchester Model 70 — bolt-action
- Remington Model 740 — auto-loading

**Question:** What is the most useful size?

**Answer:** Much depends on how you choose to use your rifle, the kind of shot; it may be that you will have to compromise on one size smaller or larger than the particular shot size listed on shot selection charts. Generally, snipe, woodcock, marsh hens and quail quickly succumb to hits from No. 7¼ to No. 8 shot; squints to No. 5 size; doves to 7½g; most ducks to sizes No. 5, 6; geese to sizes 2 to 4; No. 0 and 00 to 6. A total of nine sizes has seen earned by each of the last two size shot loads have accounted for many a fine gobler.

This Gun Editor has successfully used a 22 long rifle on everything from doves to ducks, and for deadly head shots on turkey; consequently I've had a lot of experience with this burden and gain. With the wide variety of norms available, one must choose carefully to accommodate his individual desires. If your hunting rifle will shoot high when the rear sight is screwed down to lowest possible position, then you need to install a higher front sight.

The important thing is to find out which shot sizes pattern best when fired from your gun, and then stick to those sizes.

**Question:** I am thinking of getting a rifle chambered for either the .219 Zipper or the .222 Remington cartridge for deer hunting. Are these calibers too light?

**Answer:** Both named calibers give desirable fast velocity and flat trajectory, but even the heaviest avail-

able bullet weights in the .219 Zipper and the .222 Remington calibers are a light for deer, and are apt to be easily deflected by the thick brush often encountered in deer hunting. The .219 Zipper and the .222 Remingtons are primarily varmint hunting calibers, for which phase they were originally developed.

**Question:** I use a shotgun, and then stick 7-1/2 to sizes No. 5 and No.

.303 Savage, .280, .30-30, .257 Roberts, .270 Weatherby, and .30-06. However, all factors considered, the following listings rate this Gun Editor's vote for the top six — but not necessarily in named sequence:

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selection of gifts. This always almost defies solution. Individual tastes being what they are, it's pretty risky to choose clothing that has to be hurriedly handled this problem if you are on parel or household goods. I finally got stories of hunting the Ubangi jungle with their heads held high, mouths open. I figured we'd turn out to be three days of any sort of a request for any length of time or for any amount of people. Would a group of four like to fish five days in the Florida Keys? Would a man and wife like to try Lake Okeechobee for 10 days in January? Does someone dream of Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia in the spring, small-mouth bass in the Black Hills in May, muskies in Lake of the Woods in June, brook trout on the Nipigon in July? All these and many, many more similar trips, opportunities, and places are available from Outdoors, Inc., at reasonable prices for all expense tours, everything furnished, even installation payments can be arranged. With the staff at his disposal, Rogers is able to secure the best accommodations, the best guides, the best up-to-the-minute information, and the best prices possible. His organization bears his weight in gold to the sportsman who eyes distant places. This is the first time such a service has ever been offered, but it is one that has been sorely needed. If you would like to learn more about this outfit, write to Buck Rogers at Columbus or ask your sporting goods dealer to get information about Outdoors, Inc., for you.

Snow Birds

Last December, two Snow Birds in the form of Virginia and Gerry Brooks arrived at our house in Jensen Beach in the middle of the month. They had come for a two-week fishing vacation. They brought with them a cold blast of arctic weather that had come from the north. A cracker frozen up tighter than the bird bath in my back yard. I'm not exaggerating—our bird bath had 9 inches of ice on it. All thought of fishing had left my mind completely. No one flies in such weather, and especially, not fishing experts. In fact, as far as I was concerned, one does nothing in such weather that doesn't include staying indoors and close to a source of heat. The Brookses, however, looked on the weather picture as only slightly off the norm. The cold, bright days were just invigorating to them. They wanted to go fishing. I patiently explained that fishing in such weather was just a waste of time. I told these poor, uninformed Yankees about the tropical nature of our fish and how cold weather drives them scurrying for deep water that is unaffected by surface temperatures. I fought hard, I wrote the book, but it was a losing battle—we went fishing. The Snow Birds had plenty of heavy clothing with them, although they hardly seemed to notice the cold. I wore all the clothes I could move about in, and I was still cold. Besides, I had that dead feeling of frustration that comes with being forced to do something you know is doomed to failure from the start. Dispiritedly, I headed for the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, where you can at least always find shelter from the wind. Burt Pruitt wouldn't even come outside to say, "Hello"—he merely waved at us through the kitchen window. His expression plainly showed he thought we were nuts, while I only hoped my own expression was somewhat less revealing.

We used two boats—the Brookses in one, and my wife and I in another. It was cold. A few mullet were swimming in tight circles at the surface with their heads held high, mouths open. I figured we'd cast a few hours and, by then, I could reasonably suggest going home when we drew a blank. It didn't quite work out that way. The warmest place on the river was Tarpon Bay. This bay is sheltered from a north wind, and the sun warms the shallow water. That's where I headed. At the mouth of a creek that runs back into the swamp, I hit a good fish and, after a brief struggle, boated a 3-lb. black bass. The Snow Birds were not near and, as I judged this to be an isolated incident, I said nothing.

A second cast brought a hard strike, this time from a 5-lb. jack crevalle. This was not such an easy matter—before I had landed him, Gerry had spotted the action and come to join the fun. We anchored the boat about 100 feet apart at the mouth of the creek and began what turned out to be three days of the most terrific fishing I have ever encountered.

The four of us caught fish until our arms were sore. We were using spinning tackle and seldom made a cast that didn't produce a strike, and some casts produced three and four strikes, as one fish would spit the hook, only to have another grab it. We caught bass and breeder, jack, ladyfish, snook, channel bass, and snappers. We caught an occasional moonfish, a few sea trout, and several gaff-topail catfish. We were catching something all the time. It seemed merely waved at us through the kitchen window. His expression plainly showed he thought we were nuts, while I only hoped my own expression was somewhat less revealing.

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HOG WILD

By GEORGE X. SAND

Deep in Dixie, a small band of hard-riding, excitement-loving Florida hunters have formed what is probably the most exclusive men's club of its type in the world: one definitely not suited for males with weak pumps.

Led by John Clardy, a husky Ocala rancher and oil distributor who rides with the reckless abandon of a horseman half his fifty-odd years, these sportsmen, less than a dozen in number, capture barehanded the large and very dangerous wild boars which frequent the remote north-central Florida swamps and pine ridges in the vicinity of Ocala-Silver Springs.

Membership requirements for this club are few, yet rugged. You must be the type of red-blooded individual who can get a real charge from chasing a 300- or 400-pound tusker at full gallop through impossibly thick, palmetto-spined woods, then — with a flying leap from your sweat-stained saddle — bulldoze the squealing, snarling, thoroughly enraged beast to earth. There, with the snapping brute pinned helplessly down by the weight of your body (you hope!) you quickly tie its flailing hooves with 3-foot strips of bed ticking (which these gens have discovered hold much better than rope).

No guns are allowed. In fact, you are not even permitted a lasso. There are no dues. You pay nothing — except a few pints of spilled blood should you not prove lightening-fast on your feet and the charging tusker, its little eyes blood-red with hot hate — manages to rip open your soft belly. He'll enjoy doing it, too.

Clardy, a stocky rancher with a strong, square face and steel-gray hair, is strictly a horse and dog sportsman. He owns probably the last of the great hunting dog packs in southeastern U. S., perhaps even in the nation. For the past 32 years he has hunted and bagged all of Florida's wild animals and others elsewhere on this continent. Yet, he says, "If I can't do it with dogs and horses, I don't care to hunt."

The rigidly trained dogs are kept, along with the equally well-disciplined horses, on a separate 300-acre ranch. In addition to the 35 boar bounds there are others used for hunting deer, bear and the fleet Florida wildcat.

In order to properly train his bear bounds, Clardy once had four captive bears shipped down from Canada. Unlike the Florida bears, which cannot be as easily tamed for dog training purposes, the animals from the Northwoods have an inherent fear of dogs which springs from their experience as cubs with marauding wolves. Hence, they are not so apt to injure the bounds while they are being trained.

For the vicious boars Clardy prefers to use what he calls "leopard cow dogs." These fearless hounds, which were first used to bay and catch wild hogs by early American pioneers, stem from a doubtful ancestry of Australian cow dog, bull and common cur. Never one to emphasize pedigree, Clardy admits that his packs have been culled from hundreds of animals, many of which were mongrels that first caught his eye by their very belligerence.

"You know," he says, "these boars have self-sharpening tusks (the Southerner's word for tusks). When a dog gets in close they don't hesitate to use those knife-sharp weapons to cut him wide open."

It's sheer nerve, trained dogs and a stout sportsman's heart to join the melee we will call The Hunt Begins (Continued on next Page)

In order to keep the animals eager and greyhound-fast, Clardy feeds his fight-loving bear dogs but five meals a week ("Over 100 pounds of raw beef for two nights, then dry dog food the rest.")

These dogs are so tough that once while the author was riding to a hunt with "Mr. John," as he is affectionately known in the Ocala-Silver Springs area, a frightening battle broke out in the dog van which we were towing behind us. The snarling, snappin', angry crescendo rose to terrific pitch, yet Clardy drove on unperturbed.

"It sounds to me like they are killing one another," I finally blurted.

"A good boar dog is tough. He's got every right to be noisy," the husky Southerner beside me drawled significantly. "Sometimes they actually do kill one of 'em back there before we can get the door open and separate 'em. But then, a boar would nail that kind of weak dog anyway."

Clardy's veterinarian bill for 1956 ran over $400. Last winter, while he and his 16-year-old son, Sandy, were deer hunting from horseback with four hounds, their dogs "bayed up" and caught a boar by mistake. Realizing the danger to the inexperienced animals, John Clardy jumped off and grabbed the vicious wild pig, which proved considerably larger than the sportsman had anticipated.

"Things got a bit rough and, with all four deer dogs cut and bleeding, I decided it might be a good idea to send Sandy for help."

The boy rushed to the nearby ranch of Col. Lamar Rainey at Silver Springs, another saddle-borne wild hog hunter and old friend of Clardy's, who promptly came to his aid.

"By the time we got that hawg tied up, however, one of the dogs was in sorry shape. She'd lost just about every drop of blood in her. When I carried her into the vet and laid her on the operating table, I said, "Here's a daid dawg, you'll never save her."

Because the men had phoned ahead the vet was...
prepar ed and immediately in­jected a quart of saline solution and glucose into the limp hound. This was followed by a hasty blood trans­fusion from another dog. The torn body was then sewn up with wire. (Instead of catgut, since the wire stitches cannot be gnawed out.)

“And the next day she was on the come-back,” says Clardy with an appreciative grin on his strong face.

“As Clardy puts it, “Anybody can ride up or walk up to an animal and shoot it down, particularly with these high-powered guns they have now.”

Several years ago Clardy was asked to provide a wild boar for what was to be a fight to the finish between a boar and a wild Florida panther. A man from the North had long wondered what would be the outcome of such an encounter and was willing to pay to see the two antagonists placed in a corral. Clardy was very interested, too. In fact, he was willing to bet on the boar, although practically everyone favored the big cat, since it weighed considerably more than the pig which Clardy recalls was “just a scruffy little 150-pounder.”

No sooner had the two animals faced one another, when the panther made the first move. Like a streak of golden light it pounced upon the boar and tried to hold the pig’s head between the unsheathed claws of its powerful forepaws. The wild hog, however, instantly charged forward and proceeded to stab the panther in the belly with one of its knife-sharp tusks.

The fight lasted for five hours, during which time John Clardy took and won all bets. “They had put a pan of water in the corral,” he recalls. “And that hog would pause just long enough to put his snout into that water to cool off. Then he’d go look up the cat and whip him all over again.”

Two days later, still penned up with the hog and purposely allowed no food, the panther managed to catch the hog unawares in its confined quarters and finished the deal.

Clardy, a widower, has two daughters in addition to his son, Sandy. Both are excellent horsewomen. The shelves of his study are filled to overflowing with books — the published works of his many friends in the Big Game, the Big Fish, and the Big Cat Worlds. 

(Continued from preceding Page)
There's something about the way a bass takes a surface lure that no other fishing thrill can match.

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

Despite its fascinating appeal, top-water fishing is in the minority among bass anglers. One reason is because underwater baits normally will take more bass than surface lures. Another is that top-water plugging is more exasperating, taxing both the skill and patience of the angler.

A surface bait can't be fished haphazardly. While some bass can be caught on underwater baits tossed at random over likely looking water, a surface bait must be pinpointed to limited areas and fished slowly and deliberately. Pick out a choice spot where you believe a bass to be lurking and try to put your lure in that area on the initial cast. The success of your venture will depend on that first attempt.

The favorite retrieve is to fish the plug in stop-and-go jerks, letting it rest idle several seconds between each twitch. A change-of-pace will sometimes bring results when this conventional retrieve fails, however. Some days a plug fished extra slow is the medicine for putting bass on the stringer. On others a bait retrieved fairly fast with continuous stop-pause-stop jerks is best. I've even caught fish by casting the bait and start reeling the moment it touches the surface. About halfway home there was a quick swirl and the artificial disappeared. I was fast onto a grandpa bass.

I didn't think much about it at the time. But a few minutes later L. A. nailed another under identical circumstances. We started fishing our lures in a like fashion and soon our stringers were heavy with bass. I've experimented with this retrieve several times since, and have found that the spinner-type bait works best since it moves more gracefully over the surface with a steady retrieve. Have you ever noticed how shiner minnows scat fractionally just under the surface when fleeing from a marauding bass? I'm sure that foraging fish must get the same impression of retreat because underwater baits normally will take more bass than surface lures. Another is that top-water plugging is more exasperating, taxing both the skill and patience of the angler.

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I discovered this technique quite accidentally. L. A. Wilke and I were maneuvering black chuggars along the edge of some reeds early one humid spring morning. We'd drop our baits practically against the vegetation and fish them for a dozen or more bewitching minutes later L. A. nailed another under identical circumstances. We started fishing our lures in a like fashion and soon our stringers were heavy with bass. I've experimented with this retrieve several times since, and have found that the spinner-type bait works best since it moves more graciously over the surface with a steady retrieve. Have you ever noticed how shiner minnows scat fractionally just under the surface when fleeing from a marauding bass? I'm sure that foraging fish must get the same impression of retreat because underwater baits normally will take more bass than surface lures. Another is that top-water plugging is more exasperating, taxing both the skill and patience of the angler.

Ken's resilient rod raked downward. He has caught more than his share of big bass and one naturally wasn't surprised when he landed net. The bass exploded skyward in a cone of silver spray.
The night sounds faded away. Now narrow fingers of golden sunlight quite suddenly, stumps, logs, bushes, thumps, and rumpled the leaf-carpeted dawn gloom of a calm fall morning. Rather the new day in the Florida swamp ridge can be in the preparation for exciting as the eventual bagging of a trophy. From somewhere overhead came the subdued rapping of a woodpecker, warming up for the day's activities. A cat squirrel scurried up the rough trunk of a hickory, pausing momentarily to bark rustily before continuing the climb. Muted by distance and the intervening timber came the hasty cawing of a flock of crows preparing for the morning's foraging. Suddenly, as if spontaneously generated from the very earth itself, there stood a buck. No announcement of his coming, no crack of twig, no whisper of brush, he was simply there. Inimical, the crouching enforcer whitetailed posed at the edge of a gallberry thicket testing the air curiously. With heart thumping heavily despite his efforts to control it, his mind drawing back the string to its fullest extent and releasing the deadly missile. The shaft whizzed over on its mission, glinting momentarily as a flash of fire, reflecting a beam of sunlight it seared on its way to the target. There was a shuffle of arrow meeting solid flesh. The buck gave a startled, stifflegged lurch. He paused for a fleeting instant, then melted into the tangle of gallberry and tittie that bordered the hardwood island. The hunter's natural instinct was to clamber down from his aerial perch and race in pursuit of the vanished deer. He fought down the urge, knowing it was wiser to remain where he was until certain the arrow completed its deadly course.

With strenuous effort to control his shaking hands, he dug a package of cigarettes out of his shirt pocket, extracted one, and struck fire. By the time he had finished his smoke, his nerves had calmed down remarkably. Funny, he thought, this is the first time I've had buck fever since I was a kid. He waited a few minutes longer. Then, forcing himself to move slowly, he eased down from the platform. Once on the ground, he nodded another arrow and as stealthily as the dry litter on the forest floor allowed, he approached the place where the whitetail had stood. A crimson splatter on the fallen leaves marked the spot. With practiced quiet, the hunter stalked along the buck's wake. No need to exercise any great skill in woodcraft for the trail was well blazed with blood. He pushed into the thicket and with senses straining to catch any possible warning that the buck was still on his feet, he followed the spoor. A scant fifty yards from the spot where the arrow had driven home, the hunter found his game. The buck lay in a tiny clearing in the brush. Shock coated his frame, and perceiving the stillness, the hunter felt a curious sensation of elation rising within himself. Not the elation over the fact that he had finally downed the monarch of Black Cat Bay. Rather it was a feeling of having regained something that, once long ago had been highly valued, then lost. Once again he had found the pure sheer enjoyment of the chase, a feeling that somehow had become jaded and finally all but slipped away after years of successful rifle hunting.

And so it is with many sportsmen. The circumstances of their initiation into the circle varies in detail but each succeeding season seems ever increasing numbers of devotees of the ancient weapon brought into the fold. Of all the variety of birds and animals, both game and non-game, sought by archers, the white-tailed deer seems to be the be all and end all. In size, the deer is ideal. Big enough to give the archer the feeling that he has done something when he succeeds in driving an arrow home, yet not so huge that it calls for magnific equipment to bring one down. Since earliest times a trophy sized set of buck antlers has occupied an exalted position on the list of the hunter's trophies. Then too, the meat offers a welcome bonus, a Handicapped By Choice

By MORRIS H. SHAW

The increasing popularity of bow and arrow hunting is not confined to the "stomper set."

(Continued on Page 34)

A rising clan of avid sportsmen are finding increased hunting thrills in being...

Handicapped By Choice

By MORRIS H. SHAW

Photos by Bill Hansen

Photos by Bill Hansen

Above: Bow and arrow hunting has become a family affair and many an annual vacation is spent afield. — Left: Veteran archer, Jack Fullbright, launched this 115-pound whitetail on the third day of this year's Eupha Management Area October archery hunt. — Right: Veteran archer, Jack Fullbright, launched this 115-pound whitetail on the third day of this year's Eupha Management Area October archery hunt.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1958

(Continued on Page 34)
When decorating your home for the Holiday Season, you will add significance by including a Christmas Gift From Nature

By JACK SHOEMAKER

The Sabal Palm has been selected as the State Tree because of its universal popularity, and its many uses as food and medicine.

While it’s true that Florida offers little in the way of ice and snow as far as the Christmas of the North is concerned, the fields and forests of this State do contribute much in the way of nature’s gift to Christmas decorations, and many Florida homes will take advantage of such gifts this year.

These decorations bridge the gap from hollies and mistletoe to evergreens and cedars, and in more recent years the Palm tree has come into its own as a symbol of Christmas time in Florida.

All the above items are found throughout the State and while they aren’t necessarily free for the taking, few landowners will object to small amounts of various types of greenery being taken after permission is granted.

One must not discount, however, the laws of the State that relate to the preservation of wild trees, shrubs and plants and prohibit the taking of various types of holly and other plants from public or private lands, unless the owner of the land gives consent in writing.

There are some 25 to 30 different varieties of holly growing in America, with many of them found in the South. They come in all shapes and sizes, bear berries that range in color from bright red and yellow to black and even white, and have either spiny or smooth leaves.

Several varieties of holly grow in Florida with the three most prominent being the American, the Dahoon and the Yaupon species. The American is the most plentiful and it grows in hammocks or along their margins. The Dahoon, or Christmas Berry, grows in wet areas around lakes and low hammocks. The Yaupon, which has small dark green leaves and deep red berries, grows on sandy hillsides and on dunes near salt water.

The holly is a very useful plant. You can make buttons from the berries, tea from the leaves, bird-lime (an adhesive substance used to snare birds) from the bark, winter fodder for cattle from the tender young stems and the wood is employed in inlaying and turning.

The Indians of early Pennsylvania made decorative buttons from the berries after preserving or hardening them. They believe that the holly was a token of success in battle and such buttons were worn on their clothes. During the first World War, some European Armies made tea from the Holly leaves and the drink was used as a nerve and muscle stimulant.

Various healing properties attributed to the holly include treatment for colic, coughs, rickets, toothache, smallpox, jaundice and gynecology.

Considerable antiquity is behind the custom of using holly as a decorative item, and there’s much in folklore and legend regarding this plant. It has been regarded as the survival of a practice of hanging the interiors of dwellings with evergreens as a refuge for spirits from the inclement weather. This was particularly used as far back as the Druids, and ancient order of priests of Britain and France who lived some 2,000 years ago.

Like the holly, the mistletoe also has a place in history with the Druids gathering it with great ceremony and hanging it in their homes. The Druids worshipped this plant because it grew on their sacred oak, and its parasitic growth on various trees was responsible for the belief that the plant symbolized man’s dependence upon a Supreme Being.

Various curative powers ascribed to the mistletoe including curing corns, frostbite, bubonic plague, apoplexy, leprosy, gout and colic. Even today, scientists are searching for possible medical properties of this plant.

The historical background of this “kissing plant” includes religious associations with the Romans and the Scandinavians. The Romans ornamented their temples and homes with greenery from this plant when they observed the feast of the Saturnals (a sort of festival when the masters served their slaves).

Also about this time, the plant juices from the mistletoe were prepared as a draught and used as a supposed cure for sterility and a remedy against poison. In Scandinavian legend, the mistletoe is supposed to have supplied the arrow with which Balder, the Sun god, was slain by the Blind Ilder.

So the mistletoe which can be found throughout most sections of Florida has an interesting history of association with many phases of the world’s development. However, few statistics can be found as to why it has become so popular as the decoration that gives approval to the widespread practice of kissing at Christmas parties and social events during this period of the year.

Mistletoe can be found at all times of the year, but particularly is it evidential and seen during the fall after the leaves have fallen from the trees. Plants growing in pecan and hickory trees seem to produce the larger and whiter berries, and persons adept at climbing have made themselves quite a bit of pocket money by hauling down sprigs for sale purposes.

The plant is parasitic and the fruit is eaten by many birds. In fact, it’s through the eating by the birds that the propagation of the plant is spread. After a bird eats some of the fruit in which the seeds are imbedded, it wipes its beak against the bark of the tree on which it has lighted. The pulp hardens around the seed deposited by the bird and in germination the sucker root penetrates the bark of the tree and makes contact with the vascular system of the tree. As long as the host tree is alive so will the mistletoe grow and prosper.

Christmas customs, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, are an evolution that long antedated the (Continued on next Page)
Christian era. This can be seen by the previous origin, dating from Boniface, an English missionary who replaced a sacrifice to a sacred oak tree by a fir tree adored in tribute to the Christ Child.

Some historians trace the custom of the lighted tree to Martin Luther, who attempted to reproduce the glory of a starry night by attaching some lighted candles to a tree to portray the reflection of the stars. While this was first referred to as "child's play," lights seem to have been accepted from 1700, used throughout all of Germany and then the custom crossed the Baltic sea to Finland. There the idea was accepted about 1830. From Scandinavia, the custom spread to France and England and then German immigrants brought the idea to America.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with the first Manger scene which dates from the year of 1200. He is also accredited with being the influence behind the modern Christmas carols since he and his followers placed and sang hymns to the Christ Child. It was also here that palm fronds were used to decorate the Manger scene.

And today in Florida that same palm tree has gained widespread usage as a Christmas decoration. For a number of years folks in Central Florida, particularly in Lake County, have been organizing a campaign to carry forward a Christmas in Florida more in harmony with the native plants and weather of this State.

Their dream became a reality last year when Governor LeRoy Collins proclaimed the month of December as "Christmas Palm Tree Month in Florida," in recognition of the desirability of emphasizing the use of Florida plant life and suitable greeting cards in the observance of the Christmas season.

It was felt by the sponsors of the above proclamation that the Bethlehem of long ago had palm trees; dates and coconuts and warm sunshine—similar to the climate in Florida—rather than the spruce or fir, or ice and snow commonly depicting Yuletide in France and England and then German immigrants brought the idea to America.

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Their dream became a reality last year when Governor LeRoy Collins proclaimed the month of December as "Christmas Palm Tree Month in Florida," in recognition of the desirability of emphasizing the use of Florida plant life and suitable greeting cards in the observance of the Christmas season.

This year, the Christmas decorations will again be seen in many places throughout Florida. The cities and towns will be decked out in street lights and laurel wreath, the town's public buildings will have lights and candles in the windows and restaurants and stores will have small trees covered with angels hair, tinsel and Christmas lights and balls, and the Churches will have their manger scenes.

But this year, there will be some changes made as more persons will turn toward the materials of their particular locality for decorating their businesses and their homes.

Evergreens, palms, pines, branches with ripening fruit and gay blooming flowers will be widely used here in contrast to the spruce and fir trees and the manufactured replica of wreaths and symbols of ice and snow. The homeowners of Florida have been finally convinced that there are many wild native plants that can be used effectively for this season of the year.

They'll find that there are other materials than can brighten up their homes at this time of the year, with items such as magnolia leaves that work well for screens and backgrounds and vines and plants with flexible stems will do fine for streamers. Pine cones will add contrast to the decorations, while the many dried seedpods of various plants will give accent to the decorative scheme.

Throughout the country, millions of dollars will be spent in purchasing materials to be used for Christmas decorations this year, but here in Florida, a short walk through the fields and forests—seeing Nature at its best—will reveal many unusual items that will add an inner warmth of Christmas Spirit to the Florida home this year in observance of the birth of the Christ Child.
This Florida hunter has every reason to smile. His hunting luck has been good and he has good eating ahead.

Hunting Fun—Statewide

The choice is yours,—field, forest or marshland. Waterfowl, quail, turkey, deer, squirrel, dove.

The opening of pay-as-you-hunt shooting preserves in Florida this year makes it convenient for hunters to enjoy the hunting of non-native game.


**GAME**

**MIGRATORY BIRDS**

- Daily bag limit 10, no season's bag limit.
- **1st District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.
- **2nd District:** November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County which shall be CLOSED on Sunday and open on Monday.
- **3rd District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.
- **4th District:** November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day.

- **5th District:** November 15 through January 18. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

**DEER**

- Deer must have at least one antler measuring five inches in length.
- Daily bag limit, 1; season bag limit, 2.
- **1st District:** November 15 through January 4. Hunting permitted every day.
- **2nd District:** November 15 through January 4. Hunting permitted every day.
- **3rd District:** November 15 through January 4. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.
- **4th District:** November 15 through January 4. Hunting permitted every day.
- **5th District:** November 15 through January 4. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

**SQUIRREL**

- Daily bag limit, 10 gray, two fox; no season's bag limit.
- **1st District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.
- **2nd District:** November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open.
- **3rd District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.
- **4th District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- All outdoor activities are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are open to hunting. Should any one of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.
- Bow and arrow are permitted for taking of game animals and game birds. Cross bows are not legal for taking game. Shotguns must be limited to 3-shell capacity magazine and chamber combined.
- Sale of native game prohibited. No open season on doe deer, fawn deer, spotted fawn deer, duck, duck with court of less than 3 inches in length, cub deer, snow goose, swan, and non-game birds. Panther protected at all times.
- Unprotected are English sparrow, crow, jackdaw, buzzard, skunk, flying squirrel, opiumum, red and grey fox, bobcat, raccoon.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**1958-1959 HUNTING SEASON**

**GAME**

- Daily bag limit 10, no season's bag limit.
- **1st District:** November 15 through February 1. Hunting permitted every day.
- **2nd District:** November 15 through February 1. First six days open. December 25 through January 4, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open. That portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18 and east of U. S. Highway 441 CLOSED.
- **3rd District:** November 15 through January 11. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa and Walton Counties open November 15 through November 30, and December 20 through January 4, Washington County and Holmes County CLOSED. Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties CLOSED except within Eglin Field and Blackwater Management Areas.
- **4th District:** November 15 through January 11. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County CLOSED to the hunting of Key Deer.
- **5th District:** November 15 through January 11. Hunting permitted every day.

**LAWS**

- A hunting license is required to take rabbits during the regular open season for game animals and birds. Rabbits may be taken at night under special permit issued by the Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission when the animals are found to be damaging personal property.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**DECEMBER, 1958**
SAVANNA

BY CHUCK SCHILLING

Next morning's sunrise found my wife and I on the Jensen Savannas. We rowed out on one of these beautiful lakes and rested while we basked in the natural beauty of this unique and wonderful place. At our backs, the night mists still shrouded the marsh, with the tall trees of the distant piney woods standing out like islands in a sea of clouds.

The water was mirror smooth, giving us a double vision of the scene before us. To the east, out over the Gulf Streams, cumulus clouds mounted in massive banks, towering to touch the edge of the fading night, while the rising sun turned their dark outlines to burned gold.

Shafts of sunlight pierced the new day thru rifts in the clouds, probing like groping fingers, touching quickly and moving on. One of the light beams swept across the savannas and, like a maestro's baton, awoke the sleeping marsh a response that soon swelled across the savannas and, like a maestro's baton, awoke the rising sun turned their dark outlines to burned gold.

Almost from the first cast, I began picking up fish. Soon I found that keeping just 8 or 10 feet from the shore line, making long casts ahead of the boat, bringing the lure back parallel to the swamp's edge, paid off handsomely. Satisfied that I had now found the answer to the immediate problem, I spent the morning experimenting with the various colors. I found, as usual, that I liked any color just so it's yellow.

The Jensen Savannas are a string of fresh-water lakes ideal for bass fishing. This is where I tested the Texas lure—a sensational fish-getter.

For years, I have fished with little except Spin-1-Diddees when using spinning or spincast tackle for bass. The technique for using Spin-1-Diddees is accurate casting, a long wait, and then a slow retrieve with frequent stops to let the lure float perfectly still. Even though the Texas lure was a stinker, I was using the same old, Spin-1-Diddees action. I took five fair bass in this manner, while my wife, using Spin-1-Diddees, took eight fish casting behind me. That ended the first morning.

I find I can be a lot more objective about fishing when I'm not doing it. At home that day, I endured the taunts of the better half and ignored her jeers at my "teef" tubes, but I puzzled out a possible reason for the Texas lure's poor showing—not that outfishing a Spin-1-Diddee is an easy task for any lure—no, Sir!

Almost, like a hound on a fresh trail, I single-mindedly shut out the technicolor, wildlife panorama around me and concentrated on fishing. Using my head for a change, I adjusted my fishing technique to the lure's built-in action. Casting close, I retrieved the lure steadily, just fast enough to produce a definite throb at the rod tip as the lure vibrated in a deep run. Almost from the first cast, I began picking up fish. I soon found that keeping just 8 or 10 feet from the shore line, making long casts ahead of the boat, bringing

BOATS FOR RENT: Minimum $20.00 per day. All day rates available. No fishing without permission.

Access to the Jensen Savannas is thru Fort Pierce. Modern accommodations are available at Jensen Beach. Five minutes away.

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THE BIG DAY

By HORACE E. loftin

The annual Bird Count is a national, competitive, wildlife event. Last year's high score went to Florida for the 193 different birds recorded at Cocoa.

but excited voices. They climb into vehicles or strike out through the brush on foot.

The Big Day has begun again.

The Big Day is perhaps the biggest annual organized wildlife event in Florida, and on a national scale the biggest in the United States.

What is it? To some people who don't understand it, it's a "dermed dicky-bird hunt." To those who participate in it, the Big Day is an exciting day in the field, requiring the stamina, competitive spirit, woods sense and common sense of a bear hunt. Officially, it is the Mid-Winter Bird Census, perhaps better known as the "Audubon Christmas Count."

The purported object of the Christmas Count is to survey the wintering bird population of a tremendous area stretching from the Mexican border to the Arctic Circle, which is done and done well. But to most of the participants — some 8,500 of them last year — the Christmas Count boils down to being a highly competitive test of skill, luck and endurance, in short, a day of high sport.

You see, everybody wants to be on a winning team.

What state will lead in numbers of different kinds of birds seen? Will Pensacola beat Jacksonville this year? Will Joe find a rare migrant that Tom misses? Most important, will you break your own record for number of different species seen in one day and will you add birds that you've never seen before?

If Florida is your state, you're on a winning team already. Last year a Christmas Count out of Cocoa, working within the prescribed circle of 15 miles diameter, turned up a grand total of 193 different kinds of birds seen on one mid-winter day (Dec. 27), the greatest number of different species ever racked up by one party in the 56-year history of the Christmas Count.

You may have guessed it: Florida's chief competitor and has maintained and increased her lead since the first victory. Not only were 10 additional species seen in that area during the week, indicating that over 200 species were present in the 15-mile diameter circle at Christmas time.

Other Florida Count areas are in the big time, too. Only eleven out of a total of 565 counts last year recorded more than 140 different species; of these 11, four were in Florida. (California placed second again, with three areas above 140 species.) Costa Bird, in the Everglades National Park, turned in a list of 152 species. There were 141 species seen on the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge count and 142 from Panama (near Apalachicola).

Now, it must be admitted that participants of the Big Day in Florida have it soft. Just like humans, the birds enjoy their winter comfort. So they flock to

(Continued on next page)

Most abundant of the 160 species of waterbirds found in Florida is the American Coot, with some single day winter counts in a specific area totaling more than 25,000.

The different species of birds that live in or visit the Sunshine State number more than 470. A conspicuous Florida resident easily observed along the coastal marshes is the Boat-tailed Grackle.
our fine tourist climate, where bird watchers clad in sportsuits (well, maybe light sweaters) can count them off in comparative ease. The true glory of the Christmas Count belongs to those who turn in the lowest numbers of species. I mean the counts from Alaska, Manitoba, South Dakota, places like that. Here’s what a count reporter from Yorktown, Saskatchewan, has to say about the Big Day up north:

"Thirty-four degrees below zero is tolerable when calm, but with the wind at 15 m.p.h., one’s face went numb if one faced the wind for more than a minute. One party spent two hours shovelling its way out of the drift. It was too cold to go for help from the nearest farmer two miles away. Members of both parties had frozen ears and cheeks."

This Yorktown count, held on Dec. 28, reported 15 species of ice-resistant birds. Parties in Alaska, New Hampshire and Montana tied for low place—and perhaps low temperatures!—with seven species each.

New Hampshire and Montana tied for low place—and 15 species of ice-resistant birds. Parties in Alaska, West. You’ll be welcome on any of them as one of the approximately 350 participants in the Florida Big Day. Most of them take place during the week just before Christmas.

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There are well over 380 different kinds of birds to be seen in Florida. The good birder learns to recognize a majority of these on sight, knows where to look for them and when. Even if you have been hunting in Florida since you were too small to see over a palmetto clump, this bunch of bird watchers can show you exciting things in the Florida outdoors that you have missed in a hundred trips to the woods.

You’re not convinced? Then give it a try. There will be some 25 separate Christmas counts in Florida this year, from Pensacola to Jacksonville to Key West. You’ll be welcome on any of them as one of the approximately 350 participants in the Florida Big Day. Most of them take place during the week just before or just after Christmas.

Your local Audubon or conservation club should be able to put you in touch with the nearest Christmas count leader. If you can’t locate a local organization, drop a line to Russ Mason, Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, or to Horace Latfin, Jr., Florida Wildlife. They will be glad to put you on the right contact for your nearest count.

One word of advice: if you go, get lots of sleep the night before. You’ll be plenty busy on the Big Day.

Florida enjoys an abundant population of many showy, wading birds such as Herons, Egrets, Ibises, and Cranes. The Louisiana Heron, pictured above, is more numerous in the southern areas.

Guided boat tours to the southern bird rookeries provides the naturalist a chance to observe with ease, masses of Stilts, Pelicans, Egrets, Herons and Roseate Spoonbills. Their great flocks for nesting activities usually start around mid-December.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1958

TOTALS

Grand Total: 3,845,930

102,275

MANAGEMENT AREAS

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting a total of 2,495,800 acres of land within the Wildlife Management Areas. In addition to regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for the privilege of hunting in the management areas.

Available from the offices of the County Judges throughout Florida, the $5.00 permit opens most of the 30 management areas where hunting is permitted this season. Exceptions are as followed: Eglin Field, $5.00 Air Force Permit; good for the season. Instead of the regular $5.00 public hunt permit: Camp Blanding, $5.00 special season permit issued by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission through the County Judges in the vicinity and good only for this management area; St. Marks, $3.00 permit is required for each of the two days per season allowed each hunter; and the G. S. Webb Area where a $5.00 daily permit is required; and the Everglades Management Area where NO public hunting permit is required.

Wildlife Management Areas

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunting</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunting</th>
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<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richblossom (34)</td>
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<td>50,000</td>
<td>U. S. Air Force</td>
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<td>Fountain (15)</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
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<td>Horseshoe (27)</td>
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<td>15,000</td>
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<td>Arce Port (28)</td>
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<td>Okeechobee (34)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecil H. Webb (13)</td>
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<td>Fanning Creek (21)</td>
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<td>J. W. Corbet (17)</td>
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<td>60,000</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee (22)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devil’s Garden (33)</td>
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<td>Big Cypress (31)</td>
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<td>100,000</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collier (18)</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everglades (16)</td>
<td>725,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Acres: 3,485,930

102,275

Florida County

Santé Rosa, Okaloosa
Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton
Gulf, Bay, Calhoun
Liberty
Jackson
Leon, Wakulla
Wakulla
Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor
Colombia, Baker
Dale, Liberty
Dixie, Baker, Columbia
Clay
St. Johns
Duval
Levy
Manatee, Pasco, Lake
Volusia
Sumter, Citrus
Hernando
Hernando, Pasco, Sumter
Washington, Hardee
Okeechobee
Okeechobee
Charlotte
Clay
Palm Beach
Lee
Hendry
Glades
Palm Beach, Broward, Dade
Maynard’s Cuckoo, Coccyzus minor.

Along the mangrove coast on the Gulf side of the peninsula and southward into the Keys, Maynard’s Cuckoo is at home. By nature this species, also called Black-billed Cuckoo or Rain Crow, is shy and elusive.

Frequently the observer will see the bird only as a brownish sprite slipping through the dense tangle of mangrove that forms their chosen habitat. In most parts of their range, they inhabit the same vicinity the year around. Those found in Florida are exceptions to the rule, moving into the state for the nesting season and out again when those duties are completed for the year. The species is a migrant, the female boat-tailed grackle. The resemblance ends there, however. The upper portion of the Asi’s bill sports a large curved ridge giving the bird a most unique and grotesque appearance.

The Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythropthalmus.

In general body form and appearance, the black-billed Cuckoo rather closely resembles its yellow-billed relative. The Black-billed is slightly smaller in average measurements, with a smaller bill which, as the common name indicates, is completely black in color. The tail lacks the prominent white markings that characterize the yellow bill.

This species occurs as a migrant throughout the state but apparently does not nest here. Northern Georgia appears to mark the southernmost area of its nesting range. The birds winter in South America.

Now and again, the eggs of the Black-billed Cuckoo may be deposited in the nests of other birds. This characteristic of behavior is much less highly developed than it is in the related European Cuckoo.

The voice of the black-bill has been described as a long series of evenly spaced soft notes, uniform in pitch, with the quality of a low whistle.

As with other members of the clan the food consists almost entirely of insect forms. The destructive tent caterpillar is taken in quantity.

Smooth-billed Ani, Crotophaga ani. Wall into the 1890’s, the Smooth-billed Ani, a truly tropical species, was known only as an accidental visitor to the state. It has now become firmly established in the Lake Okeechobee area and elsewhere in and about Hendry County. This bird is abundant in the West Indies and in portions of South America. Records of individuals and small bunches were recorded from Florida and from Cuba early in the season.

The black plumage, with metallic purple and greenish reflections, is similar to that of the full feathered male boat-tailed grackle. The resemblance ends there, however. The upper portion of the Asi’s bill sports a large curved ridge giving the bird a most unique and grotesque appearance.

The Black-billed Ani shows a preference for the open country. They are not infrequently seen in close association with herds of livestock. In other portions of its range the bird may sometimes be seen picking ticks off the backs of cattle.

This habit is commemorated in the scientific name of the species, Crotophaga, from the Greek, meaning tick-eater. Insects of various kinds make up most of the diet.

The nest is a bulky affair, being a collection of sticks, weeds, leaves and grasses, frequently located near the ground in small trees and tangled brush and vines. The usual clutch consists of from 5 to 7 eggs, chalky in appearance and of a greenish bluish color without spots or other markings.

Belted Kingfisher, Megaceryle alcyon.

Its wide distribution, striking appearance, and the loud rattling call are among the things that make the Belted Kingfisher one of the more widely known birds of the continent. In Florida it is a common resident throughout the year. There is apparently a shifting of population from the north to the south, the species being more abundant in the northern half of the state during the summer and in the southern part during the winter.

In its nesting habits, the Kingfisher is among the few birds that dig a burrow. Clay or sand banks are usually selected. Although it is far from a common occurrence, Kingfishers have been reported as nesting in stumps and tree cavities.

The smooth-billed Ani is a slender bodied bird with a conspicuously long tail. The plumage is brownish on the back with a somewhat metallic tinge. The reddish brown primaries show well when the bird is in flight. The black-tail feathers have large white spots on the ends. Under exceptional circumstances, the species may sometimes be found near the southern part of the state.

The smooth-billed Ani shows a preference for the open country. They are not infrequently seen in close association with herds of livestock. In other portions of its range the bird may sometimes be seen picking ticks off the backs of cattle.

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Howell comments on the lack of suitable banks for nest burrows as the probable cause for the seasonal shift from southern to northern parts of the state.

The Kingfisher is one of the few species in which the female is more conspicuously colored than the male. Both are blue-gray and white in general over-all coloration. In addition the female sports brown flanks and breastband, lacking in the male.

All of the Kingfisher’s food is captured from the water. The bird may frequent the river by hovering over the surface of pond, stream, or marsh, waiting for the opportunity to strike an intended victim. The sudden headlong dive is spectacular and usually productive.

A great variety of smaller fishes form the bulk of the diet. Frogs, crabfish, and insects are other items frequently on the menu.
HANDICAPPED BY CHOICE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

frosting to an already delectable cake.

The nature of the whitetail lends itself admirably to hunting by bow and arrow. Highly intelligent and readily adaptable to changes in habitat and the intrusion of man and his activities, the deer can and does exist within the city limits of some of America's largest metropolitan centers. Here is a prey on which a gun would be dangerous in the extreme. Yet some hunting could be enjoyed with the bow with a maximum of safety.

The precise nature of the bow's attraction for modern sportmen is difficult to define. Certainly a whitetail can never become as coldly efficient as gun hunting in cropping any region's deer population. But somehow the hunter's innate urge for more active and personal participation in the act of killing is satisfied by the participation in archery hunting.

To the states of Wisconsin and Michigan is generally conceded the credit as leaders in the field of popularizing archery hunting. Wisconsin, for example, as early as 20 years ago issued permits to 600 deer-minded archers for a fall hunt. It was an experiment that for the bowmen succeeded in downsizing only six animals. The serendipity ratio of 1:160 against tagging a whitetail with an arrow reflects mainly the lack of experience in the then newly revived sport. By 1965 the same state's bracing days of fall saw 3,300 archers in the field looking for deer.

During that round roughly 1 in 23 of the bow and arrow fans were able to put meat in the pot.

Because of the obvious interest in archery hunting in Florida, expressed by numerous individuals and the efforts of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission hopped on the band wagon some six seasons ago.

The popular Ocala National Forest, one of Florida's truly good whitetail producing areas, was the scene of the initial tryout. Not a buck fell to the bowmen that first season. But failure to make a kill has never been a major factor where the archer is concerned. The yards that were spun around the arrow were more wondrous to hear. Close shots and long that would surely have downed Old Craggy Antlers except that . . .

The followers of Ike Walton have nothing at all on R. Hood's boys. Any archer worth his bow string can explain with gusto and conviction why he missed connections on any particular hunt. Any listener, no matter how dubious over the budding phase of Florida's newly revived sport, could help but catch a bit of the enthusiasts' fever. Always there is the underlying, optimistic thought expressed or understood — that the evening hunt, or tomorrow morning's, or next season's will surely bring a trophy.

One of the greatest benefits to be gained from bow and arrow hunting is the change in values over those who hunt with a gun. Hunters of actual bagging of the bow, the bowyer is certain to find himself trailing far behind. In experiences afled, adventures if you like, the bowman finds himself way out in the lead. At heart, perhaps, the archer is something of a philosopher, gaining more from the contemplation of the timbered ridges, the swamps, and fields than the usual "hurry up, shoot something and go home" gunner.

Yet stalking to get within reach of his intended game, the intervals of quiet waiting, give him the opportunity and the time to study his surroundings and to become acquainted with his gun again, his archery experience should make any outdoorsman a better hunter.

From the standpoint of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, as well as other progressive wildlife management agencies, the growing popularity of archery is an encouraging sign. For one thing, it indicates that our hunters are looking to the field more with the idea of having a pleasant interlude in the outdoors than with the thought that the animal they are after is going to make the trip a success. With increasing hunting pressures at every hand, the successful porker busters claim that the supply game will certainly hold up better to the archer with the inherent handicap of his equipment than it ever could before.

At least as difficult to bring to bag as the whitest of whitetail buck is the wild turkey. Judging from the hunter kill reports, archers find it a three-year-old blue roan cocker as he sometimes appears. Alpha Epilson, a carrier for three with no bites.

WILD DOG - SANDY

By GEORGE CROWLEY

B uy a pup and your money will buy love unflagging that cannot lie. There's no reason to believe that when Kipling wrote those words many years ago he was thinking of Christmas. But when we think of the many people, children and adults alike, whose Christmas Day will be merrier through the gift of a puppy, we will realize again that Kipling's words still ring true.

Perhaps those who are lucky enough to receive a pup for Christmas will not know for some time that their gift represents "love unflagging that cannot lie." At first, they may be more impressed by their puppy's cute appearance, by its sharp little eyes, its playful manner. A dog's companionship and loyalty become more apparent as he matures over the years. It is when the fountain of his puppy days grows into the faithful family friend, the guardian of the house, the shelterer of the small, that the words, "Man's Best Friend," are no longer an idle phrase.

It has been said that the dog is the most adaptable of all creatures, that he has assumed different shapes, that for every temperament or situation there is a dog to fulfill, to vary the needs of his masters. But every dog has one thing in common, he is large or small. It is explained in this way: "He is born our friend; while his eyes are still closed, already he believes in us; even before his birth, he has given himself to man."

Perhaps all of us can learn a lesson from the dog's inherent honesty and devotion, a lesson especially appropriate for Christmas, 1965.

Doggy Short Snorts

TIP FOR NIGHT HUNTERS — Many valuable coons and fowcrows are killed on the highways at night during the hunting season. Some of this loss, at least, can be prevented by attaching a strip of "Scotchlit" tape around the dog's collar. This strip reflects the lights of an approaching car and makes the dog visible to the driver.

DOG - SANDY

"Shame," their St. Bernard dog mumbled, is not as dead as he sometimes appears. Alpha Epilson (Penny, the junior partner, at Ohio State University) boy just likes to sleep on his back with all four paws up in the air.

WILLIAM G. LAC

— So you say your dog is your best friend. Is he smart enough to be a part of your family, to love you in return, to be your confidante and to talk to you?

Dog owners who answer yes to these questions should read "Man's Best Friend," a delightful collection of articles about dogs and their companionship, written by Alpha Epilson. The book has been acclaimed even by some of the world's greatest animal lovers. It's a book that should be read by all and especially by those who enjoy dogs and wish to learn more about them.

"Man's Best Friend" is written by Alphie, the dog who has enjoyed the company of people and animals alike, practically talks, but, can she write her name? Lac. Can Lac. Alphie wrote "Man's Best Friend" for herself to the varying needs of his masters. But every dog has one thing in common, he is large or small. It is explained in this way: "He is born our friend; while his eyes are still closed, already he believes in us; even before his birth, he has given himself to man."

Perhaps all of us can learn a lesson from the dog's inherent honesty and devotion, a lesson especially appropriate for Christmas, 1965.
The Florida Sportsmen's Clubs' Awards Program for 1958 will close on December 11 in Tallahassee. Available for local club presentations will be gold medals and certificates covering three awards. All clubs wishing to participate must notify Florida Wildlife Federation Headquarters at 112 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand, of their intention to do so and submit a request for medals and certificates to be used by their club. There will be no obligation on the part of the local club except that the Federation reserves the right to control the use of any club. This is to be used by their club. There will be no obligation on the part of the local club except that the Federation reserves the right to control the use of any club. This is to be used by their club. There will be no obligation on the part of the local club except that the Federation reserves the right to control the use of any club. This is to be used by their club. 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**HER IT IS AGAIN, almost time for Christmas and the New Year.** With the coming of 1958, we must again select our Junior Conservationist of the Year, the Outstanding Junior Conservation Club of the Year, and the Outstanding Senior Advisor. So this is a reminder to you clubs that it is time to send in your nominations. From these reports, this office selects the most outstanding club each year.

We believe that each of you are familiar with the procedure used in selecting the Junior Conservationist. At the beginning of the New Year, each club advisor should write to Denver Ste. Claire, 305 West Sixteenth Street, Ft. Lauderdale, asking for a nomination form. It is his responsibility to nominate the member of his club who has earned the largest number of points during the past year.

The Board of Director's Meeting at the Methodist Church in Ft. Lauderdale on October 25 and 26, 1957, featured the State Wide Board of Directors. Mrs. John Brooks, elected last year as President, said that the State Wide Board of Directors consists of one member of the ACA Section at each County Level, seven members at each State Level, and the League's Executive Secretary. The State Wide Board of Directors meets four times a year, and is responsible for the administration of the ACA.

Speaking of points brings to mind the Merit Point System, which is being compiled. The title of this book is "How to Operate a Youth Conservation Club." The third booklet, "The Youth Conservation Camp and the Youth Conservation Club League," is being compiled.

Also, with the coming of 1959, League dues are once again due. As most of you will remember, our operating year has been changed from July 1-June 30 to January 1-December 31, effective January 1, 1958-December 31, 1958. After all nominations have been received, the Superintendents of Youth Conservation Education, 365 West Adams, Ocala, the boy or girl who has earned the largest number of points is designated as Junior Conservationist. So you club advisors might begin adding up points so that you will have some idea which of your club members has been the most outstanding.

This gives a total of nine Boy Scouts, and three girls so far this season. These girls, Foster Barnes, Jim Hage, and Andy Wright, are all from St. Johns County, and have earned the most points in the Junior Conservation Award on County Level, and the Advanced Conservation Award on State Level.

The Boy Scouts who have attained the rank of Ranger in the Scouting for Conservation Program were Foster Barnes, Gary King, and Andy Wright. These four boys, Foster Barnes, Gary Wallace, Gary King, and Andy Sea-wright, are all from St. Petersburg. They have given their number one Boy Scouts, who have attained this rank.

Certificates and pins to be used in the Scouting for Conservation Program are now ready for distribution around the state. There are three awards in this program: an Achievement Award on County Level, Advanced Conservation Award on County Level, and Florida Wildlife Conservation Award on State Level.

Let's take a look at various club activities around the state. The Junior Conservation Club of Miami — We understand from Lloyd Johnson, Club Secretary, that the club is planning to organize a rifle team within their club. Paul Carter, Treasurer of the League, is the advisor for this organization. Mr. Herb Mayhew is the advisor.

Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club of Broward County — This club has been re-organized within the school. Mr. Ebanks, Agriculture Teacher, is their sponsor.

**SAVANNA WORKSHOP**

*Continued from Page 27*

Sufficient to test the Texas lures on trolling. This fish being at first, I rigged up two rods and bravely set about rowing the boat up and down one of the bigger lakes, while my number one rod I watched. My wife held the other rod and watched. So after a time we went, catching fish with machine-like regularity. My final report on the Texas lure is that we had a solid resistance. Then the resistance moved, taking the lure with it. It felt like being hooked to a massive weight, moving slowly and irresistibly away from me. When I saw I could do nothing else, I put on more pressure and finally popped the knot at the lure. After that it produced a lure that Texas lure, it was a dandy and no mistake about that.

My final report on the Texas lure went like this:

"I think this is the most sensational new development in artificial lures I have seen in many years. It will catch fishermen like mad. We get fully a hundred rods, and about 300 lures in stock. It seems to perform admirably, whether casting or trolling."

Stuart Junior Conservationists Club — This club has been re-organized within the school. Mr. Al Harrison is the advisor. They have just had their second annual fish fry. Altogether $290 worth of tickets were sold. Prizes were given as follows: First Prize to Ralph Dramer — gas stove; Second Prize to John Taylor—most new ideas; Third Prize to Ronald —Camp set; and Fourth Prize to Richard Wallish—compas. We understand that this was a very successful.

The Stuart Jaycees, sponsor for this organization, recently presented the junior club with a gavel.

Be conservation-minded all the time. Think, act, and talk Conservation at home, on the streets, and in public places. Be aware of the great need for Conservation and help others to understand this need.

**FISHING**

*Continued from Page 9*

I didn't wander off, and, as we were the only damn fools crazy enough to be catching fish in such cold weather, we weren't bothered by angling visitors. We did a normal six months' field testing in a three-day period. After three days, of course, we also had a ball, that was climaxedy by Gerry catching a 36-lb. fish.

There, I think, is the sum total of our three days' fishing imaginative in the coldest weather I have ever seen in Florida.

So what price experience? The only reason we enjoyed this wonderful fishing was because Gerry was a top mogul. Of course, we also had a ball, that was climaxedy by Gerry catching a 36-lb. fish.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS

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From personal association with a large number of active hunters, FWFT&T has come to the reason to believe that few hunters give serious thought to the possibility of a counteracting drenching rains while hunting. Seemingly, they anticipate only the hunting that lies ahead; if it happens to rain on days of planned hunting, they either stay in camp, or get drenched and head for camp as soon as possible—usually thoroughly wet, chilled and uncomfortable.

Last hunting season one of the editors of FWFT&T was a member of a six-man deer hunting party that took apart, despite deep water standing long before daylight. With the coming down, closely water-loaded skin, opened and poured tons of rain on the earth.

All members of the party, except one, stumbled back to the parked car soaking wet, teeth chattering from the cold and in intense danger of catching cold in one of the many forms of pneumonia.

The simple exception was the FWFT&T editor. He had a lightweight, waterproof parka tucked in a pocket of his hunting coat. When the thunderstorm fell he dropped him hurriedly slipped into the protective covering. Although his hunting pants were completely soaked, the upper half of his body was completely protected. He alone returned to the parked car reasonably warm and comfortable.

In addition to keeping dry while hunting, there are the factors of game movement and personal safety to consider. Like most good game will seek available digging holes and roots, hand rains come, as soon as skies clear interrupted movement is likely to be resumed. If you are there, waiting dry and comfortable, to detect that movement you may have unexpected good hunting. All good hunting is greatly reduced during a rain and it is then easy for your own movements to be mistaken by another hunter for those of game. In addition to incapacitation qualities in a wet weather garment, you need bright color for personal safety.

Ideal protection against wet weather and the danger of being accidently shot is the weatherproof rubberized nylon, headed style scarlet red parka sold by L. L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine, for $71.00, postpaid.

Made in headed pullover style, the garment features zipper closing at neck back by a rainproof gusset, drawing at waist and a drawing around the hood. Thirty inches long in body, the protective pocket has innermost vents to prevent inside condensation of body-warmed air.

Comes in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes. When measuring for your size, keep in mind that the garment is intended to be worn over regular hunting clothing.

Matching points of the same scarlet red rainproof material can be had for $6.35, postpaid, or you can order the components in a two-piece outfit at one time for $13.00, postpaid.

HOG WILD

(Congratulations Page 12)

dozens of silver trophies that were won by Jane, the eldest daughter who is now married. And he speaks proudly of a "trunkful" of ribbons in the attic. Because she rode in both English saddle and cow pony competitions, Jane has probably won more awards than her sister in the South. And Sara, 18, is rapidly following in her sister's footsteps.

As this is being written a huge wild hog—by far the largest these hunters have ever heard of, and they've captured them well over 400 pounds—roams the remote Florida swamp and across ridges near Silver Springs.

While Clardy has yet to catch a glimpse of this massive beast, his men have pointed out its tremendous tracks on several occasions. Once they even chased it briefly. Result: one of the leopard cow dogs had to have 27 stitches taken in its ripped body to save its life.

This will undoubtedly prove the most dangerous bear the intrepid little band has ever taken on, and Clardy's hunting companions grow more serious and shake their heads doubtfully whenever they speak of what lies in store for them.

For they know that John Clardy while still this one of the all big ones is brought to earth—bare-handed, as usual.

GO EASY ON TOP

(Finished from Page 15)

fishers in the opposite direction from the other. When a bait first settles on the surface, a bass may be mildly interested. It will swim nearer for closer scrutiny. That initial twitch is what is apt to trigger it into action.

While the fish is studying the bait, debating whether to smash it or not, it is easily spooked. Another bait cast in that general vicinity often works better if baited with half hanged.

Hold your rod tip parallel to the water to work the bait. When angling at a ten o'clock position the line bows, preventing the lure from coming to a complete halt between jerks. And by working it from this side-arm position, you are prepared to strike the bass instantly once it makes its move.

How an angler reacts during that split-second when a bass comes thrashing upward to engulf the bait often tells the true story. Spontaneous action is required if the bass is to be hooked. A striking bass propellers toward the surface at a fantastic speed, and often it will catapult clear of the water as it strikes the lure.

Of this amount, $830,492.50 was paid into the State Game Fund. The remaining monies were retained as County Judges’ fees for sales of licenses, or paid to the Federal government for shrimp permits, duck stamps, or military reservation hunting.

In total, Florida’s fishermen and hunters invested $2,099,157.75 for fishing and hunting licenses, permits and stamps.

Both Federal and state governmental agencies concerned are required by law to devote the money from fishermen and hunters to managing, restoring, conserving and regulating the wild life and fish.
**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

### Question Box

**By Chuck Schilling**

Address questions on fishing and boating to Question Box, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Tallahassee, Fla.

**Question:** Have you recently purchased a 7-foot, medium-action, spinning rod. The first guide has an inside diameter of 1/4 or 1/8 inches would be preferable. Should I make the change?

D. Parker, Tampa, Fla.

**Answer:** Only if it will make you happier. An oversized, gathering guide will do nothing for your rod except overload it with hardware. Open-faced, spinning reels produce less of how big it is.

To get best performance from your rod, standardize your line and lure weight as much as possible. Then try for the best placement of that first guide. Chalk your rod shaft and determine where you get the least amount of line slap and friction, by moving the guide to various positions as you cast, using tape to hold the guide in these temporary spots. In most cases, best position will be very near the original placement, if your rod carries the trade-mark of a national brand, if you are using average line and lures, and if you are casting properly.

**Question:** Some time back, you recommended a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid as a boating accessory. I found plenty of buckets but none with a lid such as you describe. Where do I get it?

J. Downs, Orlando, Fla.

**Answer:** Our buckets are diaper pails, and they have tight-fitting lids for obvious reasons. Suggest you try the diaper pail department at some big store. I use mine not only for holding but, also, to hold my lunch.

It fits inside my icebox and keeps the lunch dry and unaffected by old, fish odors.

**Question:** Are there any better level-wind reels available than the ones I have been buying? The ones I am using wear out almost as quickly as I can put them in my reel.

B. Morehouse, Daytona Beach, Fla.

**Answer:** Reels are supposed to wear out—that’s the whole idea. Your problem is probably lack of oil, but it could be a scored, level-wind, carriage screw. Your level-wind mechanism should be kept clean and lightly oiled, renewing the oil after every couple hours of regular use. A regular pail, so used, should last at least a full season.

**Question:** I have invented a new lure that catches fish like mud. What is the best way for me to market my brain child?

B. Metcalf, Atlanta, Ga.

**Answer:** The best way, in my opinion, is to contact the Development Department of the major fishing tackle manufacturing companies. The big companies are always on the lookout for new products, and most will enter into a royalty agreement with the inventor of a really new and desirable lure.

Remember, almost nothing is really new in the artificial lure business. Almost all lures will catch fish, but will they catch fishermen? Will your lure appeal to a mass market? Does its design make it adaptable to many fishing methods? These are all important considerations. Best of luck.

**Question:** I am going to Miami for a vacation this winter. Where can I get information about fishing down there?

F. Moon, Detroit, Mich.

**Answer:** Send 35¢ in coin to the MIAMI HERALD, Miami, Fla. Ask for the 1959 MIAMI HERALD FISHING GUIDE.

**Question:** A friend puts great store in a system that predicts the best time of day for fishing, depending on the position of the moon. I’ve read that this is all bunk. What do you say?

C. Bidwell, Mobile, Ala.

**Answer:** I’ve written several articles attesting to my belief in the John Alden Knight lunaran theory, which “predicts the best time of the day.” It works beautifully for me. I say that using this lunarian theory adds a bit of fun to sports angling. From that standpoint, alone, it certainly is not “all bunk.”

**Question:** I think Florida should have a closed season and a size limit on black bass. Why don’t you write the truth about this?

E. Markhoff, Marianna, Fla.

**Answer:** I suspect the only “truth” you would accept would be agreement with your views. The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has a full staff of highly trained and widely respected fisheries biologists, who all agree that closed seasons and length limits on bass would not only do no good in Florida but would be harmful. The finest fish management authorities in the nation agree. I think it’s time we all quit worrying this bone.

**Question:** You are always making slighting remarks about worm fishermen, and it bums me up. I’ve fished on Michigan trout streams for years and have always used worms. For your information, it takes just as much skill to fish with a worm as it does to use a fly. Why don’t you stick to writing about something you know about?

F. Goodall, Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Answer:** That’s a comforting theory if you can buy it. I can’t. My occasional small gile at the garden hackle clan is all in good, clean fun. Come on now, where’s your sense of humor?

**Florida Goose**

**Average Weight:** 8 or 9 lbs.

**Bill, Head and Feet:** Black

**White Cheek Patch**

**This is the common Goose of Florida—most abundant in the Northwest part of the State—Small numbers may wander south to Lake Okeechobee—Each year up to 15,000 Canada Geese spend the winter in and around the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge near Tallahassee**

**Natural Goose**

**Average Weight:** 5 or 6 lbs.

**All White with Black Wing Tips**

**Bill and Feet:** Pink

**Head and Breast Sometimes Stained with Rust**

**Blue Goose**

**Average Weight:** 5 lbs.

**Adult:** White head and neck—dark wings and body—Bill and feet—pink

**Immature:** Head and Body—Greenish-Brown—Bill, Black—Feet, Dark Pink—Pristine Tone

**An Uncommon Winter Visitor—Look for it in Company with Canadians and Snows**

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