This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.

March 1960

V.13 No.10

Scanned by:
The Research Information Center of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY

FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S
FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water species and list requirements. Citation, showing recorded data thereof, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

[Application form]

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

1 pound or larger

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.

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 date listed below:

Name

Address

Species of Fish

Weight

Length

Type of Tackle, Bait Used

Where Caught

Date

Catch Witnessed by

Registered, Weighed by

(Signature of Applicant)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

VOLUME 13 NO. 10

MARCH, 1960

Published monthly by the

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Tallahassee, Florida

Dedicated to the Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of Our Game and Fish

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

CHUCK SCHILLING, Angling Editor

EDMUND MC LAURIN, Firearms Editor

In This Issue

Caged Animals

Classroom In The Everglades

Florida’s Outstanding Deer Hunt

Sitting On Ready

Water—Key To Your Survival

Backwoods Blades

Department

Strikes and Backlashes

Muzzle Flashes

Florida Club News

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

MARCH, 1960
GENTLEMEN:
I have a problem. All my issues of your magazine are stacked in my closet and I was planning to sell a custom binder that holds all made up in the magazine. This way I will be able to put them all together with other publications, for future reference.

R. E. Phillips
Miami, Fla.

GENTLEMEN:

Dear Sir:
Enclosed is an application for a fishing license, for a 2-pound 3-ounce speckled perch, black crappie, I caught at Sampson Lake.
I have fished all my life for crappie and never caught one that weighed as much as two pounds. The moon must have changed, however, for in the past three weeks I have caught 20 that weighed over two pounds, this application being the largest.

H. H. Babh
Albuquerque, N.M.

NO CLOSED SEASON

Dear Editor,
What are the closed fresh water fishing periods in Florida, and do I have to buy a license for the whole year if I will only be fishing on my coming hunting vacation? If I will only be fishing on my two week vacation?

J. L. Wilkins
Akon, Ohio

CATFISH

The Editor:
I was recently fishing on a pier at Lake Park and numerous catfish were being caught. When one gentleman caught a member of the brocken family, he stated, "That thing is a separate stringer for this area, as it was illegal to string catfish and bring them together. If it is illegal, please print the facts as I doubt if many fishermen are aware of such a law.

John L. Wilkins
Albuquerque, N.M.

HUNTING SAFETY

Dear Sir:
At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Game Commission, I had the privilege of hearing Mr. Kenton of the Game Commission, speak on the subject of conservation. He prefaced his talk with some safety hints and emphasized the relatively high incidence of hunting accidents in this area. In the December issue of Florida Wildlife there is also a very informative and informative letter on the same subject.

W. M. Commander
Tampa, Fla.

A PROBLEM

It is interesting, however, to turn to the beautiful cover of your current magazine (Disc) and see a hunter pointing his gun almost directly at the camera. That is hardly in keeping with the current preaching.

H. W. Wright, M.D.
Tampa, Florida

...As mentioned, the photographer is inexcusable. In fact, for illustration reasons, he is non-existent. Much better this way than showing just the back of the man and tail of the dog, eh?

WILL ALL STATES

The Editor:
I have been reading Florida Wildlife for many years now, and each issue seems to get better. I like the page on letters from your readers and have noticed that they come from many parts of the country. As a matter of curiosity, in how many states do you have subscribers?

J. S. Carson
Houston, Texas

COVER TO COVER

Gentlemen:
The only check for three year renewal enclosed. Of all the outdoor magazines received each month, Florida Wildlife is the only one that rates on my physical and mentally deranged.

D. Carson
Coral Springs, Florida

All 50 states, plus 13 foreign countries.

COVERING

Caged animals are a real problem. To adequately discuss the needs of caged wild animals, it will be necessary to discuss a wide range of subjects: Certain points of contention, such as the keeping of animals in captivity, are very unusual circumstances, and the nature of those circumstances must be considered.

In fact, the wild animal is a caged public exhibition is undoubtedly under worse strain than a human being in solitary confinement. The reasoning for this statement will become apparent later in these discussions.

Let us first recognize that there is only one purpose that is a valid reason for the keeping of a wild animal. The only acceptable purpose is the purpose of public education. If the wild animal is being confined for any other reason, that animal is wrongly confined.

We must quickly point out one fact: It is not practical to release into the wild the wilderness the wild species that have long been held captive, or those which were born in captivity. If wild animals are to be released, they must be of the wild species, whether it be mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish.

The point is well made by the following quotation from a book titled "Captive Wild Birds and Animals," by Herbert Fox, M.D., as pathologist to the Zoological Society of Philadelphia and director of the Wildlife Care and Clinical Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Captive (of wild animals) causes numerous physical and mental disorders. Unaccustomed, unnatural and unvaried food, change of climate and environment, physical and mental degeneration from disuse of muscle and brain, fear, ennui, nostalgia, lack of the exhilaration of chasing and being chased, unsatisfied sexual feelings—all react harmfully on the captive."

It is only fair to state that in discussing wild animals, the proper feeding, maintenance and caging of such animals, it will be necessary to tread upon delicate grounds. To adequately discuss the needs of caged wild animals, it will be necessary to discuss a wide range of subjects: Certain points of contention, such as the keeping of animals in captivity, are very unusual circumstances, and the nature of those circumstances must be considered.

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EACH HUNTING SEASON brings forth many expressions of public opinion, and the one just closed was no exception.

Statewide, Florida’s many thousands of deer hunters are both enthusiastic and laudatory concerning the relatively successful screw-worm eradication program. They feel that those who handled what constituted a seemingly impossible task did an outstanding job.

It is also the consensus of opinion that many of the fawns of each annual crop heretofore lost to the game supply because of screw-worm attacks will grow to maturity, and that within two years there will be a noticeable increase in the state’s deer herds, along with more bucks to be hunted.

Undoubtedly, such beliefs have sound basis. However, there are a few flaws in what at first glance may seem a perfect and rosy picture.

First to be considered is increased browsing pressure. As Florida’s resident population gets ever larger, more hunters will annually compete for the available game supply, deer included. Any increase in the state’s total deer herd population is sure to be at least partially offset by this factor.

Next to be considered is the fact that each section of range-forest has a definite carrying capacity, as directly reflected by its natural food and shelter quantities. To take care of any future deer herd increases, there must be sufficient food of proper mineral content to insure the continuance of the health and propagation of localized herds. Otherwise, there will be too many deer competing for too little food, and Nature will step in to balance populations (through disease) if man does not take a hand. In some of Florida’s hunting territory, the latter condition already exists.

Consider that, by nature, deer are primarily browsers—feeding off tender tips of certain low trees and shrubs as they move along, and occasionally consuming fallen acorns and other mast from the ground. Game biologists say it takes 6 to 8 pounds of browse-food of good nutritional value daily to keep an adult deer in good health. An animal seldom finds that much food close to the point of developed hunger.

Just what this daily food intake represents in browsing time and area traverced by a hungry animal can perhaps be best realized by considering the fact that it would take a man eight hours of constant work to gather enough wild food to feed one deer for one day.

Also, while deer will eat a variety of food items—such as palmetto berries, blackberries, honeyuckle, birdfoot trefoil, dogwood, sumac, and other more or less readily recognized forms of American vegetation—too often they will satisfy hunger pangs without consuming those foods which are of nutritional value.

In like vein, some types of soils will grow only certain forms of deer browse, and this native growth may be lacking in balanced mineral content.

Despite the popular and mistaken belief that any buck eighteen months old will have a fair rack of antlers, it takes high mineral content browse to bring about normal and full antler development! However, given an abundance of the right foods, it is even possible for an early-year fawn to develop short spikes by December of the same year, according to biologists. But—

— to repeat two important facts regardless of the nutritional value of suitable foods found within a deer-populated area, that area will only support just so many deer in good health, depending on how much nourishing food is locally available. Man must harvest each year’s surplus crop; otherwise, Nature will step in and do the job.

When a limited food supply must be divided among many feeders, the health of the herd is definitely affected. Weakened, mineral-lacking does, for example, will bear no fawns or else pitifully undernourished single offspring, instead of healthy twins. Should disease rear its ugly head among the herd, only the strong would survive—and in an already weakened herd this could mean a severe, below normal cut-back of a once sizable herd.

Deer can feed only on those foods they can reach. Therefore, edible vegetation that grows so tall as to be above their reach cannot be rightly considered available feed.

Likewise, where timber growth is undisturbed, there is a gradual reduction of the number of hours of sunlight on low-growing trees and shrubs, which in the supply of deer feed diminishes.

For a number of years, logging has been permitted in various sections of the Ocala Forest. Where such activity has occurred, new growth has invariably resulted in greater abundance of low-growing vegetation on which deer herds can browse. Unfortunately, areas logged years ago and not yet ready for re-logging are getting to be crowded with trees and shrubs growing too high for feeding deer to reach.

For this reason, the belief of many hunters is that the Ocala National Forest could benefit from controlled burning. Game management conservationists in the Ocala Forest area agree. Both local sportmen’s groups—accomplish this burning.

Along with controlled burning, many sportmen are anxious to see more nourishing deer foods introduced in the Ocala Forest area. While it is obviously true that the Forest’s soil will support only certain forms of vegetation in vigorous growth, still, there must be at least one or more nourishing deer foods that can be successfully introduced and propagated.

If Forest Service ad Game Commission biologists design an experimental area and help with the selection of suitable shrubs for initial planting, many sportmen stand ready to give assistance.

Financially, conservationist Tom Wetherell of Daytona Beach, is offering $100 with which to buy the first experimental plantings. Denver St. Claire’s campers, at the Eaton summer youth conservation camp, could assist sportmen—volunteers and supervising Forest Service officials with the project.

The Ocala National Forest has sufficient acreage to support a much larger deer population than at present. Hunters feel the area should produce more deer, for better hunting. They want to see that objective realized.

Even the most enthusiastic dog handlers—those who love to hear a canine chorus following the trail of a fleeing deer, and who already have considerable money tied up in deer hunting are of the opinion that there would be better deer hunting in the Ocala National Forest if the use of dogs in the pursuit or taking of deer were prohibited in the Forest for two or three years.

Under the law of averages, dogs have 50-50 chance of running a doe instead of a buck—more so when the existing ratio of does to bucks swells out of proportion, as it is the situation in some deer hunting areas. While such running may be fun for the dogs, it is a situation that muddles under the present buck law.

As might be expected, hard-run does feel the effects of constant dog hunting. Wetherell, for this reason, had a chance to observe this first-hand on two different occasions.

On the first, a doe passed me within sixty feet, in perfect condition. Although unharmed by gun, she was on the verge of collapse, exhausted, soured in her own perspiration and sides heaving as torn lungs attempted to supply her with needed air. Fortunately, I was able to break up the chase by calling the leading dog when he came through something—not often accomplished when a dog-pack is on the trail of a doe.

On the second occasion, I was in a favorite tree-seat an hour before dawn. When daylight came, my investigative binoculars spotted a doe under some pines about 100 yards away. She was unaware of my presence. The forest was silent and without hint of danger.... Yet all numbers of the herd were getting disturbed. They kept milling about in a commotion.

(Continued on Page 73)
This is the second in a series of 12 reports on the operation of sportsmen's clubs.

Once some distance to make a scheduled speech before a sportmen's club and after sitting outside a locked hall for an hour I learned the meeting had been canceled. I never heard from the club again.

Four program chairmen are that careless but many will take the first speaker they can get. He may be anything from a caterpillar collector to a slam digger. Who cares?

When you realize that every sportmen's club program competes with a $100,000 television show, it's no wonder the meeting hall looks so roomy.

The highly important program chairman's job is often given out as an afterthought.

Frank approach to the membership as to what they want in the way of programs. However, that's one way to thwart beefing. In a "specialist" club such as one made up entirely of boaters, shooters or archers, the job is simplified but the term "sportmen's club" covers a multitude of activities and a roomful of bird-watchers may not exactly go into pictures over movies of a coon dog trial.

Some successful clubs book a "standard" series of meetings before they look for new programs. These "annuals" take up as many as 8 of the 12 monthly meetings and run about as follows:

1. Annual business meeting, usually scheduled for the regular session following election of officers. No entertainment.
2. Two all-out social events or parties—one during summer months and one aimed at attracting winter residents.
3. Fishing program for early spring.
4. Hunting program for early fall.
5. Youth program for spring, devoted to various youth conservation projects.
6. A full evening of motion pictures of outdoor subjects.
7. A "legislative meeting" for the purpose of discussing proposed laws that affect outdoor sport and conservation. During a legislative year, the program is devoted mainly to state bills but it also includes national problems.

There is an increasing tendency toward fewer but longer movie showings. Some officers feel the 15-minute movie is too much bother when shown alone. They'd rather gather up several good pictures and show all of them at the same evening. There is a move toward showings in auditoriums with permanently installed projection equipment, even if the meeting place must be changed.

Experience shows that speakers on outdoor subjects get more attention when they exhibit some of the equipment used in their sport.

Many program chairmen pass up talent in their own clubs. A man shouldn't have to leave home to be an expert.

Above all, the program should be arranged as early as possible and should be put in writing. A speaker's subject should be known and reported both in the club announce ment and through any news channels available.

Question and answer periods often prove the high spot of the meeting.

Speakers should remember the revival preacher's adage that few souls are saved after the first 20 minutes.

Audubon Awards

Three Audubon Society awards of the Certificate of Merit were presented to Floridians at the annual meeting of the society on Feb. 6.

Olive Hendrickson was one winner for her work in the Jacksonville area with Garden Club circles and her campaign against broadcast spraying for imported fire ants. Henry T. Becker of Tallahassee was cited for his continued efforts to get conservation established in state education curriculum. Dr. H. R. Wilber, now executive secretary of the Florida Wildlife Federation, was awarded a certificate for his work as president of the Federation during 1959.

Winners of the awards in 1958 were Bea Fairing and A. D. Aldrich.

Walton League

Formation of a Florida state council on the Izaak Walton League has been authorized by the national executive board, according to an announcement by S. Gary Bennett, Jr., of Cocoa, president of the Brevard County chapter of the League.

All IWLA chapters and members have been invited to Cocoa Beach for May 6, 7, and 8, to form representation in the state council. Reservations for the meetings may be made at the KoKo Motel and the Congress Motel.

To qualify for a state council chapter, 25 registered and acceptable persons must apply. Not fewer than five of them shall come from one community and not less than five communities in the state must be represented.

American Motors Award

Named as one of the ten outstanding conservation leaders in America for 1959, Dr. H. R. Wilber of DeLand has received the American Motors conservation award, presented at the annual awards banquet of the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

Wilber, who has been a resident of Florida since 1951, retired last September as director of the Florida Wildlife Federation and is now serving as a "dollar a year" executive secretary for the group. Before coming to Florida, Wilber was a conservation leader in Indiana and Kentucky.

His Florida activities have been highlighted by his work as president of the Federation, his chairmanship of the Sears Foundation awards program, activity on the recently passed conservation legislation and work on various state water conservation and water quality committees.

Conservation Awards

C. Tom Henderson, assistant attorney general and director of statutory revision, was named "Conservationist of the Year" at a banquet held in Tallahassee in February.

The annual awards program sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation and administered by the Florida Wildlife Federation, is for the purpose of selecting Floridians who have made outstanding contributions to the field of conservation. Regional and state winners were honored in eight divisions, receiving a gold medal, a governor's certificate and cash awards. The "Conservationist of the Year" received a gold medal, a certificate and a cash award of $100.

Charles Schilling of Jensen Beach received the state outdoor writers award. Regional winners were Edmund M. Airam of St. Petersburg, gun editor of FLORIDA WILDLIFE and fre-lancer; Tom Hardman, publisher of Outdoor Lantern Makers of Jacksonville, Bernard Kahn of Daytona Beach, sports editor of the News Journal and Floyd Miller of the paper's Country Florida; J. C. (Buddy) Camp of Jasper, state winner in the forestry division. Regional winners were F. R. Inglis Sr., Ft. Pierce, A. B. Covall of DeFuniak Springs, J. R. Spratt of Belleview and Marion C. Roche of Ocala.

E. E. Carter of Vero Beach received the state award for soil conservation. Regional winners were B. J. Swain of Okeechobee, Richard Dungan of Cocoa Beach, John D. Duggan of Dade City and Ross Witham of Stuart.

Charles Labens is named as one of the ten outstanding conservation leaders in America for 1954 and 1955, and was presented with the American Motors conservation award in the annual Sears Roebuck Foundation banquet.

In salt water conservation, Maitland Adams of Key West was the state winner. Regional awards went to Richard G. Knight of Tampa, Dr. Archie Carr of the University of Florida, L. E. Dequieu of Pensacola and Ross Witham of Stuart.

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By Chuck Schilling

ON A RECENT, seven-day fishing trip, my friends and I enjoyed what certainly would be considered a successful experience. We had beautiful weather, enjoyable companions, pleasant and comfortable accommodations at reasonable prices. We, also, caught fish—lots of fish! None of us need to fill a boat with fish to be happy, in fact, all too often we must have caught well over 1000 fish, we returned all but about 12 to the water unharmed. Those we kept were for the table. We ate pompano, snapper, sea trout, bluefish, and Spanish mackerel.

On such a fishing trip, I tend to become completely immersed in the fishing. This time was no exception. We fished hard all day and talked fishing half the night. Our dinner table each evening took on the aspects of a round table panel discussion about fishing, methods, and tackle. Other diners were obviously interested, and they, too, joined in the conversation.

One of the problems the anglers has in separating "good" facts from "bad" facts. Make no mistake about it, many of the accepted facts of sports fishing are as phony as a three-dollar bill. Here are a few examples.

Do you think fly casting is a difficult art? Many experts only assess it on the basis of whether a fisherman can "fly" or not with a rod. Think freshman trout are more difficult to catch than bass? Not so. They are usually not nearly so easy. But designing and building, superfine spinning tackle, rods, reels, guides, and handles is now waxing eloquent on the theory of the small guide's superiority. In fact, he has some slow-motion and high-speed movies that pretty well prove his theory that standard and larger-diameter spinning guides actually slow down the cast. Perhaps this is another instance of the wrong thing looking or obviously right it never becomes suspect.

While on the subject of spinning, I can't help but mention closed and open faced spinning reels. I own and use both. I have three different makes of open faced spinning reels, and I, also, have four of the closed faced reels sold by both Shakespeare and South Bend. These closed faced reels are not popular in Florida, and that's a shame, because they are, in many ways, superior to the open face type. I'm not now talking about spin cast reels but regular spinning reels used in the below-the-hand position.

In my opinion, closed faced reels have only one drawback, and this is a doubtful disadvantage. Top capacity on closed faced reels is slightly less than capacity for open faced types of similar over-all size. Top capacity for 8-pound line on my closed faced reel is 125 yards. In my years of fishing these reels, I've only had by line completely stripped once. Ninety-nine per cent of the 135 yards of 8-pound mono is more than enough. Of course, heavy-duty fishing calling for big rods, reels, and lines is another matter, but for the average spin fisherman, using medium size reels would be more than satisfactory.

A bucket basket and a wet budap bag will keep fish fresh longer than any closed faced holder method.

BRIMMERS&COUB BERS

MARCH, 1960

(Continued on Page 35)
"Hi aboard, fellows," Charlie Loveless said. At Grady and I cast doubtful looks at that flat-bottomed scow with its propeller riding in the air. Then we gazed at the morass of water hyacinths and marsh that blocked the way before us. But whatever our private thoughts, we dutely climbed in. You see, Dr. Bob Godfrey was watching, and he's the fellow who was handing out grades on this classroom exercise in the Everglades.

We were all advanced students from Florida State University, studying the ecology of the 'Glades at first hand. Under these circumstances, there never was any question that we would go aboard that airboat. What we doubted was that we might ever get back ashore.

Then, with a word of advice about hanging on tightly—a few weeks ago he had lost a visiting scientist overboard in the middle of the 'Glades!—Loveless revved'er up and took out over a plant-choked pond where no sensible boat had any business being. No need to worry about hanging on, though, since we gripped the railing till our knuckles were white as the airboat hurled itself over beds of water lilies, arrowhead, and maiden-cane. Then came the wide slough lying between two high walls of sawgrass. Loveless zoomed his way into a six-foot-deep hole and glided along with the greatest ease. After a brief bit of this maneuvering, Loveless swung the airboat back into the slough and cut the motor.

Allowing time for the roaring in our ears to subside, Charlie spoke up for the first time since we started on that perilous voyage. "This is it, boys. You're in the Everglades!"

From my place on the deck of the airboat I could not see above the top of the sawgrass lining the slough, so I climbed onto the pilot's seat for a better view. Hidden to the left of the slough was a tiny growth of willow and a handful of other scrub. But other than this, all I could see as far as my eyes could follow the horizon was miles and miles of miles and distance, as it seems. "Miles and miles of miles and miles," Charlie Loveless called it.

That's when the full impact of the nature and meaning of the Everglades came home to me. A vast marshland, a veritable Sea of Grass, covering a million or more acres of sub-tropical Florida! Not stands of glades or grass extending ever farther in the distance, as it seems. The 'Glades is just what its name implies; a stand of glades or grass, extending 'ever' further in the distance, as it seems.

The Everglades is just what the name signifies—a stand of glades or grass, extending 'ever' further in the distance, as it seems.

Classroom IN THE EVERGLADES

Most easily accessible by airboat, this immense wilderness is home for a host of wonderful wildlife creatures.

By HORACE LOFTIN

Commission Photo by Jim Floyd

MARCH, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
the 'Glades,'' Loveless said, interrupting our reveries. "They play a big part in our Everglades game management program, since they furnish cover for the deer and other game as well as forage in flood times."

"You mean there are enough deer out here in the 'Glades to keep a squad of scientists busy for the next 100 years. We have barely begun to learn all of what we need to know about the 'Glades if we are to manage it properly in the best interests of wildlife and sportsmen."  

With this impressive lecture—the 'Glades as our classroom—Charlie Loveless headed the airboat back down the slough. Our initial qualms over, we could round-table on the Everglades.

"What's the biggest problem you face in management of the 'Glades, Charlie?" asked Dr. Godfrey between bites on a sandwich.

Loveless thought a minute, then answered: "Water! That's the threat and soul of the Everglades. And without careful planning and control, there wouldn't be enough of it to keep the 'Glades as it is."

"All this whole area represents what's left of the bottom of a sea that covered this part of Florida some 25,000 or so years ago. When the ocean receded, the 'Glades began to develop as a low marsh area. Drainage from Lake Okeechobee moving slowly over this nearly flat land created an ideal water situation for sawgrass—not too deep, not too shallow; and seasonal rains gave the needed wet periods and dry periods through the year. So over the thousands of years, this great 'Glades was created and maintained—one of the largest fresh water marshes in the world."

"Then man entered the picture. About 50 years ago, draining of parts of the 'Glades began, in the hope of converting it into one vast agricultural area. Then Lake Okeechobee was diked and canals dug to run excess water directly into the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, instead of letting it flow south through the 'Glades. The net result was to deprive the 'Glades of its normal water supply."

"Things reached a climax during the 1940's, when it looked like we wouldn't have an Everglades any more—and the State was paying for this disaster by vast marsh fires which covered our Gold Coast cities in a California-like smog; city reservoirs filled with salt water; and the artificial agricultural land was deteriorating; flood followed flood. Thank goodness, we got some sense in time, and the Central and South Florida Flood Control District was organized to repair the mess."

"This agency has done an excellent job in planning and providing for best use of the 'Glades for all interests concerned, from the cities and industries to the wildlife values. The fact that the Game Commission is managing this stretch of the Everglades is a tribute to the work of the Flood Control District."

"Who'll protect our water system?" Charlie asked in thought.

"You've got a big country here, Charlie. There are the airboats can be launched—and airboats are the only effective way to get around out here. So by putting men at these launching sites, plus some others on patrol, we can watch the area pretty closely."

"But of course this means that Frank and I don't have much time for wildlife research when the hunting season's on. Actually, there are enough problems out here in the 'Glades to keep a squad of scientists busy for the next 100 years. We have barely begun to learn all of what we need to know about the 'Glades if we are to manage it properly in the best interests of wildlife and sportsmen."
Without a sound, the big buck melted away as silently as he had materialized.

Suddenly, there he stands—long slender head thrust forward.

FLORIDA’S OUTSTANDING DEER HUNT

By GEORGE X. SAND

The sudden nearby explosion from a shotgun shatters the crisp woodland stillness. Seated high above the brown forest floor you freeze in your tree-platform, listening with abruptly checked breath for the muffled drumming of pacing hoofs; perhaps the swift telltale glimpse of the buck’s bounding white flag.

Nothing.

You shift position slightly, to better scan a sun-splashed opening between tall pines in the direction from which the warning sound came, suiting hounds, but hear none. For the first time since daybreak, an hour earlier, there is no dog music resounding through the forest glens.

A crow flaps past low overhead, only a few yards higher than where you sit. The black bird suddenly bursts into raucous cries. Did it see you crouching there—or did it see something else?

You strain your eyes through the woody half-light to see who may have shot. You cannot see him. The hunters have been very carefully placed on this deer hunt...well beyond gunshot distance from one another.

Even if you did see the other man you’d likely not recognize him. It may well be one of Florida’s ex-Governors, dressed in faded khakis and a slouch hat like so many of the others who’ve come from all parts of the state to enjoy this greatest of all Florida hunts. It may be a member of the current Florida Legislature. Perhaps a police officer on his day off. Or a mortician. Or a truck driver.

For this is a most unusual hunt, indeed, that you are participating in. No doubt it is Florida’s largest. It is expensive...grandiose...exacting; yet at the same time humble...

Whoever the unseen hunter may be, you know he won’t leave his stand. Nor will you go to investigate if he made good his shot. For you both—along with more than a hundred other deer and turkey hunters—were given explicit instructions on that score before dawn this morning by Col. W. M. (“Shorty”) Davidson in the ornate new restaurant at Silver Springs, near Ocala, where we’d all been invited to assemble for breakfast.

“Boys, we’ve never had an accident on these annual Silver Springs hunts and we don’t intend to start today,” said Shorty, his normally twinkling eyes serious for the moment. “So don’t expect...”

A hunter runs forward to load a band with buck failed by another gun.

(Continued on Next Page)
You pull yourself back with a start. You've got to remain alert— else you may well flub another opportunity. The big six-pointer had been ghosting through the forest alone...undoubtedly, there were others like him keeping their distance from the dogs—

Wah-r-r-o-o-o-m. Wah-r-r-o-o-o-m. Wah-r-r-o-o-o-m. This time the explosions come from a stand in the opposite direction. It is the quick triple bark of an automatic.

The unexpected sound has pivoted you in your seat—just in time to see a little brown form racing right at you.

The over-and-under leaps to your shoulder. You sight quickly down the raised barrel rib. The deer has disappeared for the moment behind the raised barrel rib. The deer

You instinctively make up in enthusiasm what you may lack in pedigree. You have an inkling you are watching her every graceful move from above. A tree stand seems to eliminate human scent at ground level completely.

Ultimately, you compute the intervening distance. When it reaches the second clump of palmetto fronds from the base of your tree it will be within easy range.

The deer reaches the green leaves and darts past them. Your finger curls about the single trigger. Then you stop.

It's a doe.

Slowly, you lower the gun. You realize that you are sweating. After nearly 20 years of this sort of thing you can still thrill to it.

The doe is running silently past now, almost directly under your tree. She's a dainty thing, clean and white. She pauses briefly, big ears thrust straight up, small head turning first in one direction, then slowly in the other. It is obvious that she has no inkling you are watching her every graceful move from above. A tree stand seems to eliminate human scent at ground level completely.

Shortly the pursuing hounds appear. They trail swiftly, heads held low against the cold forest carpet, raising them only long enough now to peer into the tidings of the exciting hot musk that chokes their panting noses. First comes a burly redbone. Then a Walker. Then a lemon-colored mongrel who obviously makes up in enthusiasm what he may lack in pedigree.

They pass and once more the forest settles down to its role of watchful waiting.
Four more times that early fall afternoon I had the opportunity to marvel at the tremendous initial impact of the uninhibited fish on the truly spectacular aerial gymnastics and the line sizzling, hell-for-leather runs of this newly unveiled and vitamins-packed battler. And four times I felt the line suddenly go slack as the fish threw the lure.

"You've battting a good average on fat," Floyd consolled me. "One for five puts you right there in with the best of them where this rascal is concerned. You'll find that out for yourself if you do much fishing for them." I would not argue that for your sake if you do much fishing. You'll find that out for yourself. The hook. His description of the fish took with the sketches detail that were available on Van Hynings's as yet incompletely described bass.

Within a short time, Pete and his working partner Jim Barkaloo, were on their way to the river with Floyd guiding their efforts and practically guaranteeing results. Foregoing the survey work, the biologists had dug in and were drilling in the banks of the beautiful fast spring-fed Chipola. By the time the sun dropped behind the jungle of cypress, red gum, and oak crowd ing the uplands of Alabama and the confirmatim of the redeye in the Chipola, there was a different type of bass there, a larger one, heavier in proportion to the size of water throughout the state. This summer, this heavier, copper-colored warrior was definitely a different fish both in appearance and behavior.

Early, March, 1956

It wasn't a regular largemouth, the local experts assured them. They were certainly well enough acquainted with the northern largemouth and its subspecies, the world-famed Florida largemouth, to be taken from practically every body of water throughout the state. But, this fish, this fish, showed nothing like it. And according to top-ranking authority and angling authority assured them, the type of bass to be taken from certain locations in the nearby Chipola. "You can tell whether you have one of these about here in an ordinary largemouth as soon as he hits," Mil ler told them. "They take to the air as soon as they feel the bite of the hook." His description of the fish took with the sketches detail that were available on Van Hynings's as yet incompletely described bass.

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It seems that something over twenty-five years ago, in January of 1933 to be exact, Mr. O. C. Van Hynning had taken a single specimen of a bass that did not fit into any known category in the catalog of Florida fishes. Before detailed structural studies on the fish could be completed, the specimen that had been taken from the Chipola River, disappeared in some unexplained manner. Tentatively the missing specimen, along with its incomplete description, was listed as the Chipola or Shoal Bass. There was a possibility that here was a new species that theretofore had escaped scientific classification.

Since the date of its original "discovery," the Chipola's mysterious fish had been the object of much futile scientific search. Not long after the Lake and Stream Survey men moved their base of operations from Marianna in the "Panhandle" of northwest Florida, they began to hear stories about a fabulously hard fighting bass to be taken near Chipola from the nearby Chipola River.
Water is so commonplace that we are inclined to take it for granted. Yet no single resource assumes a more important role in our lives. We depend upon it in thousands of different ways to meet our daily living needs.

Mounting Pressures on the Land

If we consider ourselves and all of the other 180 million Americans that must be fed and clothed and supplied with the things each of us considers necessary to live, we begin to realize that we are placing a tremendous burden upon our sources. We can see also that there must be, at some point, an upper limit to the capacity of our lands and waters to supply and satisfy human wants. We can grow only so much food on our farms and can cut only so much lumber from our forests without impoverishing them. Similarly, there is a limit on the amount of water our streams and lakes can furnish us.

With the passage of every 11 seconds of every hour of each day there is one new mouth to feed within the United States, another human being who is completely dependent upon the output of our lands and waters. And unless you somehow can permit your mind to escape from this reality, you are forced like I am to ponder the question as to just how long we can keep piling this human burden upon our life-giving resources without feeling the pinch.

We must wake up to this starting problem of uncontrolled population increases. Our alternative is to permit population pressures to become so great that in a matter of a relatively short period our people will know the kind of hardship and deprivation that is now so common in crowded foreign lands where the aged cannot remember once in their lifetimes when they had enough to eat.

While we can be grateful that our situation in this country does not approach the gravity of the problem in these countries, we must recognize our opportunity to benefit from their sad experiences. Above all, we must be willing to accept the abundant evidence of what has happened in nations when the differences between living needs of their people and the capacity of their lands and waters to meet these becomes too great. We will have to recognize, as something more than coincidence, that people live in poverty where their resources are depleted. We also must see the parallel between what we find here in our country, where eroded soils, depleted forests, and polluted streams give testimony to the impoverishment of nearby communities. The occurrence of these same symptoms in pathetically advanced stages throughout the poverty stricken nations of the world is significantly comparable.

Where Do We Stand?

We have already lost the “cream” of many of our most productive lands in this country. And there are too many glaring examples of devastating abuses of our resources for us to feel optimistic about the future. What has already happened in other countries continues to take place right before our eyes—only at a much faster pace because modern tools and automation make it possible to destroy the productivity of the land with an efficiency un-equalled by earlier generations. Our grandfathers, who were in the flush of development of our wilderness frontiers, may claim ignorance as an excuse for what they did to the land. But we, as people who have had the folly of such a course clearly demonstrated to us, have no excuse and will be made to face the inevitable consequences of such short-sightedness.

The plain fact is that our preservation with the so-called “good things in life” has spoiled us badly. We are so concerned about our living conveniences and making things a little easier for ourselves that we do not have time to give thought to the need for providing better care and protection for the resources that support us. We show little sign that we are ready to learn from our mistakes or even benefit from the disastrous consequences of resource abuse as we see them here and in other parts of the world.

Examples of serious mistreatment of rivers and lakes, soils, forests, wildlife, and scenic and outdoor recreation places are so common that most people take them for granted. Yet, though a few of the efforts to stop these inroads have met with encouraging success, progress is slow in the face of general public apathy and indifference.

Our Water Problem

Water, as one of the resources that serves us directly in meeting many of our daily needs, illustrates the seriousness of our natural resource problem.
As crop prices continue to increase, recently waterfowl provide for appropriate and all demands for water. Farmers are finding that water, thoroughly purified by water processing, has grown out of shortages which in recent years have become increasingly severe.

Everywhere water is available and it seems that nearly everyone has an idea for using it in a way that will most nearly satisfy his own needs! The industrialist and the people who work for him want to have all they require (billions of gallons every day) to keep their plants in full production. In addition, waste materials from industry should be thoroughly purified by water processes before they are discharged into streams, lakes, or tidal waters.

In farming areas we see tremendous increases in demands for water. Farmers in both arid and relatively humid areas are finding that waste, applied at the proper stages in development of a crop, will work wonders and they are anxious to have all that they can get. Rivers, creeks, and underground reservoirs are frequently drained of their last drops as crop prices continue to increase, competition becomes more keen, and the cry for more irrigation water grows louder.

In most of our western states water laws provide for appropriation of water for agricultural use on the basis of historic claims or "water rights" that were staked out by early-day settlers. These appropria tors of water, whether upstream or down stream users. As these demands increase, many streams are left without a drop of water and with no flow to downstream communities that may face desperate shortages.

Rapid growth of our towns and cities has greatly increased the volume of waste materials — from homes, business places and industries — to the point that any reduction or flow of fresh water that are used in purifying these wastes can have disastrous consequences. In the many communities with inadequate or no sewage treatment facilities we find streams and lakes choked with raw human wastes that pose serious health hazards and prevent recreational enjoyment of public waters. Reductions in stream flows or underground water supplies water users to divert and to flow of sewage discharges must be recognized as a serious threat to the welfare of its people. On the other hand, the river or creek that is relieved of its pollution burden becomes a "new discovery" to those people who seek a place to enjoy the outdoors for picnicking, fishing, swimming, hiking, and other outdoor recreation. We are now faced with the fact that there are many conflicts over interpretations of the laws that govern their distribution. This is the case. And nowhere can we find any work in farming areas that would permit water appropriation doctrines, common to the Western States, put into effect. Such laws would allow permanent irrigation claims to be made on the flows of streams without provisions for other users and uses. Existing laws in these states generally provide for the need of the stream bank user and make provision to protect the downstream needs of communities. People on these states where changes are proposed should carefully weigh the impact of any legislation that serves to benefit one group of users at the expense of others.

There is also confusion on the question of state vs. Federal jurisdiction over water in the 17 reclamation states of the West. Legislation to make state water laws paramount has been introduced in the United States Congress by a group of western Congressmen who favor existing water appropriation laws in their home states. Under this legislation (and present western laws) wildlife and recreation uses of water have no claims and would be subordinate to all other demands. This would place recreation resources in a precarious situation.

Another source of confusion stems from differences between water development agencies. Several of these agencies — the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Soil Conservation Service — are directly involved in water development programs within different departments of the Federal Government. Each of these and there are...
facturers are less steel knives are too expensive to manufacture tools, except by considerable hand-grinding from most difficult type to work into top-quality cutting tool steel. The better class of edged tools are usually the real worth of any edged tool is the quality of the steel from which it is made. Along with proper tempering, final hardness of cutting-edge is largely determined by carbon content—although traces of influence. The better class of edged tools are usually made of high carbon American, Swedish or English steel.

High carbon stainless steel is also used, but is the most difficult type to work into top-quality cutting tools, except by considerable hand-grinding from rough to finished state. Generally, finest grade stainless steel knives are too expensive to manufacture by mass production methods, although some manufacturers are gradually linking the problem.

The versatile sheath knife is probably the most popular type of edged tool carried by the outdoorsman as personal equipment. Although many sizes are available, the average purchaser will invariably make the mistake of choosing a long, thick, heavy-blade model. The closer its owner thinks it is related to the genuine “Bowie knife” in pattern, the more probable is his feeling that he personifies an expert woodsman. Actually, you will find that the elite among the skilled knife handlers prefer small knives, fairly thin of blade and 4½ or 5 inches long, exclusive of handle. They leave the big, heavy Bowie pattern knives to the romanticists!...

The famed Bowie pattern knife came into being in 1836, when Rezin Bowie gave his hotheaded broth­er, James, a large, heavy, handmade fighting knife. It was single-edged and had a straight blade approxi­mately 9½ inches long and 1½ inches wide. James liked his brother’s gift so well he later had another made—but even longer and wider, and with a false edge at the back of the point to permit a backstroke in combat. Between the advent of this second knife model and its owner’s death in defense of the Alamo, March 8, 1836, Bowie’s effective use of his knife in personal combat made the Bowie pattern blade the most desirable type of fighting knife to own. When the Civil War broke out, almost every volunteer on both sides carried a Bowie style knife into combat.

A machete is a useful tool around the camp, and for killing and cleaning trails. Many such blades are now on the consumer market as war surplus. Author prefers bottom model.

Any one of these knife models will serve a sportsman. At left is the trapper’s model, and from top to bottom: the woodsman’s knife, the stock­man’s model, and belt-style sheath knife.

BLADES

Widely copied and modified by both American and English knifemakers, the Bowie pattern knife eventu­ally came to mean just about any large, heavy, wide-bladed knife—with or without clip point—suitable for both woods’ use and self-defense...

If you want a genuine Bowie pattern knife, W. D. Randall, Jr., of Orlando, Florida, can make you one. Randall made many such knives for American fighting men of World War II.

Currently creating a lot of favorable comment among sportmen is the Robeson “Flame Edge” sheath knife, featuring a 5½-inch stainless steel blade that has one side of its tapered edge fused to hard tungsten carbide metal. As the softer stainless steel gradu­ally wears away from use, the knife edge renews itself with a surprising degree of maintained sharp­ness.

Knife handles now come in choice of leather, ivory, pearl, stag, micarta, ebony and various plastics and woods. Naturally, the more brittle the handle mate­rial the more subject it is to possible breakage. For this reason, leather or wood handles are usually found on hard-used hunting knives.

The pocket knife is preferred by many sportmen for general use and specialized purposes.

One of the best all-around pocket knife choices for the sportsman is the trapper’s model—featuring one rounded-point blade for general cutting and skinning, and a second, more pointed blade for precise, fine detail cutting. Also very practical is a pocket knife of the stockman’s or cattlemans’ pattern.

A third practical choice is a combination knife, designed to do a variety of jobs. In addition to reg­ular cutting blades, such knives frequently embody useful screwdriver, can and bottle opening, leather awl and other specialized tool blades. The Scout pat­tern knife is a typical example of the combination-type of pocket knife.

Far from being gadgets, combination knives of quality serve the sportsman well. The screw­driver blade, for example, will find use for emer­gency tightening of gun and reel screws—especially so if the end of the blade has been ground down to fit the heads of small screws that seemingly manage to work loose at the wrong times. The leather awl blade will assist in many small repair jobs on personal and camp gear. The can and bottle opening blades are handy away from camp or when the regular can opener cannot be found.

For fishermen, there are combination-type pocket knives, as well as sheath models, featuring rustless cutting blade, scaler, hook disgorger and hook sharpen­ing stone, assembled in one compact unit.

However, be reasonably conservative in your se­lection of a personal combination knife; it is not practical to choose a model embodying types of blades seldom used, or one noticeably heavy or bulky.

Due to their small size and slim shape, pocket knives are easily lost. To reduce this risk, select a knife that has a ring in one end for attaching to belt hook or short leather thong. When using a pocket knife, never jab a folding blade into any resistant material; the blade can dou­ble up and inflict a bad cut. Neither use your pocket knife to pry or twist hard substances; rivets holding the blades may thereby be loosened. Similarly, using the back of a pocket knife as a hammer may break its springs or handle.

(Continued on Next Page)
But rust is probably a knife's most persistent enemy. A knife should be wiped dry after use on moist substances, but sure all fingerprints are completely removed from cutting-blades.

Besides keeping a pocket knife sharp, give joints and working parts periodic attention. Remove accumulated dirt, then lubricate with a drop or two of high grade oil. The oil will promote smooth operation, prevent rust and tend to float out dirt particles that may act as an abrasive on moving parts.

Camp cooking and general kitchen knives generally cut foods with what is primarily a sawing rather than slicing action. Consequently, knives of this class perform better and have a longer useful service life if they do not have the fine, finished edge characteristic of efficient pocket and hunting knives.

Leaves sharpened blades somewhat rough and microscopically saw-toothed.

Don't try to cut large bones with a knife you value. A fast cutting meat saw, or an ordinary hack-saw, is the tool to use.

The axe is another edged tool that serves the sportsman well. Many users consider a good axe a prized possession.

Axe heads are made in a variety of patterns or shapes, and seemingly each section of the country has its favorite.

A single-bitted axe, regardless of pattern, has only one cutting edge, usually combined with a flat head or poll useful for driving stakes or for service as an emergency hammer. Available patterns include the Connecticut, Dayton, Jersey, Kentucky and Michigan head shapes, generally attached to bent-handle handles 28, 30, 32, 34 or 36 inches long. Some users prefer a straight style handle, without faw, foot end.

Double-bitted axes, available in Michigan, Western, Reversible, Cruiser and Swamping patterns, provide two cutting edges and are characterized by severely straight handles.

The dual blade type is unsafe in the hands of the average sportsman, although the double-bitted axe proves a fast cutter for professional loggers, who use one edge for general chopping and reserve the other for fine work.

A good choice in a full-size axe for the average user is a single-bit model that has a 2½ to 3-pound head. Experts can select heavier models for faster cutting, but beginners will find a too heavy axe a fast-tiring chopper!

Select the length axe handle or helve that fits you best. Generally, one of twenty-six to twenty-eight inches is long enough, although some long-armed readers may safely go as high as thirty-six inches. A too long handle is dangerous, as it makes the axe difficult to control. What you want is a handle just long enough for a controlled, full-bodied, two-handed swing. Once you have found the length handle that fits you best, stick with it. You will cut better and more safely.

Should your choice be a straight style handle, score a two-foot rule on it in one-inch divisions; it will prove a handy measuring tool around camp.

The short-handled Scout style axe is a favorite for cutting firewood and odd jobs around camp. This tool should have a heavy head and thick handle that prevents a safe grip.

Many sportsmen prefer one of the Scout or small hand axes for cutting firewood and odd jobs. Such selection should always have a relatively heavy head, a thick helve or handle with a bulbous end providing a safe grip, and a leather sheath in which the tool should be kept when not in use.

Don't carry a small axe on your belt, where it is a handicap to woods travel, but transport it in your rucksack or with other camp equipment.

For perfect control when striking heavy blows, a small axe should have a loop of leather attached through a hole in the handle. The user's hand is slipped through the loop and the loop twisted tight. The axe handle can then be held fairly loosely and heavy blows made at arm's length without any danger of the tool slipping from the hand.

Even the most inexperienced camper can do a fair job of cutting with a small hand axe.

Steel quality is important to the performance and life span of an axe. The metal should be hard enough to take and hold a cutting edge, but not so brittle that chips or nicks develop in the edge when hard blows are struck. Fortunately, quality axes are the pride of production of a number of American tool manufacturers, so finding a good blade should not be much of a problem.

However, even the best makes of axes do not always come to hand truly perfectly. Most have blades too thick and too abrupt taper at cutting edge, and require additional grinding down to really make the chips fly.

To properly sharpen an axe, its blade should first be ground on a continually wet grindstone, with the axe head held across the stone, blade away from you and with the stone revolving toward the blade. Grinding the cutting edge too thin will cause it to excessively stick in wood being cut, and also make it more liable to breakage; leaving the blade too thick at its cutting edge will make for hard chopping and dangerous glancing of the axe head.

For first grinding, put the axe in the hands of an expert. From his finished job, make an edge thickness gauge from heavy cardboard or sheet metal. Use this gauge as a blade-thickness check when you subsequently do the grinding and stoning operations yourself.

Although a wet grindstone is the proper tool for the job, a twelve inch file and a carborundum stone for finishing will do a good sharpening job away from home. Sooner or later an axe handle will get cracked or broken and need to be replaced.

At home, it is a relatively easy matter to replace a broken axe handle. The section remaining in the head can be punched, drilled or chiseled out, depending on the efficiency of available tools used for the job.

In the field, removing the stub of the old handle may take a little applied ingenuity. The easiest way is to burn out the broken section. To keep heat from drawing the temper of the steel, pick a soft spot in the earth and drive the axe head into the ground up to its eye. Then build a fire around the head. Once charred, the hewed wood can easily be punched out.

Split the eye end of the new handle before driving it in the axe head, so you can afterwards insert a thin, even-tapered wedge to make the fit a tight and lasting one.

A properly mounted axe head will have the exact center of its cutting edge and the base of the handle touch a common horizontal line. If, however, one end or the other of the cutting edge rests upon the horizontal line, then the axe head is not hung properly.

From time to time check the axe head to make sure it is still tight on its handle and correctly hung.

In Southern states, keeping handles saturated with linseed oil is a trick used to keep handles tight. A one-quarter by three-inch hole is drilled in the end of the handle and kept filled (during idle periods) with linseed oil until it will absorb no more. The oil penetrates and expands the wood, which tends to

(Continued from Preceding Page)
Birds Suffer

Florida's already rare roseate spoonbill is threatened by trigger happy hunters, according to Kenneth D. Morrison, director of the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower at Lake Wales. Reporting in a news release from the Florida Audubon Society, Morrison states that the colorful spoonbill's number had been increased from a low of about 30 individuals to several hundred birds in the state.

Most of the slaughter of the birds occurs near the Everglades National Park where rangers attribute the shootings to irresponsible hunters.

The breeding range extends over much of southeastern Canada and down into the upper portions of some of the border states. The latter part of September usually sees the first wave of the southbound migrants reaching Florida. Some of the birds pass on through the state and migrate to more southerly wintering grounds in the Caribbean. By March there are some early stragglers among the spring migration especially among the flocks wintering in the Keys. Late April or early May sees all but possibly a few stragglers out of the state.

The Western Palm Warbler, Dendroica palmarum palmarum.

Despite seasonal variations in plumage patterns and coloring, the Palm Warbler is fairly easy to identify. One outstanding characteristic of the bird is the constant purring of the tail. This habit plus the yellow coloring of the undertail coverts marks the species well. In average size the Western Palm Warbler is 3 1/4 inches in total length.

During the winter months it is present in the state in such abundance that it is considered the most common of the smaller birds. The species is a northern nester. The breeding range extends over much of southeastern Canada and down into the upper portions of some of the border states. The latter part of September usually sees the first wave of the southbound migrants reaching Florida. Some of the birds pass on through the state and migrate to more southerly wintering grounds in the Caribbean. By March there are some early stragglers among the spring migration especially among the flocks wintering in the Keys. Late April or early May sees all but possibly a few stragglers out of the state.

The Western Palm Warbler is a year round resident of the state. The species has been recorded in localities along the coast from Fernandina Beach to Key West and up the Gulf side at least to Pasco County. It is not completely absent from inland locales although definitely not as common in such places.

The nest is round and the male builds it. It is usually found in the grassy thickets along the edges of ponds and marshes. It is a small nest, about 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and is held by the male while the female weaves the nest with plant material. The eggs are usually 1 1/4 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide, with a white, pink or brownish-white appearance.

The Prairie Warbler, Dendroica discolor.

Contrary to what would be expected from the name, it is not the open grasslands but rather the coastal mangrove thickets that make up the main haunts of the Prairie Warbler in Florida. The distinctive yellow and black color scheme is easily identified. The female and immature birds are yellowish on the underparts and grayish yellow above. The flank streaks and other markings may be faint or absent.

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The black "hood" of the male is so distinctive that this bird is one of the most readily identified of all the warblers. The underparts of the male are yellow, the upperparts greenish in color, and it lacks the black hood. White feathers in the tail also serve as a distinguishing mark in the field. The average total length of this species is about 8 inches.

In Florida the bird is quite common during periods of migration. It is also locally abundant during the winter months in the central and southern parts of the Peninsula. In August migrants begin arriving from the north. The last of the season is reported to move back toward the breeding grounds may linger in the state as late as May.

The Ovenbird is heavy-bodied for a warbler. The crown patch is orange-brown with black borders.

The Ovenbird is only one of several species of warbler present in Florida. Insects of various sorts make up the major portion of the diet.

**Hooded Warbler,** *Wilsonia citrina.*

The average total length of the water-thrush is 69/16 inches. The conspicuous buffy-white eye-stripe, spotted throat, and the vivid eye-stripe make this bird the most obvious of the species. The total length of the body and the overall form are distinctive features of the bird. This species is an abundant migrant and a rare winter resident in all parts of the state.

The soggy woodlands of Florida are the water-thrush's habitat. Here they walk rather than hop about—another behaviour characteristic of note—in search of the insects that are common here. It has also been reported that migrations and small ntoolks are eaten at times.

The nest consists of small twigs interwoven with moss and interlined with softer material such as fine grasses, roots, and plant fibers. The structure is situated on the ground. Under the protection of an overhanging bank or in a crevice in a tree root the eggs are safe from predators.

**Yellow-throat,** *Geothlypis trichas.*

The yellow-throat is a widespread species that occurs as a breeder across southern Canada into southern eastern Canada and southwestern British Columbia. In the winter it is found from North Carolina to California and southwestern British Columbia. Because there is considerable variation in appearance among the individuals of this species the group has been divided into a number of subspecies.

In keeping with the habits of the other warblers, the yellow-throat is an active bird. Dense heavy growth of underbrush, especially in moist situations, are among its favored haunts. They are also seen along the tops of thickets, in brusy roadside ditches, and tangles of blackberry vines in old fields. In average, the total length is 8 inches. The plumage is olive green above and yellow below. The black face mask is the most obvious field characteristic.

In Florida the yellow-throat is a common resident in all sections. The nest is a bulky structure rather loosely put together of grasses, strips of bark and the like. An inner lining of rootlets and other plant materials, and sometimes of hair, is the rule. The nest itself may be placed on the ground or not far above it in a clump of sedges or other vegetation.

The eggs are white with markings of brown or blackish. Four is the common number in a clutch.

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**What Is GAMES and Fish Management?**

IT PROTECTS OUR NATURAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGAINST WASTE AND FOOLS MAKE THESE RESOURCES PRODUCTIVE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**March, 1960**

Even some of the most enthusiastic dog hunters believe that hard-core deer hunting areas should observe occasional closed seasons on the use of dog-packs.

Even some of the most enthusiastic dog hunters believe that hard-core deer hunting areas should observe occasional closed seasons on the use of dog-packs.
SITTING ON READY
(Continued from Page 21)
with the anglers of Jackson County for generations. And the name persists; shoal bass it has been called and probably will be called to this day. It is deep into the art of fishing for the species ingrained in the lore of the region's sportmen that every bass shoal has a native name. Live Oak, Federal (where Andrew Jackson's troops crossed in the early days). Flat, Tater, Little Look, Big Look, and Ringjaw to mention a few.

The Chipola is rather unique as Florida rivers go. For one thing, the water is normally crystal clear in contrast with the usual swamped, muddy streams in the rest of the State. Also there is a fast current and numerous riffles or shoals alternated with stretches of wider, deeper pools and slower moving water. The twenty-five miles of river below Marianna resemble a northern trout or smallmouth bass river more closely than a hotspot for trout or smallmouth bass. Stream temperatures vary more closely than a hotspot for bass, those taken in the quieter, deeper pools and slower moving water; even finer than that, even within the twenty-five mile stretch, a majority of the fish taken over or in the vicinity of Ten Mile Shoal. A shoal bass, those taken in the quieter, slower moving water is the river to put in at one of the access points to float through the upper two miles of the Chipola. There are commonly black, dark green, or brown, underbellies. There are commonly black and olive drab, with the black and brown hackle yellow getting the nod and the Royal Coachman being far behind. Small fly rod poppers will also afford plenty of sport when the shoal bass are in the mood but they are likely to have a race to beat these tantalizing rudders and to offer better line control, and balance the rod much better from their back-of-the-hand position. I'm not confident of using closed faced spinning reels, I have known the species down here as a water bag on the desert. I use a bushel or hallert lid keeps direct rays of the sun out of the water bag. Even a small sized kicker will receive plenty of knocks in the course of a day's fishing. Most conventional bass fishing methods will pay off for shoal bass angling. Small sized under water plugs and spinners get the nod from most of the experienced bass fishermen. At certain periods, especially during early morning and late evening hours and on overcast days during the warmer months, various top water lures will often turn the trick, adding spice to already zestful aspects of pursuits piscatorial. A small spinner fly and the rigged rubber worm are favorites with spin fishers and fly rodders but the angler is apt to be plagued (if you want to call it that) by the abundance of brassy bream and shad which reach bragging proportions. Budget. A hog tie for shoal bass fishing, here is a Fellow angler who will give you odds that you will come away from the experience with renewed respect for the bass tribe in general and the "shoal bass" of the Chipola in particular.

FISHING
(Continued from Page 11)
6, 8, or 10 pound line, the closed faced spinning reel has a lot to offer. These reels are simple and durable. Rarely do I need make repairs or adjustments of any kind. They are easy to carry, and simpler to operate. They have a smooth drag, offer better line control, and balance the rod much better from their back-of-the-hand position. I'm not now trying to "sell" anyone the idea of using closed faced spinning reels, because I came to the conclusion years ago that the new developments that reel caused killed it for good. This does not alter the fact that these reels now being produced are very serviceable and tipsy. Here's one case where the "better mousetrap" was not responsible for a wide path beaten to the door.

Fresh Fish
These tackle talks are fascinating to most anglers. I'm no exception. I could fill this entire magazine with items of interest, but I'll include only one more. We all know that icebox filled with ice is the best way to keep fish fresh, but sometimes ice is just not possible. What is the best thing to do under these circumstances?

Many resort to a fish stringer. I've found this to be a very poor method even if the fish stay alive, which is doubtful. Don't forget, you are hanging the fish in water that is often 85°. Under these conditions seldom prevail for more than a few days at a time. The Chipola's waters eventually empty into the Gulf of Mexico via the Dead Lakes and the Apalachicola River.

The actual known range of theChipola's redeye bass is relatively restricted, and those who know will tell you that it includes these twenty-five mile sections of the river from a short distance above the bridge on U. S. Highway 90 downstream to the vicinity of Ten Mile Shoal. A half mile above or below the shoal section there are plenty of large-mouths but no shoalers. Cutting it even finer than that, even within the twenty-five mile stretch, a majority of the fish taken over or in the immediate vicinity of the fast turbulent waters of the shoals will be redeyes (hence the name shoal bass), those taken in the quieter, deeper sections will usually be largemouths.

Have no doubts on the matter of identification however, for if you have any doubts about what you are behind you at all, you will have no trouble telling when you have one of these fish shoaling or not at the business end of your fishing stick. The shoal bass's superior fighting ability shines through from moment you feel that first vicious strike.

In the redeye bass gives the general impression of a stout, thick-bodied bass with relatively small scales. A portion of the eye is often notched between the spiny and the soft portions of the dorsal fin. The coloration of the back and sides is coppery reddish brown, and the yellowish greenish of the belly that has been officially recorded through the years claim that five specimens these are very faint or lacking. Rarely do even larger ones swim the shoal of canvas over it to form a water tight situation. Surplus rubber rafts would serve the same purpose and should prove more convenient. During my first fishing trip, a woman must have seen the shoal bass from the boat, but she didn't know much about fishing, and the fisherman is to carry his own boat (and it should be a light shallow draft one to negotiate the shoals) or to contact a local skiff ranter and make arrangements for a trip.

Much of the shoal area may be negotiated in a small skiff or bateau but some of the native fishermen have devised a unique system for fishing the river. They use an inflated tractor inner tube and lay a square of canvas over it to form a water tight situation. Surplus rubber rafts would serve the same purpose and should prove more convenient. During my first fishing trip on the Chipola, I saw one young angler blithely float­

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
MARCH, 1960

they downstream float. Cold water bass dabbles will find live minnows good and "gator" fines as he­

leagues are locally called, the best are the shoal bass above latching on to a juicy earthworm at times.

Shoal bass, both days and wets, and bucktails are also high ranking medicine for the prized redeye of the Chipola. Most conventional methods will produce with the black and brown hackle yellow getting the nod and the Royal Coachman being far behind. Small fly rod poppers will also afford plenty of sport when the shoal bass are in the mood but they are likely to have a race to beat these tantalizing rudders and to offer better line control, and balance the rod much better from their back-of-the-hand position. I'm not confident of using closed faced spinning reels, I have known the species down here as a water bag on the desert. I use a bushel or hallert lid keeps direct rays of the sun out of the water bag. Even this small sized kicker will receive plenty of knocks in the course of a day's fishing. Most conventional bass fishing methods will pay off for shoal bass angling. Small sized under water plugs and spinners get the nod from most of the experienced bass fishermen. At certain periods, especially during early morning and late evening hours and on overcast days during the warmer months, various top water lures will often turn the trick, adding spice to already zestful aspects of pursuits piscatorial.

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WILDLIFE
BALANCE
WHEEL

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

Survival.” For the fifth consecutive year Walt Disney is serving as honorary National Chairman. The National Wildlife Week is under the sponsorship of the National Wildlife Federation.

National Wildlife Week is observed in 49 states and in the District of Columbia. Here in Florida I believe Tommy Anderson of Dustin, Florida, will be chairman.

It’s a very important week to all of us especially our Youth Conservation Corps. On the last day of the designated Week, March 26, the members of Youth Conservation Corps have a chance to share with the public their knowledge of wildlife conservation.

A very important aspect of this week is the opportunity for all of us to learn more about our environment, our responsibility as stewards of the natural world, and our role in conservation efforts.

During the closing conventions and workshops will be conducted for special interest groups, including topics such as wildlife identification, photography, birding, and outdoor cooking.

There will be an opportunity for all of us to share our knowledge and experiences with others, and to learn from the experts in the field.

Adult Advisory Council

This month in Bartow there will be a very important meeting of the State Adult Advisory Council to the Youth Conservation Education Program. The dates have not been officially set, but it is possible they will be held on March 18 and 19, 1960.

New appointments to the Council are: Representing the Girl Scouts of America, Mrs. George T. Costello, Lake Ridge Girl Scout Council, and Mrs. W. H. Twyford, Land O’ Lakes Girl Scout Council. Representing the Federation of Garden Clubs is Mrs. Herbert A. Braddock, and Mr. Bob Somers, District Executive Scout, representing the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Herb Mayhew of Miami, is chairman.

Bay County Girls Club

Received a letter from Mrs. J. M. McKeeley of Panama City the other day. Had so many interesting comments to convey from the advisors and counselors. Mrs. McKeeley writes that the Girls Club through the able assistance of the Construction Board are: Michael Hein, Rush Ruffly, Ralph Jones, Mrs. Charles Labens, Martin E. Brooker, William G. Wallace. Members of the advisory Committee are: Sam R. Quincey, Ralph King, V. R. Textor, Ray Tylander, Vince Barkhardt, Cleveland Van Dresser.

Earl Diemer, Vice President of the Panhandle County Wildlife League has been spearheading the project.

Tag Day

Don’t forget that March 26, Saturday, you will see young people in bright uniform, tagging the citizens reminding them that it’s Tag Day and the end of National Wildlife Week. What a special day, is the Hazel Water, is the key to your survival.

Monies raised will go toward constructing a new housing building at the Youth Camp at Lake Eaton. Won’t you help them to help themselves. Buy a tag and buy something in the future for our youth.

Youth Camp — South Florida

A dynamic group of people in South Florida are determined to have a camp for youth. The J. W. Corbett area west of West Palm Beach is the site selected for the proposed new camp. The project has been approved by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Committees have been appointed by Mr. A. D. Aldrich, Director of the Game Commission. Members of the Committee are:

- Dr. Joel T. Hildebrand, University of Miami, representing the University.
- William G. Wallace, President of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Mrs. George T. Costello, President of the Girl Scouts of America.
- Mrs. Herbert A. Braddock, President of the Federation of Garden Clubs.
- Mr. Bob Somers, District Executive Scout, representing the Boy Scouts of America.
- Mrs. Ray Tylander, President of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.
- Mr. Herb Mayhew of Miami, is chairman.
The Comprehensive Watershed Conservation Program

The kind of treatment we give our land and water is usually reflected directly in the values of our streams and rivers. Streams and rivers are the natural potentialities of our land. They give our land the properties of fertility that make it useful and productive.

As the headwaters of a water system, streams and rivers are the foundation of our agricultural and industrial life. They are the channels through which we transport our products to the markets of the world. They are the sources of water for our homes and industries. They are the means by which we protect and conserve our natural resources.

It is only from the drawing together of the different interests that our water resources can be made to work to the advantage of all.

The Comprehensive Watershed Conservation Program provides for full protection of water resources by the development of a watershed plan. This plan is designed to bring together the interests of all those who are concerned with the use and conservation of water resources. It is a plan that will provide for the conservation of water resources, the protection of water quality, and the development of water supply.

The plan is designed to bring together the interests of all those who are concerned with the use and conservation of water resources. It is a plan that will provide for the conservation of water resources, the protection of water quality, and the development of water supply.

Where You Fit Into the Picture

From this point it becomes apparent that the principal difference between the watershed plan and the farmland protection program is that the watershed plan is designed to bring together the interests of all those who are concerned with the use and conservation of water resources. It is a plan that will provide for the conservation of water resources, the protection of water quality, and the development of water supply.

Here are the ways you can help to provide proper care for your water resources:

1. Get the facts! Make it your business to learn the facts of water development in your area. This includes the extent and the condition of your community's water resources.

2. Learn and show others how mistreatment of land and water resources results in loss of water supply. This includes the extent and the condition of your community's water resources.

3. Promote coordinated research and planning to show how water can be protected from pollution and water future supplies can be safeguarded. Comprehensive multipurpose planning within a watershed (the entire area that is drained by one stream) is the best safeguard against ill-conceived plans that permit the use of one resource to be in the sacrifice of other values regardless of long-range needs of community.

4. Set up water study committees in local civic and conservation groups to study water problems of your community, state, and region. Determine how much water is consumed by your city for household and industrial uses.

5. Tell people of the need to provide adequate care and protection for their water resources. Use every available publicity and educational medium to emphasize the importance of this responsibility.

6. Organize and enlist others to help you in your efforts. You will have succeeded in helping meet the final analysis, that.

The biggest part of this will lie in getting people to help themselves. The private individual, the small business, and the community will have to work together to solve their water problems. The private individual, the small business, and the community will have to work together to solve their water problems.

And when this job is underway you and your community will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labor. You and your community will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labor.
In the January issue of Outdoor Life, the gremlins of Florida play an important part in maintaining vacationland. Tell me a story about birds are for the birds.

Charlie chuckled, and said that, to the contrary, there were practically no good deer areas in the slough-ridge country. "You see, this is much wetter country than the deer hunting is a lot better up here, with all these tree islands," he quipped.

Charlie Loveless pointed to the tree islands and that might be a beachhead for the deer. The land here is not so flat. There was a relative scarcity of true sawgrass marshes, which the deer hunting is a lot better up here, with all these tree islands," he quipped.

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OUTSTANDING DEER HUNT
(Continued from Page 18)

ful waiting. A cat squirrel begins to fuss over the small undergrowth. The chill wind is blowing more briskly now, occasionally dislodging a twig or pine cone. The squirrel leaps from the less dense undergrowth to some dry palmetto fronds and the sound it makes is loud, sharp.

In time there comes a new sound—a more exciting sound by far. High-pitched, almost squeaky, it's a welcome you've not heard before this season. Turkey! Carefully, moving only your squinting eyes and the gloved finger that covers the shotgun's barrel selector to the opposite position—the position that will permit you to fire a turkey load instead of the heavy deer slug—you scan each bush and stump before you.

Nothing. After awhile the sound comes again. It is unquestionably farther away now, and you are disappointed. For you know that big gobblers are often killed in these Ocala woods. You recall the time you had a fine bird walk out majestically before you within easy range—only to find you with both barrels of your side-by-side gun loaded with buck-shot. At the first shriek of the breaking breech as you attempted carefully to change loads the wily bird had scooted off.

You are stiff and cramped with mind too much. "Oh—just wondered." You don't ask. "Six. Why?" "Oh—just wondered." You don't bother to explain what you're thinking: that the big buck you foolishly left in the woods had the same number of points.

The jeep follows a winding woods road until it empties suddenly into a clearing washed over by stately pines. Beneath the towering trees rough wooden dining tables have been placed. Hall a hundred bon­ men are standing about several bon­ men are standing about several groups talking and warming their backs gratefully against the heat from the leaping flames. These khaki-clad sportsmen drink steaming coffee and munch sandwiches and laugh easily as they discuss what is about to take place: the president of the Florida Senate has missed his deer and will now have his shirt-tail cut off.

Shortly, the hapless hunter climbs good-naturedly upon one of the tables. Carl Ray produces a big knife taken from one of the camp cooks and neatly cuts off the shirt tail while the audience roars appro­ val. Carl then hands the cloth remnant to co-host Col. Davidson who proceeds with mock ceremony to nail it fast to the trunk of a big oak where several faded shirt tails already hang, testifying to the fate of other poor marksmen in years past.

It is obvious from the manner of all the men present that they regard Carl and Shorty with respect and affection. For nearly 35 years these two sincere and friendly founders of the world famous Silver Springs tourist attraction have operated as partners bound by nothing more than the simple oral agreement made between them at the outset.

They needed nothing more. A Miami guest is hailed as he steps out of the jeep to his companions. "Come on. I'll take you back to the fire for some hot coffee," he invites, grinning. As you climb in beside him he asks about the three quick shots from the other stand. "That was a nice buck—and he didn't miss, either, like that other fellow," he tells you. "It took both of us to lift it into the truck."

"How many points?" you ask. "Six. Why?"

"Oh—just wondered." You don't bother to explain what you're thinking: that the big buck you foolishly left in the woods had the same number of points.

Next Month

Annual spring fishing issue, with special articles on Florida's FishRap, Mudjah Assaying, Florida's Bone Booster, Browning Fishing, Mr. Bug and Dime Prawn, Grapeseed Fly Fishing, plus other special features.
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