FOR THAT BIG ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

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.

Caged Animals

Bob Dahne 5

Mess Of Bream

Charles Waterman 12

Turkey Money In The Big Cypress

Max Hunn 16

They Look Alive

Edmund McLaurin 18

Camping Tricks I've Learned

George X. Sand 22

South Florida's Worm Hunters

James Monk 26

Facts About Florida Deer

Bob Hyde and Dick Hartow 29

Departments

Strikes and Backlashes 4

Florida Birdlife 33

Florida Club News 6

Dog Chatter 35

Fishing 8

Wildlife Balance Wheel 36

Mussle Flashes 10

Question Box 41

Test and Tells 42

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. It is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Tallahassee, Florida

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

BILL HANSEN, Editor

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

Edmund McLaurin, Fruits and Edges

In This Issue

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

Chuck Schilling, Angling Editor

COMMISSIONERS

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

Chuck Schilling, Angling Editor

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

Edmund McLaurin, Fruits and Edges

In This Issue

Caged Animals

Bob Dahne 5

Mess Of Bream

Charles Waterman 12

Turkey Money In The Big Cypress

Max Hunn 16

They Look Alive

Edmund McLaurin 18

Camping Tricks I've Learned

George X. Sand 22

South Florida's Worm Hunters

James Monk 26

Facts About Florida Deer

Bob Hyde and Dick Hartow 29

Departments

Strikes and Backlashes 4

Florida Birdlife 33

Florida Club News 6

Dog Chatter 35

Fishing 8

Wildlife Balance Wheel 36

Mussle Flashes 10

Question Box 41

Test and Tells 42

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. It is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

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

Chuck Schilling, Angling Editor

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

Edmund McLaurin, Fruits and Edges
Gentlemen:

and send a binder each year with the May
binders now. Please let me know the cost,
have seven complete volumes on file and
would soon have binders to hold copies of
would like to place my order for seven
the July issue on the

former Executive Director
Florida Wildlife. With your May issue I
articles, as appeared in your current issue,
on page-39 of the July issue. He hit the
nail right on the head.

• okay’ on these binders for a year now, and
#on A and CO.

fmlar in each issue, including full decription.
have hop

verr, near future. A, aoon a, the .. go­
time to become accustomed to the mere
s they will be

AUTHOR
William Bennett
Miami Beach, Fla.

Dear Sir: 
The enclosed photograph shows the size
of our splendid perch in this part of Flor­
J. E. Reddick
Citra, Florida

THE SWALLOW

Dear Sir—
My interest in Florida’s wildlife dates
back to the winter of 1941-42 when I spent
six months on Tern Car on off Tampa Bay,
the year of the big freezes. I made a trip to
the Myakka river on horseback where every good hold is a full quota of
blackbirds, pintails and coots. In 1900 I sailed from
Tallahassee to Miami, and back up to

Greeded, and watched fish go down and
and up.

This letter, however, it about Morris Neises’ article, ‘Keep it’
which I enjoyed very much. Its description
of the Yellow-throated chaff is a duplicate
of the chaff in the United States in southern
Connecticut, one thousand miles away.
I can recall when he
the rough-winged swallow nests in a hole in
a bank which he digs for a nest. I have ob­
served this swallow for a long time (six or
seven) and have never known them to nest
elsewhere. I have sometimes watched
organized to keep this bird with the Bank­swallow
which nests in colonies, in holes they dig
for a nest. It will be quite a while before
the new bird will be on a breeder to those who study birds. Am I right?

William Rollinson
Tollingford, Conn.

• You are right! The nesting habits as
described for the rough-wing swallow,
were meant for the Bank-swallow.

AUTHOR—PLEASE

I just read one of the most enjoyable
articles, as appeared in your current issue,
and I would like to order a subscription
on-page-39 of the July issue. He hit the
nail right on the head.

Bill Ward
Miami Beach, Fla.

• Our apologies to Author Ernest Swift,
former Executive Director of the
Wildlife Federation. The line containing
the author’s name was “lived” in the rock to get
the July issue on the press.

WILDLIFE BINDERS

Gentlemen

Several months ago I read that you
would soon have binders to hold copies of
Florida’s publication; ‘The Swallow’
are complete, without reference to the
overall
future plans of the

120,000 acres are

THE COVER

Spinning tackle, fly rod, bait casting outfit, or cone pole — no matter what your preference, it is a steel stung longmouth bass supplies vita­
min packed arguments regardless of weight and size.

Cover Photo by Wallace Hughes

AUGUST, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

CAGED ANIMALS

by Bob Dahne

This is the fifth in a series of articles concerning the proper care
of wild animals in captivity. Since there appears to be an increasing
desire to keep animals caged, it is important to recognize the
strains and to know that such captivity places upon the animals involved.

T he new ‘wild-caught’ animal should be given at least 72 hours before
being placed on exhibition, or otherwise handled. While in quar­
tine (from three days to six weeks, depending on species), the animals
should be closely watched for signs of diseases, infections, peculiarities
of actions and general disposition. They should be inspected for
min, such as ticks and fleas, as well as for worms, rabies and similar in­
fecions.

Fresh water should be offered to the animal twice a day—even if the
animal immediately fouls the water. During this time the water-pan will carry
a man-odor, and the water itself, usually carries the
chemical softeners and purifiers, the
animal's odors and artificial odors attached,
and the animal may refuse to eat
for several days.

For several days. Since the food you
should offer the animal
the wild animal, he will not take
what the connecting link — a steel stung large

Spinning tackle, fly rod, bait casting outfit, or cone pole — no matter
what your preference, it is a steel stung longmouth bass supplies vita­
min packed arguments regardless of weight and size.

Cover Photo by Wallace Hughes

AUGUST, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

CAGED ANIMALS

by Bob Dahne

This is the fifth in a series of articles concerning the proper care
of wild animals in captivity. Since there appears to be an increasing
desire to keep animals caged, it is important to recognize the
strains and to know that such captivity places upon the animals involved.

T he new ‘wild-caught’ animal should be given at least 72 hours before
being placed on exhibition, or otherwise handled. While in quar­
tine (from three days to six weeks, depending on species), the animals
should be closely watched for signs of diseases, infections, peculiarities
of actions and general disposition. They should be inspected for
min, such as ticks and fleas, as well as for worms, rabies and similar in­
fecions.

Fresh water should be offered to the animal twice a day—even if the
animal immediately fouls the water. During this time the water-pan will carry
a man-odor, and the water itself, usually carries the
chemical softeners and purifiers, the
animal's odors and artificial odors attached,
and the animal may refuse to eat
for several days.

For several days. Since the food you
should offer the animal
the wild animal, he will not take
what the connecting link — a steel stung large

Spinning tackle, fly rod, bait casting outfit, or cone pole — no matter
what your preference, it is a steel stung longmouth bass supplies vita­
min packed arguments regardless of weight and size.

Cover Photo by Wallace Hughes

AUGUST, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

CAGED ANIMALS

by Bob Dahne

This is the fifth in a series of articles concerning the proper care
of wild animals in captivity. Since there appears to be an increasing

be experienced or trained in that sort of work. I see no objection to the president or secretary handling the job but if he does, he should serve it as a regular responsibility.

Keep your reports dignified and do not underrate their importance. Keep them accurate, and if there is controversy, do not indulge in personalities. Deal in facts—not fury.

When the club must take a stand on a controversial subject, the membership should decide what that stand should be. Then, the stand should be published over the president’s signature—as a representative of the club.

The publicity chairman should be a reporter and not a policy-setter. When an important event is coming up, clubs should not forget the use of paid advertising. A small, paid ad in a local newspaper is a good investment in goodwill.

Tell the world. The members of your club already know about conservation. Most other folks do not.

Norton Webster Passes

Norton Webster, one of the outstanding figures in Florida sports fishing, died on November 17, 1958. Although he spent most of his winters on St. Johns he fished many other Flori-
In NATURAL RESOURCE management, the popular catch phrase of the day is "multiple use." In its simplest definition, it means using a resource in all its varied potential. Thus, a national forest, for example, is managed on a comprehensive plan that includes hunting, fishing, and competing as recreational values but, also, includes lumbering to harvest the tree crop, grazing to take advantage of the clearings and meadows, and sometimes other commercial activities.

In theory, this multiple-use concept sounds good. In practice, this theory often leaves a lot to be desired. Much of our nation's waters, now under multiple-use management, rise and fall to the population expands and as we all enjoy greater material wealth and leisure time. The vast areas of our country still in public ownership are like ripe plums to be plucked or taken as much water use as they can grab.

I think a beginning should be made to regulate our water resources that the fullest recreational potential can be realized. We in Florida can now do this job in an atmosphere of comparative reason and deliberation. Later, we may be forced to such action in a climate of emotional excesses.

For Instance

As a sports fisherman, I resent the needless and sometimes deliberate interference by other members of the various recreational groups with our natural resources. It seems that way. Skin divers, fish speakers from both above and below the surface, boaters, developers, miners, and many, many more all compete for the same water use. Most of these groups are aware of these problems of mammoth proportions.

This lake is about one-half mile long by one-eighth mile wide. Hundreds of big boats take off here on every weekend. To avoid complete chaos, regulations have been made to so regulate our water sources that the fullest recreational potential can be realized. We in Florida can now do this job in an atmosphere of comparative reason and deliberation. Later, we may be forced to such action in a climate of emotional excesses.

Today's pressures on our natural resources continue to mount as our population expands and as we all enjoy greater material wealth and leisure time. The vast areas of our country still in public ownership are like ripe plums to be plucked or milked by each special interest group. Usually, we think of this struggle for use preference as being waged by outdoor recreations on the side and commercial interests (as typified by lumber, mining, cat-tin, and power) on the other. Actually, this, too, is an oversimplification.

To illustrate, let's consider my own specialty, sports fishing in Florida. The most basic commodity here is water, both salt and fresh. We anglers compete for its use with agriculture, developers, miners, polters, industry, commercial fishing, flood control, and navigation; but as though this were not enough, we, also, compete with the day-to-day special needs of millions of people. This is multiple use within multiple use, wheels within wheels.

Florida's water now supports many other recreational groups other than sports fishing—boat racing, water skiing, skin and scuba diving, and fishing and spearfishing. As sports fishing was first on many of these waters, it is only natural that this angler takes a somewhat dim view of these new enthusiasts who demand and take as much water use as they can grab.

This is not a problem unique to Florida. All over the country, multiple use of available water resources should be cataloged, studied, and marked for recreational preferences by a qualified team made up of professionals of the various recreational uses.

I think a beginning should be made to regulate our water resources that the fullest recreational potential can be realized. We in Florida can now do this job in an atmosphere of comparative reason and deliberation. Later, we may be forced to such action in a climate of emotional excesses.

Complicated

Today's pressures on our natural resources continue to mount as our population expands and as we all enjoy greater material wealth and leisure time. The vast areas of our country still in public ownership are like ripe plums to be plucked or milked by each special interest group. Usually, we think of this struggle for use preference as being waged by outdoor recreations on the side and commercial interests (as typified by lumber, mining, cat-tin, and power) on the other. Actually, this, too, is an oversimplification.

To illustrate, let's consider my own specialty, sports fishing in Florida. The most basic commodity here is water, both salt and fresh. We anglers compete for its use with agriculture, developers, miners, polters, industry, commercial fishing, flood control, and navigation; but as though this were not enough, we, also, compete with the day-to-day special needs of millions of people. This is multiple use within multiple use, wheels within wheels.

Florida's water now supports many other recreational groups other than sports fishing—boat racing, water skiing, skin and scuba diving, and fishing and spearfishing. As sports fishing was first on many of these waters, it is only natural that this angler takes a somewhat dim view of these new enthusiasts who demand and take as much water use as they can grab.

This is not a problem unique to Florida. All over the country, multiple use of available water resources should be cataloged, studied, and marked for recreational preferences by a qualified team made up of professionals of the various recreational uses.

I think a beginning should be made to regulate our water resources that the fullest recreational potential can be realized. We in Florida can now do this job in an atmosphere of comparative reason and deliberation. Later, we may be forced to such action in a climate of emotional excesses.

For Instance

As a sports fisherman, I resent the needless and sometimes deliberate interference by other members of the various recreational groups with our natural resources. It seems that way. Skin divers, fish speakers from both above and below the surface, boaters, developers, miners, and many, many more all compete for the same water use. Most of these groups are aware of these problems of mammoth proportions.

Michigan's famous trout streams, the Au Sable, the Big Manistee, and the Pere Marquette, are so full of camping canoeists racing down stream in large groups that a trout fisherman is in real danger of being trampled on any curve. The boating craze has filled many a small lake and stream with so many outboard craft that some states and communities have been forced to post laws to prevent mayhem.

The most ridiculous incident of this I've heard is in Iowa, where the boaters of a city launch their craft on a small lake close by. This lake is about one-half mile long by one-eighth mile wide. Hundreds of big boats take off here on every week end. To avoid complete chaos, regulations have been formed that insist all boats move in a clockwise direction. Slowest traffic takes the outer circle, with the water cut-ups and skiers on the inside track. Here is a perfect example of multiple use that defeats all but one use in practice. Such conditions can now be considered extreme in Florida, but how about five years from now? Want to bet?

While we sports fishermen concern ourselves with the problems presented by the other members of the multiple-use concept, it would be very wise to consider those water using groups within our own ranks. I think the time is now. I think our state's water potential should be catalogued, studied, and marked for recreational preferences by a qualified team made up of professionals of the various recreational uses.

I think a beginning should be made to regulate our water resources that the fullest recreational potential can be realized. We in Florida can now do this job in an atmosphere of comparative reason and deliberation. Later, we may be forced to such action in a climate of emotional excesses.

Whenever you see a listed name, remember these are the people who do this work.

(Continued on Page 34)
The King and Queen of Nepal, reigning at eight million subjects, and rifle-maker Roy Weatherby, watch a stock car race in a Weatherby rifle action.
The methods are many and varied, but one thought in common is that it’s fun to catch...

A MESS OF BREAM
By CHARLES WATERMAN

I’m writing about fishing, it’s pretty easy to throw something about your experiences in a distant area. This stuff is hard to dispute, especially if you pick a location so remote that few anglers have visited it.

It also shows the readers that you are a sophisticated character who has been around.

They California bream were pretty runty when compared to the Florida product but they struck with the same abandon. I’ve always said that if bass grew to 50 pounds and had teeth, all fresh-water fishing boats would mount machine guns and depth charges.

A bream will give battle to a braa plug much heavier than he is. His reasoning is difficult to follow because if he did kill something that big he’d need a deep-freezer to get any good out of it.

My own feeling is that a bream is sensitive about his size and has to prove how tough he is.

I first fished for bream in southeastern Kansas. When I hooked one I’d give him the old heave-ho with a catalpa pole and then run back into the boat.

I couldn’t catch any bass so I turned to bluegills. On the first cast, before the fly soaked up enough water to sink, I caught a bluegill. I caught another on the second cast and by then the fly was wet and fishy.

I decided I could afford a brief experiment in the interests of science so I went back to the wet flies.

That’s why I’m starting a Florida story on the Tomlunne River near LaGrange, Calif.

Bluegills are usually caught on fly rods, 4 pound line and one weights.

I put on a small black gnat Hy which I intended to fish slow and deep.

I couldn’t catch any bass so I turned to bluegills.

In the interests of science so I went back to the wet flies.

I pretended that I was fishing for bass but I finally gave up on it so the fish were not hard to drop out of the water.

About the bubbles. They...
last spinner and it floated with it's nose up like a Porte's Spindie. When Bob twitched it the little tail spinner would flick up and seven or eight bream would jump on it and try to kick it to death. It had tiny treble hooks and Bob would have him a bream before you could say "distracted."

Bob also had an under-water version that worked as well or better. We were fishing on the Tamiami Trail canal and the bream were thick that year. Bob could catch fifteen or 20 without moving his feet although they did run small. Once Bob threw the thing at a 20-pound snook and as far as I know the snook still has it.

The flyrod would catch a lot of bream but Bob had me whipped about five to one. I had seen other times when the flyrod was better but there has never been a day that I'd want to put any money against Bud's Bug. A lure like that is difficult to cast, having little weight and considerable air resistance. It requires the very lightest of spinning tackle. The lightest 6-foot rod you could buy and two or 3-pound test line would be best. With heavier tackle, you have to throw hard for your 20 or 30-foot cast. Bob is very accurate with it but he has a room full of trophies and I haven't. Probably you haven't either. You really need a rod even lighter than Bob's.

You'll notice I talk most of the time about surface fishing for bream. There are two reasons, the first being that it's more fun when you can see them come up and climb on. The other reason is that good bream fishing generally occurs in water that's filled with obstacles and deep-runners get hung up. Of course, the bream have something to say about it. Sometimes they're deep and stay deep.

When using spinning tackle on deep-lying fish, plain, old-fashioned spinner and fly combinations work well a foot or two behind a sinker. Small, wiggling plugs and spoons are often good although I like them worked very slowly. Probably a tiny jig is best of all the deep runners. In Florida, I've found the bottom-bouncing seldom pays off as well as near-surface fishing.

Last spring I was rowing the boat while two friends fished. One used spinning gear with a small jig and the other had a flyrod and small popping bug. Although both caught fish I don't recall the spinfisherman getting anything but speckled perch and all the fly caster caught were bream. One dead tree I remember produced three crappie for the jig and two bream for the bug.

I think the fish were lying on different depth levels. Although catching crappie on surface bugs isn't unusual, it's generally a poor way to get a mess of them — in Florida at least.

If you're going to spin for bream, using small plugs, be sure the hooks are small. Bream are repeat strikers and if they keep coming back they'll eventually get hooked on sharp little trebles. When he has up a full head of steam a bream will sometimes smack a lure from all four directions before giving up — but his mouth is small.

A hooked bream makes a short, circular run in most cases and giving him line is seldom necessary. In fact, it is usually disastrous when he's around snags and gets deep. That round-and-round digging can wind you up so badly that you have to break off. There's no use waiting for him to unwind himself. By that time, he's so pooped he has to give up. But then, any grade school Floridian knows that.

The most fun I ever had with bream came as a sort of coincidence. I acquired a very, very light bamboo flyrod a few months back. I wanted to use it on northern trout but didn't get to make the trip so I took it out to see how it worked and the patch of bonnet water I tried it on was still with bream. It was just a whisper of a 7-footer and was made for casting tiny dry flies. Instead, I put on a small popping bug, casting with great care so I wouldn't damage my treasure. Landing a bream in those bonnets on that rod was a harrowing experience because you couldn't set back on them hard enough to drag them out of the bonnets and you had to maneuver them through. Then, a 2-pound bonnet grabbed one of the little bugs and I didn't dare try to stop him in such close quarters. So I got out a moveable 7-foot glass rod and used the spinner only in more open areas.

There are two surface lures I consider top flyrod medicine for bream. One is the small popping bug and in Florida it's usually yellow. In fact, there are so many yellow lures used in Florida that a lot of fishermen here don't know how well something else would work.

Now this popping bug should have a concave nose so that it will give off a pretty healthy blip when desired. It's easier to make a bug that CAN make a lot of noise and work it silently than to try to get a plop out of a bug that was made silent in the first place.

(Continued from Page 39)
MONEY
IN THE
BIG CYPRESS

Photo Story
By MAX HUNN

Ed Stewart hopes he meets up with this wild turkey again under different circumstances. This trip, however, is strictly a release program.

Tagged Turkeys can mean dollars to some hunters when the fall shooting season opens

BIG CYPRESS HUNTERS can garner some real turkey money this hunting season if they bag any of the twenty wild turkeys released there recently by the Everglades Conservation and Sportsman's Club, whose headquarters are one-half mile south of the Tamiami Trail on the old Loop road near Monroe Station.

The club, which each year holds a two-day wild hog jamboree and barbecue to secure funds with which to carry on its conservation work, bought twenty wild, adult turkeys—nine gobblers and eleven hens—and released them north and south of the Tamiami Trail (U. S. 41) in wild country especially adapted to turkey breeding. The birds cost $350 by the time they were delivered to Monroe Station. After two members, J. W. Nipper and Dan Foley, made a 700-mile round trip in one day from Miami to Gainesville to Monroe Station, the club members staged a swamp buggy safari and aided by two members of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Jim Powell, wildlife biologist from Lantana, and Richard McClelland, wildlife specialist from Avon Park, carried the future dinners to their new homes.

The Commission representatives checked the birds to make certain they were healthy and had no fowl pox, and then banded each one. By knowing the exact area of the release, the biologists will be able to determine the life of the birds, their cruising radius, their ability to reproduce and the success of the bird release.

In order to collect this data, the biologists will need to obtain the bands from all turkeys killed, and to facilitate this the Everglades Conservation Club is offering $10 for each band turned in to the Commission biologists or to the Club, which in turn will forward the band to the Commission. Hunters are asked to watch for any of the following twenty numbers which were assigned to these birds: 2298, 2312, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 6076, 6077, 6078, 6079, 6080, 6081, 6082, 6083 and 6084. These $10 bonus numbers will be found on the aluminum band on one leg of the turkey.

Club members making the wild turkey safari included Cal Stone, Ed Stewart, president; Dan Foley, Nolan "Bud" Popenhager, Jack Swiger and A. F. Keys. The safari took an entire day of hard cypress country driving, but the club members are confident the project is well worth the time, effort and money involved.
The lifelike mounts by this Florida taxidermist can be found in every state in the union plus several foreign countries

**The look alove**

*By EDMUND MCLAURIN*

It was the obvious quality of his work that initially attracted my attention. I saw it first in Miami, then successively admired it in Ocala, Brooksville, Silver Springs, Palmdale and Tallahassee.

The examples of mention represented the best taxidermy work I had ever seen. Inquirers as to the name of the taxidermist brought the same basic answer, "Self of Orange Lake, Florida." I determined to look up the talented taxidermist the next time I was in his locality.

Recently, I got that chance. At Orange Lake, 16 miles north of Ocala, I swung the car east off Florida highway No. 441 and drove 1/4 of a city block to find one of Florida's finest free attractions.

"E. H. Self—Taxidermist" said a modest, well-executed sign in front of a modest, modern single-story building. I parked the car and walked into a world of wonders, to meet a remarkable man and see a studio display of more than 500 of the finest game mountings to be found anywhere.

In addition to the attractive and orderly arrangement of countless astonishingly lifelike mounts, the air was noticeably clean and dry, in marked contrast to the obnoxious odors so often associated with such establishments.

The display's completeness, together with its arrangement and lighting in a pane-panneled room, sells Self's taxidermy services with out any supplementary effort on his part. . . .

No matter what type of mount a prospect may have in mind, he can invariably find in Self the variety of specimens kept on display. . . .

At the other extreme, his smallest mountings have been a ruby-throated hummingbird and a quarter of mice. Between such tiny specimens and full size bear, nothing stymies him, judging by the variety of mountings in his studio.

Finished work is shipped to customers by express, with each mounted specimen well-puddled and properly crated. Consequently, losses and customer dissatisfaction from transit damage have been slight.

Besides block-and-tackle class game kills, Self also declines to mount doomed pets. His advice is that the cost be used to acquire a live successor. He bases his suggestion on the fact that, once mounted, a beloved pet becomes a fixed pose object, and—no matter how lifelike in appearance—is a constant reminder and sponsor of one's loss and grief.

Self sells ready-made game mounts to luckless individuals and those who do not hunt or fish, but who desire mountings to decorate business offices and home hobby rooms. A poor shot can let his pocketbook do what he cannot.

The Orange Lake man is always in the market for skins of game specimens of impressive size or coloration, for either his studio or open market sale. However, he wants only unusual or large specimens. He will, for instance, buy a freshwater black bass skin taken from a fish weighing less than ten pounds.

Many Florida residents know of Self's interest in unusual game-kills specimens, and advise him of such occurrences. Occasionally, however, he misses out on what might be a really desirable mounting simply because the person making contact does not furnish sufficient or accurate information. One Florida man sent word he had "caught a big mac-casian in a bobcat trap" set in the woods near McIntosh. For some reason, Self didn't immediately follow up the lead. Later, he disappointedly learned the big snake had weighed-in at 32 pounds and was some six feet long, the largest macassian Self has ever known to be authentic. He was more fortunate, however, in making contact with a fisherman who had caught a big gar. The fish weighed 4 1/2 pounds and was the largest of its kind that Self has ever seen. The mounting is currently in his studio display.

As might be expected, he and nature-loving neighbor Ross Allen are good friends. Ross has given Self a number of deceased monkeys, lizards and snakes. Satisfied customers have also remembered the Orange Lake man when in other lands. Once some scientist friends sent him an iguana from South America.

Self is obviously a calm, unhurried man by nature—but his equanimity received something of a jolt when a man and his boy visited his workshop just after he had finished skinning out a rattle snake. When the two adults talked, the boy sat comfortably on a bench stool. A minute or two later, Self had the shock of his life. The younger calmly picked his teeth with one of the freshly-extracted snake fangs.

On another occasion, a kid of Cub Scout age visited the Self studio (Continued on Next Page)

**Florida Wildlife**

AUGUST, 1960
Flask trophies require careful skull-paring and chemical treatment by the taxidermist.

Any angler would be happy to catch a trophy fish like these hanging in Self's studio.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

************

**AUGUST, 1960**

**John Doe**

**Continued from Page 38**

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

studio with his Dad, there to place an order for work. The boy was especially impressed by a mounted Florida wildlife snarling dài¬

ately at hunters and dogs. Suddenly, the boy grabbed up the bobcat, tucked it under one arm, opened the door, calling back over his shoulder, "You pay for it, Daddy! Pay for it!"

Unfortunately, for the youngster, his hopes were dashed. Dad failed to financially underwrite or even appreciate the humor of the situation.

Adults have done some surprising things, too, Self says. . .

A couple of days before April 15th last, Mr. and Mrs. Self noted a man driving past their home repeatedly. He would slowly drive past, look keenly, then return to repeat his display of seeking something or someone. Finally, he stopped his car and came to the door. When Mr. Self answered his ring, he blurted, "I'm sure glad I found this place! I want you to make up my income tax report!" . . . He had confused the sign "Taxidermists" with income tax service.

Another time, a local practical joker was showing community visi¬
tors the hundreds of lifelike speci¬mens in Self's studio exhibit. It so chanced that, for added artistic ef¬fect, a lighted bowl of live goldfish was being kept in the tight space next to the taxidermy jobs Mr. Self has ever done. Notice how the fish ap¬

... to be swimming in the bowl.

But poisonous snakes delivered alive and buzzing can also be a headache to a taxidermist. Once Self received a live delivery of a big Western timber rattler possessing a beautiful skin and 20 rattles. He covered the shipper container tightly and pumped in the fumes of a quart of ether to mercifully dis¬

patch the snake for processing. The attempt resulted only in making the rattler madder than ever! Finally, Self accomplished the job by pour¬

ing a pint of chloroform almost in the youngster's face.

Meat or trophy—which do you really want? . . . Self sadly tells how the average sportsman will "keep his kill lie in the back of a car, has caught and wanted to mount anything yet!"—approached Self in much the same vein. "In this instance, the boy had accepted orders from nine different hunters for mounting deer heads. He wanted Self to do the work for him on a sub-contract basis. Unfortunately, the youth's complete lack of knowledge of basic taxidermy fundamentals had already resulted in the trophies achieving a ruined state, beyond Self's hope and ability to salvage."

There are also customers who ask for "early delivery," yet wait months after a job is ready before picking it up. However, one girl brought Self a three pound bass she had caught and wanted to "pack it around the studio," oblivious of the fact that it takes at least 8 to 10 weeks to properly prepare a mount.

With a few notable exceptions, wives generally take a dim view of the taxidermist, the hunter was highly indignant because Self de¬

clined to attempt a mounting. He simply would not accept Self's hon¬

est diagnosis that the bear's skin was worthless because of the hair having loosened from the unprocessed skin. Even when a test tug resulted in a handful of fur coming loose in his hand, the hunter was still uncom¬

vinced.

Actually, no animal loses its hair faster after death and first stages of decomposition than a bear. Bear kills, therefore, should be given to the taxidermist for processing as soon as possible. Professional guides, as a group, usually know how to properly skin out a bear kill and take care of the skin prior to deliv¬

er to the taxidermist. It is the meat¬
curious hunter or careless skinner who usually ruins the trophy.

Self deposes the trade situation created by inexperienced holders of correspondence course taxidermy di¬

"The first fuzz of adolescence is simply would not accept Self's hon¬

est diagnosis that the bear's skin was worthless because of the hair having loosened from the unprocessed skin. Even when a test tug resulted in a handful of fur coming loose in his hand, the hunter was still uncom¬

vinced.

Actually, no animal loses its hair faster after death and first stages of decomposition than a bear. Bear kills, therefore, should be given to the taxidermist for processing as soon as possible. Professional guides, as a group, usually know how to properly skin out a bear kill and take care of the skin prior to deliv¬

er to the taxidermist. It is the meat¬
curious hunter or careless skinner who usually ruins the trophy.

Self deposes the trade situation created by inexperienced holders of correspondence course taxidermy di¬

plomas . . . Recently, a young boy, with the first fuzz of adoles¬
cence just beginning to show on his chin, visited Self's studio and told the Orange Lake man he too, wanted to become a taxidermist. In substantive, he opened his billfold and shoved a fan¬

cas lay in the truck in the sun for another two days.

When he finally delivered his kill to the taxidermist, the hunter was . . .

AUGUST, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

(Continued from preceding page)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1960

**Continued from Page 38**

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

**Continued from Page 38**

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
HE CHILL SPRING RAIN continued to splatter dismally against our small two-man tent. My fishing buddy and I could hear it drumming against the stout canvas, seeking an opening that wasn't there. A sea of mud was forming in the small clearing before us at the bottom of the slope.

Inside, the little tent was snug and warm. A small one-burner gasoline cooking stove, brought along purposely to serve as an open-flame heater in unpredictable weather like this, was doing its job well. And there were two comfortable camp cots, each equipped with an inviting down-filled sleeping bag ideally suited for drowsy relaxation during such a blustery, gas-burner-able weather.

We had an ample supply of dry wood for the fire—but only because my partner and I had quickly gathered it when the storm first threatened, throwing it under our station wagon where it wouldn't get soaked. Later, we'd parked their wagon parallel to ours, leaving suitable space between for the "dining room" we now used—formed by their once-gaudy tent which was now stretched unceremoniously over both vehicles.

Toni; one man would sleep inside each station wagon while the third used this shelter. The young mother and her children would use our snug tent. As you read this it is summer, time to get out-of-doors and out into the wild green yonder to recharge your battery before it gets too hot, or the insects become too bad.

But where to go? Are there any good places left?

As we reflect on the recent wettest year on record, the New Jersey deer camps to produce steaming platters of fried eggs, ham, peppered diced potatoes, tasty mugs of java. Believe me, it makes Mother feel awfully good to sack out on our boat, perhaps, or beside a woodland stream, 

It was true. We had found the couple setting up camp when we returned from a fishing trip that morning. The weather was sunny then and they had purposely driven their station wagon onto the hilly, roadless shore of the lake to invade our privacy. Nevertheless, seeing that he was loaded—with only his wife and kids to help—we'd sauntered over to the man.

He'd promptly refused our assistance. He wasn't a belligerent guy, merely cocky with the cockiness that often comes from being able to afford the best. His brand-new tent with its brilliant colors and sweeping angles resembled the sail you'd expect to find on some Arabian show in the Mediterranean. "A wind trap if ever I saw one," was my companion's comment as we prepared lunch. "Not only that, look where he's erecting it. It'll probably rain later today and he'll be washed out down there—he'll catch all the drainage from this slope."

Our uninvited neighbor was making no effort to dig a protective drainage trench about their shelter. And he was securing the multidinous tie-down ropes of the wing tent in a haphazard manner that likewise shouted "amateur."

Little wonder, therefore, that the well-intentioned camping outing of this young family came to grief. Darkness had fallen before the rain stopped. It was a sorry mess that greeted the wife's eyes when we got a cheerful bonfire going and she could inspect the litter of their ruined camp. It would require days for her to clean up the gear. Quite a bit—toodles, particularly—was ruined.

Later, as they gratefully shared with us the good hot supper we'd prepared for them and their children, the young couple sheepishly admitted they knew little about camping. Warm and dry now, the kids had stopped crying and their appreciative mother pointed out to her husband the little signs of woodsmanship evident on all sides, even in this hastily salvaged camp—that now made it possible for us to be reasonably comfortable, despite what had happened.

One trick which successful campers soon learn is to load the boat, if there is one, instead of the car. Boot trailer should be purchased with this extra weight in mind, tent back up and a fire going to dry their equipment out.

"But what turns me is how a guy like that will take his family camping without knowing the first thing about it. Why couldn't he have familiarized himself with his gear first?"

It was true. We had found the couple setting up camp when we returned from a fishing trip that morning. The weather was sunny then and they had purposely driven their station wagon onto the hilly, roadless shore of the lake to invade our privacy. Nevertheless, seeing that he was loaded—with only his wife and kids to help—we'd sauntered over to the man.

He'd promptly refused our assistance. He wasn't a belligerent guy, merely cocky with the cockiness that often comes from being able to afford the best. His brand-new tent with its brilliant colors and sweeping angles resembled the sail you'd expect to find on some Arabian show in the Mediterranean. "A wind trap if ever I saw one," was my companion's comment as we prepared lunch. "Not only that, look where he's erecting it. It'll probably rain later today and he'll be washed out down there—he'll catch all the drainage from this slope."

Our uninvited neighbor was making no effort to dig a protective drainage trench about their shelter. And he was securing the multidinous tie-down ropes of the wing tent in a haphazard manner that likewise shouted "amateur."

Little wonder, therefore, that the well-intentioned camping outing of this young family came to grief. Darkness had fallen before the rain stopped. It was a sorry mess that greeted the wife's eyes when we got a cheerful bonfire going and she could inspect the litter of their ruined camp. It would require days for her to clean up the gear. Quite a bit—toodles, particularly—was ruined.

Later, as they gratefully shared with us the good hot supper we'd prepared for them and their children, the young couple sheepishly admitted they knew little about camping. Warm and dry now, the kids had stopped crying and their appreciative mother pointed out to her husband the little signs of woodsmanship evident on all sides, even in this hastily salvaged camp—that now made it possible for us to be reasonably comfortable, despite what had happened.

One trick which successful campers soon learn is to load the boat, if there is one, instead of the car. Boot trailer should be purchased with this extra weight in mind.
It is to the credit of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission that 35 boat launching ramps have been constructed by its Fisheries Division crews on the shores of 21 bodies of water in 19 counties this past year— with even more planned. Heretofore, particularly in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties in south Florida, some of the State's finest Everglades fishing and recreational areas remained beyond reach of small craft owners, there being no suitable launching sites. This writer would like to see public camping areas established about the shores of 450,000-acre Lake Okeechobee. Because there are none at present it is doubtful that more than 5 percent of Florida's 6 million annual tourists enjoy fishing, water skiing or other aquatic recreation at this second largest body of fresh water wholly within the U.S.

One of the biggest mistakes made by campers today is that they bring too much with them, especially food. (Don't skimp on the drinking water you bring; however, unless you are certain you'll find plenty where you're going. Even then, it's always easier on the system to drink water you're "used to." I've yet to meet a Florida camper who was hungry because he ran out of food. But I've seen many who needlessly overloaded their cars, then had to lug it home again (that hadn't spoiled).)

Bring only the essentials. And select these so they require a minimum of room and can be easily prepared. This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

The last time we camped at this site (last fall) my family loved it: the great burning Gulf sunsets; the beach; the surf or trolling across the Gulf; there were fish to be caught — facing the beach. There were many schools of porpoises that chased the fish. The last summer I was able to carry practically all our camping gear—ice chest, extra water, fresh water wholly within the U.S., sleeping bags, tents, oil, etc., and outboard motor, we are able to carry practically all of south-central Florida is the Everglades National Park. Neverthe­less, this collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.

This collapsible camp kitchen affords many of the conveniences of the home kitchen. Behind the cook (author's wife) is 5-gallon fresh water tank, and behind the stove is a portable ice box.
SOUTH FLORIDA'S WORM HUNTERS

By JAMES MONK

Most roads are planned with the idea of going somewhere.

Even those vague settlement roads which snake through Southern woodlands usually wind up at some remote farm house or furnish a needed short-cut between more-traveled highways.

But far down in Florida's Everglades country, at the extreme tip of the state and far removed from any trace of civilization, there are roads with a history more strange than that of the Appian Way or the ancient Inca post roads. They do not go anywhere in particular. There was no intent that they reach a simple goal. Their only reason for existence is the search for little pink worms!

Just so that he can raise a good crop of cotton. He would no doubt laugh at the idea as too preposterous for consideration—but, again, that is the fact.

It all began a generation or so ago when an experimental plot of cotton was planted at the Introduction Garden at Chapman Field, near Miami, with the usual scientific curiosity as to how it would fare in that almost winterless land normally below the frost line. It fared well—even better than expected—flourishing mightily in the sub-tropical sun, producing a heavy crop of bolls which was most encouraging to the government men in charge of the project. But then came distressing news: When a sample of the new bolls was sent to Washington for study over half of them were found to be infested with strange little pink worms. As a result, the cotton was completely worthless, its fibers being cut and damaged to such an extent that no possible commercial use could be made of it.

The Department of Agriculture had met this pest several years earlier in the vast cotton lands of Texas, down near the Mexican border, and already there was a program under way to fight it. But this was an even greater menace: the southern states at that time were almost totally dependent on cotton—it was the crop of the section. Only a few more adventurous souls were beginning to branch out into more diversified farming. It was painfully obvious that if these worms ever reached the main cotton-producing areas they could play havoc with the very livelihood of the majority of the farmers in the cotton belt. It could be even worse than the boll-weevil plague of a few years earlier. Something, then, had to be done.

And that something had to be done quickly—for while the problem was yet in the preliminary study stages there came reports from the southern counties of Georgia that the worms were being found there. There was no time to lose. It was already well known that the boll worm (the larva of a small white miller moth) lived in wild cotton stands, and it was also known that there was an abundance of this plant along the lower tip of the Florida peninsula. It was only necessary, then, to remove this plant to eliminate the source of the infestation.

It sounded simple. But as it turned out it has been far from simple, and now has every indication of being a permanent problem, not to be solved by any single expedition. The worm hunters have been about their work for almost thirty years, and the end is not even in sight.

To begin with, the semi-tropical jungles of the Florida Bay region are unlike other forests in the nation. They are dense, lush masses of low trees and shrubs, laced together with vines, which might almost be called impenetrable. A way must be cut with machetes or brush-hooks before a man can ever enter them without tremendous exertions. There one might find poison-wood in abundance, giant cacti of several sorts, poison ivy and poison oak, and even an occasional manchineel—that most deadly of all North American plants. And snakes—all that not swarming all over the place as the imagination of most people pictures them—are numerous enough to be bothersome: in one season over a thousand were killed in the Cape Sable area alone.

Scouts were sent into the jungles, and what they (Continued on Next Page)
The earliest phase of the work was done in the region around Cape Sable, where the concentration of worms appeared heaviest. Boys of the C.C.C. supplied most of the labor during those early days, but soon special crews were recruited and trained, and this plan has been continued to the present time. Each year when the rains are over and the ground begins to dry, a base camp is pitched near Flamingo, serving as headquarters for the battle. Trucks loaded with men fan out over the coastal plains, following precise and definite procedures. Boats are available to reach those remote stands still not accessible by roads, and during the current year even helicopters have been pressed into service to enter those out-of-the-way spots beyond reach in any other way. Each previously marked section is yet further subdivided by the use of heavy cords which are run directly into the jungles, furnishing base lines for the axe-and-machete men.

One of the workers has estimated that the project has already used more than one thousand miles of cord for this purpose. During the earlier years of the great worm hunt cotton plants were removed and burned in unbelievable numbers. Almost three million in one year marked the peak, which has been reduced to a current figure of less than thirty thousand per year. But this apparent improvement does not mean that the war is over. Far from it. For sections completely free of wild cotton one year may be found full of it a few years later—the seeds are remarkably long-lived, having been known after being dormant for ten years or more. And, wherever the cotton reappears, the little worms soon follow. The small moth which is the cause of the trouble has only limited powers of flight, but is carried by the wind from distant places, perhaps even as far away as Mexico. Specimens have been found by planes flying at thirty thousand feet, many miles out at sea. Such counts are made of the moth every year, starting at the lower end of the state. They reach a maximum, perhaps in fifty, sixty or even one hundred, in late summer or fall months, after rains.

Surveyors' work is a perennial which continues to grow for many years, sometimes becoming almost laiana-like, but often reaching tree proportions of unbelievable size. The wood is hard, white, and close-grained, and 'logs' six inches or more in diameter were not at all uncommon in those early days of the work. And, the worm hunters discovered to their dismay, most of these millions of wild cotton plants were infested. Like generals plotting a gigantic campaign into enemy territory, experts from the Department of Agriculture planned their work with meticulous detail. Large-scale maps were prepared, areas were divided and subdivided into workable sections, and labor forces recruited. But before much could be accomplished the wilderness had to be opened up enough to make its interior accessible. This required some sort of roads.

Surveyors' went on foot through the forests and prairies, marking the routes for the access roads, keeping always to the high ground (meaning, in this low country, any land more than three or four feet above sea level.) Work gangs, armed with machetes, followed along behind the surveyors to remove the heaviest growth, leaving the actual "construction" to the heavy trucks which pounded down the weeds and low brush by the sheer weight of their wheels. The grayish-white marl, soft and sticky though it may be during the wet seasons, dries hard and solid during the winter months, furnishing a road-bed almost as satisfactory as concrete. The labor camp for wild cotton eradicator workers at Cape Sable

(Continued from Preceding Page)
Florida's major types of vegetation include flatwoods, pine-oak uplands, swamps, hammocks, sand pine-scrub oak ridges, fresh water marshes and prairies. The greatest variety of deer food plants is generally found where a mixture of these major vegetation types occur. Swamps and hammocks contain the largest variety of woody plants for deer browsing.

Large trees, with a heavy canopy overhead, and a scarcity of ground cover foods and shrubs below, provide inferior deer range.

How Does Range Quality Affect Deer?

Deer on good range gain weight quicker, weigh more, have more young, and have greater vitality than deer on a poor range. When you have a poor range, with no deer on it, and then take deer from a good range and place them on the poor range, their young when grown, will weigh less than the parents.

What Limits Size of the Herd?

1. Poor range. Poor cover and food.
2. Disease. This may be a severe limiting factor under certain conditions.
3. Range overstocked with cattle.
4. Illegal hunting.
5. Size of the area.
6. Harmful land-use practices. An example of a harmful practice is the complete eradication of oaks to produce pine, and the complete clearing off of land to grow pine.
7. Indiscriminate running of deer by dogs. Particularly harmful when does are nearly ready to drop their fawn.

What Benefits the Deer Herd?

1. Selective pulpwood and timber cutting increases shrubbery vegetation and sprouting—providing more deer food.
2. Control burning increases phosphoric acid in soil and protein content of plants—for a limited period.
3. Proper harvest of the deer herd—to prevent over-population. On Florida ranges, it is safe and desirable to harvest 20 percent of the animals each year, provided both sexes and all age groups are taken. Under the present five-inch antler law, approximately 10 percent of the animals are legally harvested.
4. Reduction of illegal kill. Heavy illegal killing of deer may prevent a deer herd from increasing to the maximum carrying capacity of the range.
5. Adequate, but simple, hunting regulations.
6. Fencing off natural food plot areas. Fencing small acreages which contain preferred deer foods (such as found in bayheads and hammocks) will reduce cattle competition which often becomes severe during winter months.

What About Breeding Seasons?

In Florida, fawn deer are seen every month of the year; however, such sightings may be the exception during certain times of the year. The following information on breeding seasons and fawning periods includes only the peak months:

North Florida—Breeding season is October, November, December. Fawn drop in May, June and July.

Central Florida—Breeding season is September, October, November. Fawn drop in April, May and June.

South Florida—Breeding season is August, September, October. Fawn drop in February, March and April.

What About Doe Deer?

Doe deer on good range—abundant nutritious, palatable food—are capable of breeding when they are nine months old. However, under Florida conditions the doe is generally one and a half years old at first breeding; unless she is on very poor range. On very poor range, the doe may be two or three years old before breeding the first time.

On excellent range, does produce one fawn the first year, and thereafter, generally produce twins and occasionally even triplets. On poor range does seldom produce twins.

The gestation period (pregnancy) of a doe deer lasts from 190 to 200 days.

What Causes Barren Does?

Doe deer do not become barren because of old age. They become barren due to injury, disease, poor food, or are infertile from birth. Doe deer on excellent range are known to live over 14 years, and to produce fawns every year.

How Many Does to a Buck?

Under experimental conditions, it was found that one buck could serve as many as 17 does. All 17 does gave birth to normal fawns. It is unlikely however, that a buck in the wilderness could control this many receptive doe deer. The buck-to-doe ratio in Florida generally runs between three and four adult doe for every adult buck.

Is Inbreeding Bad?

Inbreeding is not a problem in our deer herds. On poor range, both the parents and the young will be small, but this is the result of poor food and not because of inbreeding.

What is a Wisconsin Deer?

White-tailed deer from Wisconsin have been imported into Florida in the past and are now referred to as “Wisconsin” deer. A deer from a poor range in Wisconsin will not be any larger, and may be smaller, than a native Florida deer from a good range. Yearling bucks from a poor range may weigh 30 pounds less than a yearling buck from a good range. With older bucks, the difference in size may be as much as 50 pounds.

Does Crossing Increase Size?

The release of Wisconsin deer in the range of our native deer has not increased the size of the Florida deer. Through generations Mother Nature has decreed that the size of our native deer is best suited for the food and other conditions found in Florida.

How Can We Increase Size?

Where an over-population of deer is found you can increase the size of the animals by regulating the number of deer to correspond with the food supply. When there are more deer than food, the deer are smaller. The best way to reduce an over-population of deer is by shooting the harvestable surplus.

Do Food Plots Solve Anything?

When an area is over-populated with deer, artificial food plots do not solve the problem. It would take a tremendous number of food plots and considerable expense to provide enough of adequate nutritional value to sustain any over-populated deer. After the food plots were put in, the deer herd would (Continued on Next Page)
Do Deer Eat Grass?

Grass is not an important deer food. They do eat grass, but it is less than one percent of a deer's winter diet. Deer are browsing animals, not grazing animals. They prefer shrubs and bushes instead of grass species.

When Do Bucks Shed Antlers?

Buck deer shed their antlers after the breeding season has passed. Generally, Florida buck deer begin shedding their antlers as follows: North Florida—Begin shedding in January. Central Florida—Begin shedding in December. South Florida—Begin shedding in November.

Florida white-tailed buck deer shed their antlers every year. On rare occasions, a buck may lose his antlers to disease or both. On very poor range, it is possible to have 50 percent of the 18-month-old bucks with antlers less than five inches long. (A six-year-old buck killed on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area—1959 archery hunt—had only 2½-inch antler spikes.)

Do Points Age a Buck?

Number of antler points on a buck is no indication of age. An 18-month-old buck on good range may have ten points, while the same-aged buck on poor range may not have any antlers. Age for age, the best antlers are grown by the best-fed bucks. On very poor range, it is possible to have 50 percent of the 18-month-old bucks with antlers less than five inches long. (A six-year-old buck killed on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area—1959 archery hunt—had only 2½-inch antler spikes.)

Do Deer Move Far?

No. Studies made by trapping and re-trapping marked deer show that the average daily range (under normal conditions) is about one-half mile, and the annual range is about two miles.

Can You Tell Bucks by Tracks?

Identifying bucks from does by their tracks is a 50-50 chance. If this was a reliable method, even 80 percent of the time, we could use it as a method of determining sex ratios. We can't do so.

Is the Deer Herd Increasing?

Yes, statewide. Some local areas have undoubtedly reached their maximum potential. But census methods and analysis of kill data indicates an upward trend in deer population over most areas of Florida.

What is the Economic Importance?

Florida deer number from 115,000 to 130,000. Our sixty thousand deer hunters spend a total of $42,000,000 days hunting deer, and they harvest from 11,000 to 14,000 during the annual hunting season. The hunters spend over $2,500,000 hunting deer each year. The meat from a harvest of 14,000 deer would have a value of $175 per pound, or $2,625,000. On the average, each hunter spends almost six days per season hunting deer. Our Florida deer are very valuable game animals, both financially and aesthetically.

Do Deer Eat Hay?

Very little. Even when deer are starving to death, they merely bed down in the hay. However, deer in captivity can learn to eat some types of hay.

How Much Food Do Deer Eat?

On superior food, deer do well on two pounds of air-dry food per day per hundred pounds of deer body weight. On most Florida deer range, the deer probably need to eat between five and eight pounds of food per day.

Do Deer Eat Grass?

Grass is not an important deer food. They do eat grass, but it is less than one percent of a deer's winter diet. Deer are browsing animals, not grazing animals. They prefer shrubs and bushes instead of grass species.

When Do Bucks Shed Antlers?

Buck deer shed their antlers after the breeding season has passed. Generally, Florida buck deer begin shedding their antlers as follows: North Florida—Begin shedding in January. Central Florida—Begin shedding in December. South Florida—Begin shedding in November. Florida white-tailed buck deer shed their antlers every year. On rare occasions, a buck may lose his antlers to disease or both. On very poor range, it is possible to have 50 percent of the 18-month-old bucks with antlers less than five inches long. (A six-year-old buck killed on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area—1959 archery hunt—had only 2½-inch antler spikes.)

Do Points Age a Buck?

Number of antler points on a buck is no indication of age. An 18-month-old buck on good range may have ten points, while the same-aged buck on poor range may not have any antlers. Age for age, the best antlers are grown by the best-fed bucks. On very poor range, it is possible to have 50 percent of the 18-month-old bucks with antlers less than five inches long. (A six-year-old buck killed on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area—1959 archery hunt—had only 2½-inch antler spikes.)

How Are Deer Aged?

By the development of their teeth. Also by the wear of the teeth.

Do Deer Move Far?

No. Studies made by trapping and re-trapping marked deer show that the average daily range (under normal conditions) is about one-half mile, and the annual range is about two miles.

Can You Tell Bucks by Tracks?

Identifying bucks from does by their tracks is a 50-50 chance. If this was a reliable method, even 80 percent of the time, we could use it as a method of determining sex ratios. We can't do so.

Is the Deer Herd Increasing?

Yes, statewide. Some local areas have undoubtedly reached their maximum potential. But census methods and analysis of kill data indicates an upward trend in deer population over most areas of Florida.

What is the Economic Importance?

Florida deer number from 115,000 to 130,000. Our sixty thousand deer hunters spend a total of $42,000,000 days hunting deer, and they harvest from 11,000 to 14,000 during the annual hunting season. The hunters spend over $2,500,000 hunting deer each year. The meat from a harvest of 14,000 deer would have a value of $175 per pound, or $2,625,000. On the average, each hunter spends almost six days per season hunting deer. Our Florida deer are very valuable game animals, both financially and aesthetically.
typical light plumaged race be
feathering of the upper parts of this
differentiated from the others so
recognized.

yellowish green
bird is typically gray with a dull
scientifically identified as Ammos­
sufficient that a dark race and a
represented in Florida by no less than six
Ammo,pi,m maritima.

Each race is clearly enough
in separating them. For

and brownish
nest may
of dried stems of marsh
western tip of the peninsula.

make up a major portion of the
diet. Some vegetable material,
and brownish
vicinity of Cape Sable at the south­
which we have, aimed at the best of
its potential for all. To me,
user

ability, and sound ecological and socio­

user

a compromise

many,

or blackish with edgings of light

feathered

as

races are

of c1arm -.. amt

plumage is light gray with streaks
of darker gray and dull yel­

ow.
The Dusky Seaside Sparrow, A,

mgmza, is about the same size
which is frag­
ing around 6 inches in total length.

upper plumage is dark brown on

plumage underparts are

are heavily marked with black. The
lores are bright yellow. The yellow

shiner bill also bend of the
wing is conspicuous as a yellow line
when the wings are folded.

As the name of this group indi­
cates,

Sparrrow are birds of the salt waters fringes along

nests are typically constructed

Animal matter of various sorts,

fed, or attached to the stems of marsh

As the name of this group indi­
cates,

Sparrrow are birds of the salt waters fringes along

nests are typically constructed

Animal matter of various sorts,

fed, or attached to the stems of marsh

As the name of this group indi­
cates,

Sparrrow are birds of the salt waters fringes along

nests are typically constructed

Animal matter of various sorts,
A. W. Jorgensen, Wisconsin Conservation Dept.: Secretary-Treasurer, James Redel, Missouri Conservation Commission.


FLORIDA CLUB NEWS
(Continued from Page 7)

end. It augurs well for the future of the conservation movement in Florida.

The Florida Audubon Society, inspired by Charles L. Broley, well-known as the "eagle man," has been engaged in eagle surveys since 1958. At the 1958 annual meeting he spoke on the needs of the bald eagle in Florida. At the 1960 annual meeting the Florida Society appointed Mrs. Virginia Williarson (now Mrs. Wilbur S. Forrest) of Stuart, chairman of its eagle project. The national society has similarly been engaged through its staff member, Richard Cunningham of Miami.

Wading bird studies were instituted by the Florida Society in 1957. Extensive studies were carried out in the spring and summer of that year and in the fall Governor LeRoy Collins requested the society to appoint a wildlife committee to carry on the work and to make recommendations to him. The results to date have included extensive surveys of the wading bird nesting and roosting rookeries and feeding grounds, the acquisition of more than 20 sanctuaries, primarily for herons, egrets and ibises, and the establishment of a 3-year research program at the University of Florida. The national organization has been conducting wading bird research for many years in Florida, chiefly under the direction of Robert P. Allen of Tewerter.
THEY LOOK ALIVE
(Continued from Page 21)
keeping and correspondence. Every job order requires from three to five separate mailings before the transac-
tion is history. A few customers— some of whom can only afford to pay at any price—will annoyingly change their minds several times be-
fore a job is finished, and write in requesting successively cheaper styles of mountings...

An enthusiastic fisherman, self both catches and mounts personal trophies. A 13 pound, 9 ounce, largemouth bass fished from the waters of Orange Lake, is one such mounting.

At least once or twice a year, es-
pecially when salifish are reportedly taking place, most of the outdoor-enthused City and charter a boat for an off-
shore cruise. What makes the trips practically perfect for him is that he can strikingly process and mount his

best fish without the time loss factor that can affect trophy quality, and at modest personal cost.

But one thing sure! Whether he does taxidermy work for himself or for us, he makes "em look alive.

CAMPING TRICKS
(Continued from Page 25)
3½ cubic foot storage space for bread, other foodstuffs; a 20 x 34 inch aluminum work shelf on
bread, other foodstuffs; a 20 x 34 inch aluminum work shelf on

barnum is centered about a subject I don't understand,

Don't forget the matches; the white

spoon in very small sizes. It's sim-

ilar to a chrome or brass wrapping

spoon with a little slingshot of backtack, sprouting out from the hook. Joe Coughlin makes it of such stuff that it works on a flyrod. As the same model used for shad trolling and road bass fishing. Fished deep, it's also a fine item for bass.

South Bend's Tri-Optic in fly-

rod size is another bream getter and you can buy one at any flyshop. The new

model of the Super Duper on a flyrod but Super Duper's work better with span

flies. Reel in Liz is another little shiny item that works. Very

small pink rod strips are good at times as are rubber imitations.

There are a lot of theories about

finding bream and "bream beds." Anyone who is not a complete ten-
derfoot is supposed to search for "bream beds." Please don't let this get any further but I have sniffed a lot of rivers and quite a few lakes and have never smelled bream "on the beds." Of course, it may be my own olfactory nerve is a bit dull, may be I don't know what a few thousand bedding bream smell like; it may be that my fishing clothes don't smell too good and maybe I couldn't quite get through to the bream. Anyway, if you want someone to
sniff out a mess of bream for you, I can lead you to people who can. I am not making a business. I know of this bream smelling business. I know they do it. They Do Not. Me.

When not "on the beds" bream choose pretty much the same hang-

outs as bass. They're seldom found far from shade during hot days but they can live in mighty warm water. Old stumps, piling, brush piles and undercut banks are good bets. Many bream are caught in haycists-

culled waters by people who simply fish with bait through small holes in the "jams." Bonnet areas are often excellent.

In any event, bream usually strike best during the late evening and early morning—even in cool weather.

Not many people see morning fishing because the angler who gets on the water at

(Continued on Next Page)
I found a concentration that way. Legal limits on bream are usually set high enough to suit almost anyone, but, often as not, the matter of harvesting the crop becomes a problem. It takes only a year or two for the fish to get too thick in some areas resulting in stunted little fellows who are so thick they may crowd out the bass and aren't worth fishing for themselves. Fish management people may have to prison or seize them out and start over.

"Brim balance" is one of the hard ones for Mother Nature to maintain, but at any rate it will take a lot more fishermen fishing with both hands to cause any danger of a scarcity.

There one may still find wildcats, coons, otters, deer—even an occasional panther—as well as flora unique and unsurpassed in this country.

Most of the area involved is within the boundaries of the Everglades National Park, where hunting is not permitted; nor are automobiles allowed on those roads, for they are only narrow one-way tracks, often treacherous after a rain. But: The Wilderness is there, available, for any man with eyes to see, a camera to record what he finds, and that indispensable spirit of adventure and yearning for far places.

The search for pink boll worms continued, brought into being by the worm hunters, will still wind their ways through the jungles, opening up a remote land not only for the wild cotton eradicators but for the nature-lover as well.

The Printing Office. The fight is as completely unjust as though it did not exist, although every winter that little group of dedicated men continues the lonely battle, fighting the heat, the dense thickets, the swarming clouds of mosquitoes, snakes, giant cacti and poisonous plants—all along those roads that lead to nowhere.

The search for pink boll worm appears to be with us forever—or at least for so long as cotton remains an important crop in the Southland. But the strange roads, brought into being by the worm hunters, will still wind their ways through the jungles, opening up a remote land not only for the wild cotton eradicators but for the nature-lover as well.

In his search for the little pink worm, the worm hunter often encounters the ultimate—large and small—wild and wild.

FLORIDA'S WORM HUNTERS

(Continued from Page 28)

In his search for the little pink worm, the worm hunter often encounters the ultimate—large and small— wild and wild.

(continued from preceding page)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

In this issue:

AUGUST, 1960

By CHUCK SCHILLING

I would like to try doing some .

(Continued on Next Page)
To the fisherman who regularly catches large, hard-fighting fish or rough species that are dangerous or difficult to handle with bare hands, a gaff is an essential item.

But in careless hands a straight style fishing gaff can be a treacherous weapon. A powerful fish can often twist and force back a gaff with sufficient force to injure its user — and the longer the gaff's handle the greater the danger. One can never be too careful when handling a gaff hook.

Therefor, for average use by small boat fishermen whose catches are within the useful accessory's scope of application, FWFT&T recommends the Norlund Honda-D-Gaff, made of rustless aluminum combined with a stainless steel spring. The Han-D-Gaff is unusually strong and rugged. Total weight is about six ounces.

Another feature is the way the unit can be folded to a compact 6x1 1/2 x 5 inches, to conveniently fit tackle boxes, hip pockets or a large shirt pocket.

The Norlund Co., Inc. (Division of Mann Edge Tool Co.), Box 357, Lewistown, Pennsylvania, also manufactures "Lion" brand fishing gaffs, made to handle everything from muskie-sized fish down to bull frogs. Write for an illustrated folder if your tackle dealer does not presently stock the useful fishing accessory. FWFT&T calls reader attention to the Norlund Hond-Gaff's two palm fittings which prevent the use of a landing net. It is therefore, a "South Bend Norlsen." They are available through your favorite tackle dealer. Ask to see this new Powerflex Rod designed for this reel.

Cooking over an open campfire is fun, but often of uncertain results for many outdoor cooks.

Seemingly, relatively few persons really know how to assemble and use the right ingredients for a campfire, over which to fry, boil or bake. Frequently the fire will just die out, too big or too smoky to be a cooking blaze. Also, in some sections, building of open campfires is not permitted hunting and camping.

The answer, of course, is a gasoline stove of compact, portable type. Such a unit is easily set up for use, is always dependable regardless of weather conditions and takes little room in car or trailer.

FWFT&T calls reader attention to the KampKook line of gasoline cooking stoves made expressly for sportsmen by K-Appliance engineers for the United States Army. It is not necessary to use white gasoline, which is not always obtainable in remote areas.

Three models are offered . . . Model LCS-22 is a compact two-burner stove that accommodates one 12-inch skillet, yet can be folded into convenient 18x1 1/2x5-inch size, with closed appearance of a traveler's overnight case. The two-burner tank permits five continuous hours of cooking . . . Model LCS-42 is a somewhat larger two-burner stove that gives more cooking space and features a rock and slide-away legs. Its overall dimensions are 22 inches long, 12 1/2 inches wide and 5 1/2 inches deep. It, too, has a two-pint fuel tank for five hours of continuous cooking . . . Largest model is the No. LCS-65, a three-burner stove offering all the described features of the other two models, but giving the hours of continuous cooking performance from a 2 3/4 pint fuel tank, all three burners working on high flame.

Unless you are cooking for three or more persons, FWFT&T recommends the two-burner Model LCS-22 for all-around use.

List prices on the three models start at $21.95. Identical units that will accept all gasoline as fuel start as low as $14.95.
SUBSCRIBE NOW TO

Florida Wildlife

The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of Hunting and Fishing for only $2.00

TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, $3.75
THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, $5.25

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida

Enter or extend my subscription for _______ year(s) for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

☐ Check, ☐ Cash, ☐ Money Order herewith.
Mailing Address:

Name ____________________________
Street No. ________________
City ____________________________ State ______
Signed ____________________________