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Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
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 authorised agent of the respective establishment.

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

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ROBB HALL TALLAHASSEE
**Quail**

Daily bag limit for quail of 10, with no season bag limit. Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 19, and closes one-half hour after sunset Sunday, January 8.

Special First District season, November 19 through December 4 and December 17 through January 1, in Hardee and Walton counties to coincide with season in Egin Air Force Military Reservation, Washburn, and Bollion counties, and Santa Rosa counties closed at all times except in Egin Field and Blackwater Wildlife Management Areas.

Fourth District Monroe County closed to Key Deer.

**Turkey**

Turkey of other sexlegal game during regular season, two per day, three per person. Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 19, and closes one-half hour after sunset Sunday, February 12.

**Fish Commission,** O. Box 908, Lake City, Florida, prior to 11:00 A.M. August 31. Applications and check for Apalachicola Bear Hunt may be filed with the Regional Manager, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, P. O. Box 576, Panama City, Florida, prior to 11:00 A.M. August 24.

Bear hunters may take advantage of any of 12 managed hunts in the Apalachicola National Forest, and the Osceola National Forest will be held October 3 through 29. Both forests will feature two three-day hunts per week. Each three-day hunt will be limited to 17 people, except upon approval of the hunt supervisor. Each group must possess a $50.00 party hunt permit, and each person in the party must possess a regular hunting license.

Hunters will be allowed to take one bear, and an unlimited number of fox, skunk, opossum, bobcat, and rabbit. Shooting will be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, with no Sunday hunting allowed.

Additional information concerning the special hunt regulations and procedures governing the drawings may be obtained by contacting either regional office.

The Osceola National Forest is in Columbia and Baker counties in northcentral Florida. The portion of the Apalachicola National Forest on which the bear hunt will be held is in Liberty County in Northwest Florida. 

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**Tagging Procedure Changed**

Florida hunters will not find any deer or turkey tags on their 1966-61 hunting licenses. However, hunters will be required to punch out the date of kill on the license. Removal of the deer and turkey tagging regulation was accomplished by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at its annual meeting at Tallahassee, July 23.

**Dove Hunt**

Dove hunting on any of the 25 managed hunts in the Osceola and Apalachicola National Forests, should file application, accompanied by a check to cover permit costs, for the Osceola Bear Hunt should be filed with the Regional Manager, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, P. O. Box 988, Lake City, Florida, prior to 10:00 A.M. January 17.

Applications for any of 12 managed hunts will be held October 3 through 29. Both forests will feature two three-day hunts per week. Each three-day hunt will be limited to 17 people, except upon approval of the hunt supervisor. Each group must possess a $50.00 party hunt permit, and each person in the party must possess a regular hunting license.

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**Florida’s Two-Phase Migratory Dove Hunting Season**

Florida’s two-phase migratory dove hunting season will open October 15 in 57 counties and November 24 in all 67 counties of the state.

The new dove regulations were formulated and adopted by the Commission at Tallahassee July 23 after prolonged study of biological factors pertaining to dove and the sentiments expressed by citizens at the recent special pre-regulations meetings held by the Commission throughout the state.

Hunting will be allowed for 23 consecutive half-days October 15 through November 6, and 47 consecutive half-days November 24 through January 9. Daily bag limit for dove will be 12, an increase of two over last year’s bag limit of 10. Possession limit will be 24.

In response to expressions of hunter sentiment, the Commission ruled that there will be no early dove hunting in Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte, Glades, Collier, Okeechobee, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, or Okaloosa counties, or that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point, or that portion of Holmes County lying west of the Choctawhatchee River.

The dove season will be open state-wide during the second phase hunt November 24 through January 9.

In setting other rules for migratory game, the Commission provided a hunting season on rail and gallinule September 23 through November 30, with a daily bag of 10, plus 25 snow goose. Watercock season was set December 17 through January 15, with a daily bag of four. Snipe hunting season will be December 17 through January 15, with a daily bag limit of eight.
MAYBE you don’t go along with the idea, but I’m a firm believer that average hunting success is influenced by advance preparation and planning. My wife says I start getting ready for the next hunting season the day after the current one closes. Actually, that is only partly true—once a season has ended I inspect, overhaul and pack away special items that I know will not be used until the next season, so they will be in readiness when again needed. But I do not—as I would much like to do—get to practice on the range, or perform “dry practice” shooting exercises at home, a couple times every week between seasons.

Editorial and civic obligations prevent me from being ready for this hunting season the day the current one closes. Actually, it is only during the short pre-season firearms checkup. Whatever gunsmithing work is required, is taken care of immediately. It’s an idea you might beneficially adopt.

You have probably noted sling swivel installation is included in the pre-season firearms checkup. Personally, I like to have all my guns equipped with sling swivels so that, when desired, a sling-strap can be utilized in any number of helpful ways.

Guns are rechecked for perfect fit, for accuracy-influencing bedding of actions to stocks, smooth trigger pulls, proper sight combinations, sling swivel and recoil pad installations and other factors that contribute to good, enjoyable performance in the field. Whatever gunsmithing work is required, is taken care of immediately. It’s an idea you might beneficially adopt.

I find a gunning a great aid to convenient, comfortable gun carry- ing when heading for camp or pack- ing out a deer kill. When actually hunting, a hasty loop in the strap contributes to steady shooting, even for quick shots offhand. Appreciating the value of a gunning is merely a matter of using it enough to become acquainted with its versatility.

When climbing into tree stands, to still-hunt deer, you can either sling your unloaded gun over one shoulder, or hang it ahead of you on broken limbs as you climb. An easier way, in my opinion, is to lean your unloaded rifle against the tree trunk, and fasten a hammersnap or shower curtain hook with a length of heavy fishing line attached, to either the top of the gunning or to the forward position swivel. As you climb, let the length of fishing line trail over one shoulder. Once in your lofty perch, carefully pull up the unloaded gun, load it as silently as possible and settle down to business. The method avoids chance bumping of your gun noisily against tree limbs as you climb, or marring its stock.

There are many styles of sling swivels to be had. Where the wood of a gun’s fore-end is sufficiently thick, wood-screw attaching swivels go hunting under the guise of “taking a needed vacation.” To really be ready, several months prior to hunting season I start putting my equipment and myself in condition.

All equipment factors considered, your greatest hunting success is likely to be with the gun model that you shoot best—and invariably that gun is one that fits you well in form and temperament. Such a gun—especially if it’s a rifle—will seemingly tend to align itself with the chosen target just about every time it is shouldered, without much conscious effort on your part. Helped by a good fitting gun, missing is reduced to the minimum.

It is nice owning many different models and calibers, but long ago I learned it is just common sense to put good gun fit and performance ahead of sentiment and eye appeal. I won’t purchase any gun that does not fit me or which I cannot easily alter to do so! Consequently, I have had to pass up many otherwise excellent rifle and shotgun models which analysis and field use have shown as being of poor personal fit, and too high for accurate shooting. In fact, I have won’t purchase any gun that does not fit me or which I cannot easily alter to do so! Consequently, I have had to pass up many otherwise excellent rifle and shotgun models which analysis and field use have shown as being of poor personal fit, and too high for accurate shooting.

In getting ready for this hunting season, it is suggested that you check carefully the length of your gun, next plan to use them perfectly and is ready to perform at its best.

Following an inspection of the general condition of your gun, next check up on its sights. Are they the best combination for your eye and field needs? Can you align them quickly, without conscious effort? For example, a low-power scope sight, mounted centrally and low over rifle bore, featuring a bold, easily aligned reticule (post or dot), is the fastest sight a deer hunter can get, even for use in thick brush. It is especially advantageous for shoot­ ers already affected by aging eye­ sight.

But a ½ or 2½X hunting scope sight is worthless if the shooter is so unaccustomed to its use and fast alignment that he cannot easily find the aiming reticule, or sees only a black spot or a blur of movement every time he shoulders his scope­ sighted rifle for a shot at running game! . . . Then, close to the eye rear peep with a large aiming aperture, and a blade or bead front sight, would be a better choice, by far. It takes time and practice to get used to a scope sight.

Also, nine cases out of ten, when you mount a scope sight on a hunt­ ing rifle factory­stocked for metallic sights, you raise the sight line and need to raise gunstock comb height to correspond. Otherwise, your face and aiming eye are not going to be firmly supported and aligned with the exact center of the sight. You may be sure you will find your head and eye bobbing around to find the best point of aim and the scope’s full field of view. In hunting, this would be a great handicap, especially when attempting fast shots . . . .

I repeatedly call shooters’ attention to this matter of correct comb height, because it is one of the most common and serious faults found among users of rifles—and among shotguns, too . . . .

If, when you throw your scope­ sighted rifle to shoulder with eyes closed and then open your eyes to find your point of aim so low that you have to raise your head to naturally center the aiming reticule on your target, then your stock’s comb is too low. You need to increase its height.

It is amazing what a big difference even as little as % of an inch in comb height can mean to applied line of sight and related point of bullet impact! Build up comb height too much and you get too high a line of sight and too high bullet, or shot, impact . . . . If, when making the fast sighting test—by repeatedly throwing your unloaded gun to shoulder with eyes closed and then opening them to check the sighting plane—you find your point of aim consistently higher than your target, then you have too much comb height.

Your objective is to slightly alter your gunstock’s comb height so that every time you shoulder your gun and take quick aim you are right on target, or very close to it, in respect to sighting plane and gun alignment. For example, consider the Marlin model 336 ADL lever-action deer rifle, factory stocked for use with metallic sights. When fitted with a top-mounted Weaver K-2.5 scope sight, its comb height becomes too low for accurate, fast sighting. The comb can be brought to proper height and steadying, comfortable face fit by facing a Monte Carlo (Continued on Page 46)
EVEN THE BEST of things taken in excess can be harmful. Food to nourish our bodies is a prime requisite, still, taken in amounts greater than our need, it causes obesity, one of our most pressing health hazards. Exercise is considered essential to vigorous health, yet if taken in immediate doses, it can cause extreme discomfort and even death. The list of examples is long, and high on such an accounting would be exposure to the sun.

We have developed a cult of the sun. Many outdoor types seem to consider a deep bronze-tan the highest badge of this order. This is nothing new. Since earliest recorded history, we have records of primitive people worshipping the sun in one way or the other. Why not? The sun is the giver of all life on this earth was once part of the sun. That this is not always practical or possible. There is now wide scientific belief that this planet was once a part of the sun. There is reason to believe that a gigantic cosmic explosion took place eons ago, tearing off portions of the sun that took up orbits around the sun. For those of us who stay in the sun at work or at play should watch carefully for any sign of such a condition. These start as a small, inflamed spot on the backs of the hands, face, arms, back of the neck, or the ears. Usually, there is no pain or itching, but a slight scaling will be noticed. Flakes of dry skin keep forming and coming off.

Eventually these scaly places will develop into hard mounds similar to small pimples. This is evidence of the change taking place in the tissue itself, and this is the time a doctor should be consulted. I've just had three such places burned off my hands and arm, and I can attest it is nothing to fear. The doctor uses an electric needle, after a shot of Sept. TAM 138 10 on 12 text 14E pain killer is inserted into the area. A few weeks after treatment, the infected place disappears and is replaced by scar tissue. This is a simple and inexpensive treatment. If you have any suspicious areas, I suggest you see your doctor.

Protection

I often fish for days on end when I just can't manage to find shelter during the four-hour, midday period. My poor face has been burned to a crisp on many occasions.

I long ago developed a loose coat to protect my back, arms, and the back of my hands. I buy a regular, inexpensive, suit jacket, made of seersucker or cotton cord. I get it as light in color and weight as possible. I buy it at least two sizes too large to insure a loose fit, and I try to get the sleeves long enough to at least reach my knuckles. If there is any lining in this coat, I rip it out, and sometimes my wife adds a little to the length of the sleeves with material she gets when she cuts the coat off at the hip line. With this loose, long-sleeved jacket, I wear a white cotton undershirt.

I know it sounds like hot clothing, but it is not. This costume protects from both the sun and the heat. The long sleeves will usually be all the protection you need for the backs of your hands. In extreme cases, I have regular fishermen's cotton gloves with the thumb and fingers cut out. These are comfortable to wear and give positive protection.

Actually, the head and face are the parts that are most difficult to protect. After many years of searching for a solution to this problem, I think I am on the right track.

Featherlite Helmets

A new kind of sun hat is being manufactured down in Miami by the Miami Swim Products Company. They call their new hat the Featherlite Sun Helmet. It is made of the new, incredibly-light, insulating material now being used for coolers, water jugs, and all insulating jobs. This material is so close to normal material as anyone is likely to find. I have coolers made of this new plastic that practically defies the melting sun.

The new hats are molded in one piece and actually weigh only a trifle over four ounces. They are perfect for the fisherman or angler who has a pair of air vents on each side, and a fully-adjustable, nylon headband inside that really fits comfortably and securely.

Like all "Frank Buck" type sun helmets, this allows an air space between the head and the hat for ventilation. Unlike any helmet I ever saw before, this one is light, cool, and comfortable. The shape of this hat brings the rim down well over the ears for full protection. I have a couple of nylon face nets to fit my hat to use as chin straps when running into the wind. Mostly, though, the shape of this molded hat tends to hold it on even in a stiff breeze.

If you want to keep a cool, comfortable head when out in the hot sun, give this Featherlite Sun Helmet a try. They are available from your tackle store or sporting goods jobber. I paid $1.95 retail for mine, cheaply made at home. They are comfortable to wear and are the only practical answer I've found for protecting the face from extreme sunburn. I always use liberal application of Sea and Ski Sun Tan Cream, which I have found to be the best. Still, in the final analysis, only getting out of the sun really protects in the extreme cases.

With the Schilling Little Dandy Face Screen worn on a Featherlite Sun Helmet, you have personal shade where you want it right in the boat.

Man From Mars

Bill Hansen, Florida Wildlife's editor, said I looked like a man from Mars when "I wore my face screen." (Continued on Page 39)
WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

Facts About Doves in Florida

By JIM FLOYD

Information - Education Division

All information based upon Biological Information Conducted by Frank A. Witten. Game Management Division of The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What Is A Mourning Dove?

The mourning dove is a slender, medium-sized gray bird, approximately twelve inches in length. Average body-weight is four ounces, with some individuals attaining six ounces. The main characteristic is the long, pointed tail that does not occur in any other species of pigeon or dove.

Why The Name Mourning Dove?

Often mispronounced as “morning dove,” the name mourning dove comes from the mournful cooing voice of this dove.

What Is A Turtle Dove?

The name turtle dove is applied to any of several Old World wild doves, especially a European species. In North America, the term is often applied to the mourning dove. In Florida, and the South, the term is often applied to the ground dove.

What Are The Mourning Dove Nesting Habits?

Mourning dove nests are found in every state of the nation during the summer. In south Florida, mourning doves nest during every month of the year, the highest nesting peak in May and June. The cycle is delayed in central and north Florida and cooler weather. The cooing of the dove is a first sign of courting, and is accompanied by spectacular flights. After pairing off, close contact, billing and cooing, the nest building begins. In slightly more than a month's

(Continued on Next Page)
time, the nest is built, the eggs (usually two) laid and incubated, and the new young are feathered for flight.

**How Many Times Does A Dove Nest?**

One pair of doves may nest and bring off young five or six times during the year. In south Florida, immature doves have been found during all months of the year.

**What About Young Doves?**

Dove eggs hatch in about 13 days. For the first few days, the nestlings are fed a regurgitated substance called "pigeon milk," secreted from the crops of both parents. This is gradually supplemented with small seed until the birds are ready to leave the nest on about the 12th day. After leaving the nest, they group with other young doves to fly and feed in flocks. The parent birds continue their nesting activity until later in the fall.

**What Do Doves Eat?**

Mainly seed. Doves like wild seed from grasses, crotoms, ragweed, and other plants. From cultivated fields, corn, peanuts, sorghum, millet and chaffus are rated high in the diet.

**What Is The Death Rate?**

Mourning doves, like other small game such as quail, squirrel, and rabbit, have a high population turnover during the year. Approximately 70 percent of all doves die during their first year of life. Of those that survive, about 55 per cent die each year. Most of this die-off is from natural causes. Lack of food, predators, disease and weather play an important role in this mortality. All statistics indicate that the death rate from the hunter's gun is a very small factor. Of this mortality.

**What Is The Worst Dove Disease?**

Trichomoniasis, a disease affecting mainly the dove and pigeon population, usually forms a cankerous growth in the throat, which in turn results in death to the dove from starvation.

**Why Are Doves Classified As Migratory?**

Florida is fortunate in having a large home-grown population of doves which seldom leaves the southern half of the state. However, every state has a dove population, and in the fall when the weather turns cold, the doves in the central and northern states migrate southward. A percentage of these migratory doves winter in Florida, while some pass through to winter further south. It would be impossible to identify a native dove from one migrating from a midwestern state. All doves have been classed as migratory under an international treaty.

**How Are Migrations Studied?**

Doves are trapped, and banded with serial-numbered metal bands. Information from the recovered band indicates the birds' migration flight. For a faster return of information some trapped doves are dipped in a harmless color dye. Observation of doves provides information without recovery of the bird. Being dyed a brilliant color does not interfere with the normal activities of the bird.

**What Is This International Treaty?**

Migratory birds, which move across State and National borders, are recognized as an international resource requiring conservation on a continental basis. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, between the United States, Great Britain, and Mexico makes it unlawful to hunt, kill, sell, purchase, or possess migratory birds except as permitted by regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Is Florida Studying Doves?**

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is participating in a cooperative dove study being conducted in ten southeastern states.

**What Is The Cooperative Study?**

Recognition of a need for information to better govern the management of the mourning dove resulted in a coordinated study by the southeastern states. The major objective of the study is to establish a basis for sound management, particularly in the setting of regulations. It was found that a well balanced program could be developed through knowledge of five factors: 1. Annual population trends. 2. Annual production. 3. Migratory tendencies. 4. Effect of hunting. 5. Causes of mortality.

**What Did The Study Reveal?**

Among other things, the study indicated that tremendous concentrations of dove appear briefly in west Florida during October. Intensive banding activities showed that an appreciable percentage of these doves moved rapidly to the southern part of the state, especially to Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties.

**What Were The Study Results?**

As the Department of the Interior would not allow zoned hunting in Florida, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission set a split season in 1952, providing for a dove season in October and one later during the regular hunting season. This allows hunters in all counties the opportunity to enjoy dove shooting when birds are present.

**Why Was The Split or Two-Phase Season Established?**

Through the study it was found that Gulf, Wakulla, (Continued on Page 28)
First we heard Dixie’s voice, and then Trigger joined the chase. I was learning about the thrills of a fox hunt.

For all I know, the fox we were hunting may be misunderstood and he may have a worthless, ragged pelt—but any beast that furnishes weekly entertainment for half a dozen otherwise normal men and twice that many hounds is a very valuable animal. Consider also that there is no amusement tax involved. When the breeze wavered just right you could hear a juke box somewhere over on the “hard road,” “yard dogs” barked spasmodically in the distance and a few mosquitoes added their drone to far-off traffic noises, making it difficult to pick up the hounds we were listening for.

After this introduction, if you conjure up mind-pictures of a desperate, staggering fox, beset by a platoon of vicious, slavering killers, forget it. Instead, picture a smug, sharp-nosed villain lolling in a low tree while sweating, cursing men try to round up their dogs. Or picture old Bushytail jogging carelessly along a sand road where there’s nothing for the scent to cling to or to trolling across a freshly disked field where only a super-nose can pick up a trace.

For that matter, picture him doing whatever the devil he does when he disappears over there across from the swamp where the trail simply peters out and you hunt dogs for the rest of the night.

In any case this fox has little at stake except his reputation. Once he is tried his friends the dog owners stop calling him derogatory names and would defend him to the last breath because they want to chase him next Saturday night. Of course, there is a minor occupational hazard—the unlikely coincidence that he might meet an ill-natured hound face to face during the weekly maneuvers. In such a case, he might well be bitten unto death—but then you can get whacked at any intersection on your way to work.

That Saturday night it had become almost 11 o’clock and we had heard only an investigative yelp now and then as the dogs covered acres of scrub and underbrush that appeared in the jeep lights to be a solid wall of vegetation.

“Race is generally over by this time,” commented Jerry Pay, leaning against a fender and addressing a semi-circle of glowing cigar ends. “Maybe that fox is down in the pasture.”

About then I heard a single, eager, soprano wail. It came from great distance and from an unexpected direction.

“There goes Dixie,” said Wimpy Steerman with a mixture of pride and apprehension.

Dixie, a 2-year-old Walker hound, has caused Wimpy to lose a lot of sleep. She’s full of enthusiasm of youth and I strongly suspect she may have two homes. Sometimes she’s gone for days while Wimpy dutifully jumps through the boondocks during all of his spare time. Can it be that some other fox hunter thinks he owns Dixie? Does she live in some other kennel part of her life? This line of reasoning is ridiculous. Her collar plate distinctly says, “W. S. Steerman.”

Being a casual acquaintance of Dixie changes your whole life. Any time you venture a mile from home you are looking for her. It grows on you and you begin to imagine you see her in strange and distant places. Then you shake yourself and remember that Dixie isn’t missing this week. There is something strangely glamorous about a migratory dog that comes home with sowl feet after three days of absence, plops down in her box with a smug, superior expression and whines demandingly for chow.

Well, Dixie’s high-pitched bay finally faded into the sounds of distant traffic and the barking of farm dogs.

This hunting area is on the very outskirts of DeLand, Florida. There may be more than one fox living there but the hunters continually argue about that. The hunting country is chosen as much for its network of sand roads as for its fox population and the jeeps and pickup trucks travel almost as far as the hounds, getting scratched up a lot more.

On the edges of the main hunting ground there MUST be several foxes because there’s the Hard Road Fox, despised because he leads the dogs to a heavily traveled highway, the Railroad Fox who louses things up by leaving the tracks for an almost impenetrable jungle and the Chicken House Fox who lives on a local poultry farm.

Each fox usually follows pretty much his own route when jumped, a fact that simplifies dog-hunting and makes it possible for hunters to listen to the working dogs, which is what they are out for.

I have seen this bunch of hunters highly indignant when what they had always considered a cooperative fox went into some unpleasant terrain or ducked into a hole.

“That’s a new fox,” they’d grumble. “I don’t recall ever having run him before. He must have just moved into the country.”

I rode with Wimpy along a series of sand roads while a pair of hounds hunted ahead of us. We traveled around 10 miles an hour and the dogs stayed with us, working the road edges.

Since I knew less about fox hunting than a month-old pup, Wimpy explained a few things about dog noses.

“There isn’t much scent in a fox’s tracks,” he said. “Dogs get the trail from burbs, weeds, grass and from the air. When they’re trailing they don’t necessarily run with their heads to the ground and they’re not necessarily exactly in the animal’s tracks.

“A fox doesn’t seem to leave a very strong trail (Continued on Next Page)
The initial outlay isn’t so high, but upkeep runs into money, especially for the town or city dweller. Many a top-notch foxhound has been bought for $35 or so, and hunters often give pugs to their close friends, but Florida isn’t the easiest place to raise and keep a hunting dog. The canine hazards range from ticks to rattlesnakes and the veterinary bill is likely to hurt. To get along with a pack of hounds you have to like them well enough to take care of them—unless you hire someone to do it.

A hound’s voice is an important part of his personality and his owner recognizes it almost instantly. In four trips, I learned to pick out four individual dogs for sure. The “tuners” are more distinctive than I had realized and there are several other voices I separated from the pack but couldn’t associate with a particular dog. The Walkers, especially, look a lot alike to me. The first voice I learned was Jerry Pay’s Big Boy, who has such a long, musical bawl that you wonder if he has an air horn hidden back there in the scrub somewhere.

Jerry likes to hear a dog sing and when he first acquired Big Boy it was a while before the dog got on a track. When he did and Jerry heard that hackle-raising wail they say Jerry jumped up and down on his hat with sheer pleasure and old Big Boy had a home for life.

Ted Windhorst’s Zeke is easy to distinguish although I can’t describe his voice. Dixie is a cinch because her voice is so high and I understand female hounds generally keep their soprano, even after maturity. Hound voices range from a staccato “chop” to a yard-long bawl like Big Boy’s and there’s an almost endless variety of tones.

Hunting horns the dog-owners carry are almost as distinctive in tone as the dog’s voices and the dogs have a remarkable ability to learn the right one. Jerry Pay uses a goat horn that he can carry in his pocket and it has a high, piping tone. T. J. Bilderback nearly blew me off a jeep fender the first time I heard him blow the Big Boy. He’s no bigger than other people. I don’t know where he gets all that volume.

I have tried to blow a foxhorn but it didn’t work out too well! Anyway, you gotta’ blow a horn and gather that real fox hunters look with suspicion on a man who uses a whistle.

Fox hunting procedure is to release dogs at likely points, usually in early evening. If they don’t “strike,” the hunters cruise the fields slowly with other dogs that like to hunt with a car—or they walk with their dogs. Once a race starts in the main hunting area, most of the hounds get into the act and their owners gather around a pot of coffee and listen.

Through most of the evening, whether hunting in a jeep, gumshoeing along a sand road with a dimming flashlight or holding my breath in concentrated listening, I noticed a handsome, relaxed-looking hound who played close to someone’s heels or taillight, apparently taking no interest in this fox-chasing bit.

Finally, feeling sure that this sluggard did not belong to Wimpy Steerman, I approached the subject with what I thought was sufficient tact.

“Uh, this big tan hound,” I said. “He’s around all the time—uh, I mean he doesn’t seem to—uh, who is he?”

“Oh, him!” Wimpy said. “He’s a bodyguard. Like’s people. Friendly. That’s Trigger.”

“Well, does he ever, I mean does he just—?”

“Oh, sure. Good dog. Fine nose. When a race starts he’s in there like gang busters. He’s just not a strike dog. He’s got it figured that it’s wise to let another hound find the track. We’ve quit trying to change his mind. He looks hurt if you tell him to go out and hunt.”

Shortly after that, Asa McMillan found the fox tracks. They were very plain in the soft sand and they were in the tire marks of Asa’s pickup truck—a track that had been made a short time before. Pretty sassy. All of the hounds were off hunting except Trigger and he viewed the fresh tracks with little interest. It was unimportant, however, because about that time Jerry’s Big Boy opened with his yard-long bawl and we had a fox race going.

The hunters gathered at a small open place where two sand roads intersected and called off the dogs as they joined in. Even I recognized Dixie’s treble when she arrived on the scene from the Lord only knows where. Shortly after another voice came in I noticed Trigger was gone.

We didn’t have to move around much as the fox.
On this day a plastic worm proved best in the Florida swamp stream.

The fastest selling lure in Florida, and, for that matter, other parts of the nation is the plastic worm, a revolutionary lure that has proved to be deadly on bragging-size bass. This innovation which has come into prominence within the past few years has opened a vast new frontier for bass anglers.

There is no mystery as to the sudden popularity of the plastic worm. It has produced catches of big bass with amazing regularity, and its effectiveness is reflected in tackle sales. The plastic worm also has reshaped anglers’ theories on the habits and habits of grandpa bass.

The limp plastic worm has a life-like wiggle although retrieved at an ultra-slow pace. When reeled in short stop-and-go jerks along bottom the tail flutters seductively. It even has effective action when pulled steadily along the bottom, crawled over obstructions like some live creature navigating the lake or stream floor.

Much of a bass’ diet is concentrated along the bottom of a lake or stream. One of the favorites is crawfish, another hellgramites. What the plastic worm is supposed to imitate, no one knows for sure. An eel, perhaps. The secret of its amazing success still remains somewhat of a puzzle.

Anglers have had to change many popular concepts of bass angling with the introduction of the plastic worm. For one, the fisherman learned he couldn’t strike at the very instant a fish took the lure. He had to allow the bass to mouth and swallow the lengthy strip of plastic before driving the hook home. Another, he discovered that for the best results he often had to desist the time-honored shoreline and go searching out in the deeper depths for big bass. Angler fishing a plastic worm can, with experience, learn to “read” the contour of a lake or stream floor. He can locate drop-offs, cover and other places where bass are apt to gather and feed. Today it isn’t unusual to see boats shoreline and shore big bass.

At first the plastic worm was considered a hot-weather bass lure. But nowadays anglers have discovered that it is equally effective year round. In Florida the bottom-scrapping worm starts producing big bass as early as late January and February.

Florida, once considered the top-water fisherman’s mecca, is becoming a state of plastic worms. Even drainage ditches no more than a hip deep and skip across are accessible to the plastic worms. The last time I fished the Tamiami Canal my two largest bass succumbed to plastic worms. A tiny natural lake of roughly ten acres near Fort Myers which I fished last summer appeared to be a “natural” for a surface plug. The bottom of the postage-stamp lake was covered with a thick carpet of moss growing to within a foot of the surface. Yet the lure which produced best was an unweighted plastic worm with a weedless hook drifted ever so slowly through the moss.

The productivity of the plastic worm in Florida and other parts of the South hints of a nationwide trend. Throughout the country it is enjoying amazing popularity and success, although it is more dominant south of the Mason-Dixon line.

The artificial worm definitely has had an impact on the fishing tackle industry. More manufacturers are bringing out lifelike plastic imitations of insects, spiders, crawfish and various other creatures. The new plastics are easily and permanently dyed, resulting in some weird creations of colorful design. The plastic worm can, with experience, learn to “read” the contour of a lake or stream floor. He can locate drop-outs, cover and other places where bass are apt to gather and feed. Today it isn’t unusual to see boats shoreline and shore big bass.

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A small and shallow lake near Fort Myers which I fished last summer appeared to be a “natural” for a surface plug. The bottom of the postage-stamp lake was covered with a thick carpet of moss growing to within a foot of the surface. Yet the lure which produced best was an unweighted plastic worm with a weedless hook drifted ever so slowly through the moss.
Because he wanted a good hunting bow, this hunter found himself in the bow making business

By EDMUND McLAURIN

"I'm going to look him up," I stated quite emphatically. However, it was not until recently that I made actual contact with Glenn Bradshaw. When I had tried to reach him by phone or by chance visit, he was always hunting or fishing somewhere. Finally, I got to see him and his bowmaking operations -- by making a definite appointment. Bradshaw isn't a snooty guy, just an active sportsman.

"How did you happen to get into bowmaking?" was one of the first questions I asked Bradshaw. I also wondered as to the story behind the "B&B Archery - Custom Bow Manufacturing" sign in the front yard of his address on Walasingham Road, in rural Largo. He gave me the answers to both.

"Like so many of us, I started because a friend had a bow and I thought I could make one," he said. "But the bowmaking business is very specialized. You need a lot of knowledge and experience to make a good bow."

"I've been making bows for about ten years now. I started out by making archery bows for my own use. Then I began to sell them to other archers. Now I make bows for both archers and bowhunters."
tapered limbs, walnut and other colorful hardwoods of Canadian growth for the handle greasy and best grade Fiberglas for outside facing and backing. No Fiberglas is used in the core of the bow, only solid maple, representing two select-grade pieces permanently laminated.

First step in the making of a modern bow is selection of materials needed for the handle riser — pieces of color and tan maple and walnut, which will later be laminated into a single piece of working stock. Squared, planed and sanded, the selected pieces are glued together and clamped for 24-48 hours. The blank is then rough-shaped on a bandsaw, after which the face and back sides of the handle are drummed to fit a master form of the particular bow model being made.

Where the tapered, feathered ends will later integrate, Bradshaw takes great pains to make them of uniform thickness and taper, since contact points are major stress points.

Once satisfied with this stage, the Largo man matches the tapered edges of the handle section to basic stock limb laminations. The parts to be glued together are trial-fitted and inspected numerous times. Finally, each part is separately coated with glue, then all components are assembled in proper order in a form — the lower section of the glue press.

Permanence bonding of the component parts of a laminated bow is regarded as one of the toughest gluing jobs in the world. Bow performance and durability depend on the quality of the gluing operations.

Bradshaw uses a modified urea-formaldehyde resin glue, which is compounded with a hardener consisting of inorganic curing agents and ligneous filler in powder form.

The ingredients must be very carefully mixed and used at once. Until now, there has been an average "high strength" life of only about 90 days. Consequently, Bradshaw takes care to keep his stock of bow glue currently fresh by ordering only what he can immediately use.

After the gluing press has been closed and locked by 45 pounds of applied air pressure, a thermostat-controlled heater is operated at 120 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes. The bow form is then removed from the press and placed horizontally on pegs in a rack for air curing for a period of at least 48 hours. At the same time, small wood blocks for the end-ends (to later receive the bowstring) are glued in place and clamped, but left unassembled and unfinished.

Following the curing period, the entire bow blank is rough-sanded to remove excess glue squeezed out from the edges of the laminations.

Next step is to sand or grind down the blank to the dimensions of a master template.

The bowstring notches are roughly cut in the bow-ends with a rat-tail file to receive a tillering or align-
A few special features took all the strain out of sports fishing

NO STRAIN

By CHUCK SCHILLING

At the Christmas Season of 1956, Santa presented me with a new fishing boat. This was after I had searched many months for a boat designed for sport fishing rather than as a replica of one of Detroit's marvels. In the following months, I became so enthused about my new fishing companion, I broke into print about it in a Florida Wildlife article entitled, "Revolt Afloat." (April 1957).

As subsequent events proved, this boat piece proved one of the most popular the magazine ever ran. In fact, it was widely reprinted, and even now we still get mail asking for more particulars and details. I mention this only to emphasize the extreme interest there is in fishing boat design in general and specific ones in particular.

This is another piece about a fishing boat. Once again, I have found a new boat designed for sport fishermen. I have been looking for a larger boat, without finding just what I wanted for almost a year.

In the end, Tom Bennett, proxy and boat designer at Fiber Craft down in Miami, collaborated with me to produce what I feel is close to a sport fishermen's ideal.

My 14-foot Fiber Craft Fisherman, as described in "Revolt Afloat," is, also, a product of Bennett's genius for boat design, and it is still the finest fishing boat of its type I've ever seen. My problem was not dissatisfaction with the old boat but, rather, a need for a larger, more seaworthy boat to carry me farther from the press of the maddening throng.

Bennett designed the new Fiber Craft "Flying Fisherman" to be a big, high-transom, 16-footer. Her hull is molded in one piece of Fiberglas, structurally strengthened for extreme durability. I designed the special fishing accessories that transformed this exceptional boat into my version of a fisherman's dream. I think many prospective boat owners will be interested in the features of this new boat and particularly in the special fisherman features that can be applied to any boat by home craftsmen if so desired.

First, let me analyze the hull and deck features of this craft I've aptly named "No Strain." These make her a fine example of the most advanced theory in small boat design. Then I'll go into detail about her special features that make her a delight and comfort for me to use.

As I've said before on these pages, the most frequently asked question we get about small boats concerns their habit of pounding in a chop. As I've also said before, this is a real problem to eliminate in a fast, planing hull. In Fiber Craft's Flying Fisherman, the bow entry point is clipper shaped and knife sharp. The lines of the bottom sweep away from that sharp bow in a long, twin curve that resembles a displacement hull rather than a planing one.

In fact, the bottom of this boat is rather descon­certing to anyone familiar with the usual small boat design. She has a decided rise from keel to chine throughout the forward two-thirds of her length. The keel is perfectly straight and flat, but an un­orthodox rocker has been designed into the chine line that seems to offset the exceptional V in the bottom, because the boat's planing performance is unusually high and easy, leaving nothing to be desired. She is hard chine except for the rear one-quarter of her length, where a rounded chine exerts a measure of control to prevent tripping on a fast turn.

To me, the results are what count. I've found No Strain to be easy to handle, fast, seaworthy, and able. I am of a suspicious nature when it comes to small boats. I don't mind saying that the Flying Fisherman's design induced me to put her through many extreme situations, probing for any cranky spots in her performance. I was particularly anxious to test her ability to run before a following sea. I couldn't forget that beautiful, sharp, clipper bow. I doubt if I ever again tax this boat's ability as severely as I have in the past several months. After all, I prefer to do it the "no strain" way.

Still, my trial runs have convinced me this boat has no soft spots. I could not make her hook or veer no matter how hard I tried driving her before the wind. I did manage to make her pound a little in water that I wouldn't have been out in under normal conditions. This boat is soft and easy as riding on a cloud.

As with most Fiberglas boats, No Strain has a wide, flaring bow. This makes for dry riding and a great expanse of fishing room on the forward deck. This nonskid fishing deck just misses being perfectly flat. It is 6 feet, 6 inches wide at the steering wheel, and 6 feet long. The bow's great flare carries this width far forward. I've seen packed night clubs with dance floors not so large. Of course, the first thing I did was get rid of the wrap-around windshield that came with the boat as standard equipment. One trip with this built-in heat trap and fishing obstruction was enough for me.

One more thing about this big, 16-footer, — she has high sides, is built for the long-shaft motors, and has a functional motor well that does its job without taking up half the usable cockpit space. All in all, (Continued on Next Page)
around my feet helter-skelter. I’m just not constituted to take rusted anchors, gas cans, tackle, ice and fish boxes, and fafung in the world would be unattractive to me if I had to do it from a boat cluttered with tangled lines. sundry other odds and ends of equipment, all dumped as tishmg craft stemmed from the many I’d seen that resembled a jumbled mass of fishing and boating gear about neatness and order aboard a boat. The best features attractive to any sports fisherman.

My own previous objections to these big, 16-footers it. At left you see the cooler and In·

(Continued from Preceding Page)

...box that holds ice re·

The utility fish box, below, is the secret of No Strain’s convenience and comfort.

The utility box was designed as seat for casters, and as a fishing platform.

Closed, the box performs two wonderful functions. It makes a perfect, chair-high, no-strain seat for casters, and the lid offers an ideal platform for fighting a big fish from high off the water. This is the first seating arrangement I’ve ever seen that is both practical and comfortable. It’s been my experience that standing all day is too much strain, and fishing chairs are worthless to casting anglers, because they sit too low behind the gunwales. If anyone insisted on chairs, there is plenty of room in my boat for a couple on either side of the utility box.

Inside, this box is divided into three unequal compartments. The one aft is my idea of a perfect, sportsman’s, fish box. This compartment is 15 inches square and is lined with one-inch Styrofoam insulation, and a block of this same material glued to the lid over the compartment makes a press fit on a plastic wastebasket that sits inside. This basket has a separate lock lid for use in the car going home. The basket is 13 inches inside diameter at the top and 20 inches deep. I chose this particular container for several reasons. First, they are available at any hardware or house furnishing store. The size I chose is the standard. They are cheap, easily cleaned, hold no odors, and are impervious to salt or water damage. This fish box is so well insulated, a 10-pound piece of ice will hold all day. The box will take 10 or 12, 3-to-5-pound fish, and this is much more than I ever want to bring in.

The next box compartment holds extra clothing, rain gear, and survival gear, such as, flares, insect and sun tan lotions, first aid kits, and charts. It also, takes all my camera equipment. The last and largest compartment has two dividers in the bottom that support a regular size, portable ice chest. Below the chest in the compartments, I store spare parts, tools for the motor, extra tackle, an electric lantern, and other items to make up a full kit.

Performing its multiple function of waterproof catchall, casing seat, and fishing platform, this box holds most of my regular equipment in ideal weight distribution, and the lid padlocks to keep my valuable safe. Fiber Craft furnishes these utility boxes as optional equipment.

The second special feature on No Strain is in the front seat. Regular arrangements are a divided seat with a walk-through opening. I found this practically worthless for fishing. My special seat replaces, with a marine plywood seat-top hinged at the back, the usual two upholstered cushions. This top is 12 inches off the deck, 5 feet long, and 16 inches wide. With life-preserver cushions, it is comfortable as any other seating arrangement; but with cushions removed, it becomes a wonderful fishing platform, with the rear edge of the bow deck at just the right height for seating comfort. My only objection to this seating arrangement is my difficulty in keeping passengers off it. Beneath the plywood lid, in compartments in the regular seats, I carry my anchor lines, spare lines, anchors, two one-gallon water jugs, two plastic bail buckets, sponges, rags, and other gear that does not require complete, waterproof storage. In the space between the seats and under the lid, a third standard gas can fits comfortably and in a preferred weight position.

Last but far from least of the special fisherman’s features built into No Strain is a simple, low bulkhead raising 7 inches from the deck up under the bow. This bulkhead is just far enough forward from the front seat so the passengers’ feet and legs are not cramped. Actually, the distance is 28 inches. The bulkhead is 3 feet, 6 inches from side to side, is made

of marine plywood enclosed in glass, and glass installed. It has a regular drain hole with plug for use in emergencies.

This low bulkhead is truly wonderful. Ridge pump, lauding net, gaff, seat cushions, and other necessary gear ride behind that wall with no chance of bounties out even when trailering. The bulkhead prevents foam water inside the boat, and the deck overhead keeps out the rain. With a couple of pillows, my wife and I find plenty of room to ride out a rain squall in dry and easy comfort.

In addition, this low, inside bulkhead adds great strength to the hull just where the forward trailer cradles add great stress and strain. This is also, the portion of the hull that gets the greatest beating in a chop.

Actually, the special fishing features Bennett built into No Strain for me could easily be built into any conventional 16-foot outboard hull. After several months of extensive use, I can truthfully attest they take all the strain out of sports fishing.

One last word about this new boat—she was designed to operate best with a 40-horsepower motor. My long-stemmed, electric-starting Johnson just fills the bill. Let me add a word of caution about this or any similar boat—I was at first sadly disappointed in the performance of my boat and motor combination. After much experimenting, my local Johnson dealer brought to light the need for a propeller the same diameter as the standard 40-horse prop but with one inch less pitch. Sounds like a small thing? Never believe it. If made all the difference in the world.

Fully loaded, with 18 gallons of gas, all the gear, and two passengers, No Strain gets a little better than 25 miles an hour with the Johnson 40 and that special wheel. What’s more, I sometimes fish a long day on one 6-gallon tank of gas. •

The hinged plywood lid, left, replaces a separate upholstered seat, providing a high fishing platform forward.
The sight of a flock of the gray birds whistling into a typical dove field is an unforgettable stimulating challenge to the skilled hunter. It is not uncommon to find a hunter expending a box of shells without a hit. The sight of a flock of the gray birds whistling into a field of ripened grain on an Autumn day is an unforgettable stimulating challenge to the man who hunts for recreation. The October season provides an opportunity for the sportsman to enjoy the great outdoors, as well as harvest a portion of the dove crop in no way endangering the survival of the species.

Why Is Baiting Prohibited?

Baiting is the practice of depositing grain or other food attractive to wild animals or birds so as to lure them to a place where they can be shot. The primary objection to the practice of baiting is that it might result in an easy overharvest of the species bated.

What Would Happen If Baiting Was Made Legal?

In all probability, during the first year, it would result in numerous baited plots which would scatter the doves and have little effect on the harvest. Some feel there would soon develop a community, or combined, baited field which would undoubtedly result in a slaughter of too many doves. This phase has never been tested on doves and is very controversial in discussion.

Why Not Make The Mourning Dove A Song Bird?

This has been done in some northern States. However, in the South the mourning dove is by tradition one of the leading game birds. The dove is a very fast flyer and displays an erratic shifting of direction providing an elusive target. It is not uncommon to find a skilled hunter expending a box of shells without a hit. Baiting plots would undoubtedly result in a slaughter of too many doves. This phase has never been tested on doves and is very controversial in discussion.

What Is The Result Of The First Phase?

The first phase dove season results in a harvest of over a million doves, a large percentage of which would be lost from natural causes and not available to the Florida hunter at the time the regular hunting season of Florida and the southeastern states.

The October season does not receive any money from the general tax fund of the State of Florida. Your tax money does not support the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Doesn't the Legislature Appropriate Money?

It is possible for the Florida State Legislature to appropriate money to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. However, the Commission has its own independent sources of revenue. The Legislature can, and has, appropriated money to be administered by the Commission for specific purposes, such as hyacinth control, lake construction, and fisheries improvements. Such money is controlled by the State Cabinet, and only administered by the Commission. Such money does not go into the State Game Fund from which the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is operated.

By constitutional law, all money resulting from the operation of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and from the administration of the law and regulations pertaining to birds, game, fur-bearing animals, fresh-water fish, reptiles and amphibians goes into the State Game Fund.

(where does your dollar go?)

You, as a citizen of Florida, created the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. You did this by approving an amendment to the Florida State Constitution in 1942. By this referendum vote, the public of Florida vested into the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission the responsibility and authority for the management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the birds, fur-bearing animals and freshwater fish of Florida.

How Much Tax Money Is Involved?

None. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission does not receive any money from the general tax fund.
Who spends the Game Fund money?

Money in the State Game Fund may be used only by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The Commission may use the money only to carry out its duties as specified in Section 30, Article IV of the State Constitution. The Commission cannot spend the money for other purposes.

Where does Commission money come from?

Only from the State Game Fund. The State Game Fund is composed primarily of money from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses—the privilege fee paid by the fisherman and hunter to indulge in his favorite sport. Also included is money from the sale of special hunting permits, commercial licenses, and other sources.

What Other Sources?

The State Game Fund receives money from the Federal Aid programs to Fish and Wildlife. Also, when the Commission sells land or leases grazing rights, stumpage rights or oil rights, or sells old equipment, this money goes into the State Game Fund. Court costs are also included.

Is There Other Wildlife Money?

There are some cooperative work programs in Florida which are cooperatively financed. Hyacinth control work on navigable waters is cooperatively financed by the Commission and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Also, the U.S. Study Commission for Southeastern River Basins reimburses the Commission for the work of planning wildlife and recreational aspects of river basin projects in Florida.

How Do I Know It's Spent Wise?

By law, the records of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are open for public inspection at any time. All meetings of the Commission are open to the public. The Commission publishes a complete fiscal report of financial receipts and expenditures in its Biennial Report. This report goes to the Governor of Florida, and to all members of the Florida State Legislature, and is also available without charge to the general public. The Commission spends the money from the State Game Fund subject to procedures set forth by the State Comptroller and subject to review and audit by the State Auditing Department. The Commission prepares an annual state-wide budget of anticipated revenue and expenditures, and spends the State Game Fund money accordingly.

That Doesn't Leave Many Loopholes!

It doesn’t leave any loopholes. The State Game Fund money is carefully managed on behalf of the people of Florida.

What Are Court Costs?

When people are arrested and convicted in court for violation of the game and fish laws, they may be fined or imprisoned as provided by law. Such fines, penalties or forfeitures go into the fine and forfeiture fund of the county where the conviction was had. Such money does not go into the State Game Fund, and is not received by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The money goes directly into the county treasuries. The law provides, however, that an arrest fee and a mileage cost for transporting prisoners shall go into the State Game Fund. These arrest fees and mileage charges are exactly the same as the law allows to the County Sheriffs. The arrest fees and mileage costs are known as “court costs.”

Do Wildlife Officers Get Arrest Fees?

No. The Florida Wildlife Officers are not on the arrest-fee basis. The number of arrests that a Wildlife Officer makes has no effect on his salary. All court arrest fees and mileage costs go into the State Game Fund, just like the money from the sale of fishing and hunting licenses. The arrest fees and mileage costs that the convicted violator pays are then used by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to manage, restore and regulate the fish and wildlife of Florida.

How Does the Commission Spend Money?

Each year, the Commission draws up a carefully planned and itemized state-wide budget. The Commission can only spend the money that is in the State Game Fund. The Commission cannot obligate itself to spend any money beyond that currently in the Game Fund. And the Commission has no revenue other than the money in the Game Fund. Therefore, by using past experiences, the Commission calculates the money that should be received into the State Game Fund during the coming year. It then plans a state-wide budget of expenditures based upon the anticipated receipts that should come into the State Game Fund during the year. Of course, if something happens—such as a drop-off in the sale of fishing licenses as the result of bad weather—and the expected amount of money does not come into the State Game Fund, the Commission cannot spend it, even if it is budgeted.

What Is a State-Wide Budget?

By past experience, and by benefit of careful planning by its staff officers and field supervisors, the Commission is able to estimate—how many cars or trucks it will have to buy for its state-wide operations during the coming year. The Commission budgets certain amounts of money for necessary fisheries improvements on a state-wide basis, as well as game management work on a state-wide basis. The Commission also knows how many Wildlife Officers are required to enforce the state game and fish laws in all parts of the state, and how many short-wave radios and airplanes will be needed. Since the Commission’s lawful and operations are state-wide, it makes sense for the Commission to operate on a state-wide budget.

Why Not Spend Money on the County Basis?

This is a common question: “Why doesn’t the Commission spend in a county the money that the State Game Fund receives from that county?” The answer is, most of the State Game Fund money comes from the counties with the large population centers—the largest cities. But, most of the hunting and fishing is done in the “smaller counties” that have fewer big cities and more open land and water. So, most of the State Game Fund money is spent in developing wilderness areas for fishing and hunting, and in enforcing the game and fish laws equally in all parts of the state. Therefore, the Commission must use a state-wide budget to budget the money from every dollar in the State Game Fund.

How Much Money Goes Into Law Enforcement?

This figure is a little difficult to pin down, because the wildlife law is enforced on a state-wide basis, and many items must be taken into consideration. All male employees of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, except office junior employees, are considered as wildlife officers. Therefore, all employees and all departments spend some time on law-enforcement. However, the full-time Wildlife Officer, who devotes most of his time to law enforcement, is one of the most important employees of the Commission. During two recent years, the Commission estimated that it spent an average of 49.42 percent of all money in the State (Continued on Next Page)
“Almost 7 1/2¢ of the Game Fund Dollar”

**ADDITION**

Another penny and a half comes from the sale of commercial licenses. Boat registration fees, wholesale fish dealers licenses, hunting preserve licenses, fur dealers licenses, and similar licenses.

The last seven and a half pennies come from miscellaneous revenue sources. This includes the sale of old equipment, leases for grazing, oil and stumpage rights, court costs, and similar sources.

This is your average dollar in the State Game Fund from which the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is operated.

**Where Does The Dollar Go?**

All right. Of every average dollar in the State Game Fund, a total of a little more than 49 and a half pennies is spent on law enforcement. This is the enforcement of our fish and wildlife laws, the prevention of violations, and the apprehension of violators.

About 23 pennies of the dollar are spent to manage and develop our game. This work is done by the game management division of the Commission.

Another 10 and a half pennies are spent on fisheries work. This work is carried on by the fisheries division of the Commission.

To inform the people of Florida as to the laws and as to the programs of the Commission, and as to the need for good conservation, the Commission spends another nine and one half pennies. This work is done by the information and education division of the Commission.

To administer the whole state-wide program, and to do the accounting and fiscal work, the Commission spends almost seven and a half pennies. This work is done by the fiscal division, and by the director’s office of the Commission.

This is where your dollar in the State Game Fund goes.

**FLORIDA BIRD LIFE**

**Pinewoods Sparrow,** *Spizella nemoralis*.

A typical member of the widely distributed scientific family, Fringilidae is the Pinewoods Sparrow. Similar in general appearance and body form to many of the other sparrows, its main distinction is its lack of any striking plumage markings. The bird averages about six inches in total length. The upperparts are reddish brown, many of the feathers with grayish edging. The underparts are light gray, unmarked and with a drab cast to the breast feathering.

The species is found in some abundance throughout much of the state. Below a line reaching along the Caloosahatchee River and across through Martin County it is definitely uncommon. The nesting range is characterized by the Pinewoods Sparrow. When the bird arrives in the state, they usually form a clump of grass, palmetto or other protective vegetation. From early April through July is the period of nesting for this species in the state. The eggs number four to the clutch. They are white and lack markings of any sort.

The clear, rich song of the Pinewoods Sparrow marks the bird for distinction among its kind. Insects comprise a goodly proportion of the food although seeds of various sorts are taken in quantity at times.

Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*.

This is the Pinewoods Sparrow. Unlike the nests of most other sparrows, those of this species are usually domed over with the same sort of fine grasses commonly utilized in forming the body of the nest. The structure is located on the ground, often in a clump of grass, palmetto or other protective vegetation. The eggs number four to the clutch. They are white and lack markings of any sort.

The clearing of the Pinewoods Sparrow as to the programs of the Commission, and as to the need for good conservation, the Commission spends another nine and one half pennies. This work is done by the information and education division of the Commission.

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To administer the whole state-wide program, and to do the accounting and fiscal work, the Commission spends almost seven and a half pennies. This work is done by the fiscal division, and by the director’s office of the Commission.

This is where your dollar in the State Game Fund goes.

This article prepared by Robert A. Dahne, Chief, Information and Education Division. All information based upon records of the Fiscal Division and official documents of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.
two thirds

man throughout the winter months

The Swamp Sparrow is notably typical

White-throated Sparrow, the species has

The Swamp Sparrow is notably dark of plumage with much reddish brown on the wings and back. In the winter plumage there is a buffy feathering below. The crown, often streaked with black, is reddish and is divided by a light stripe. The gray neck patch is a useful identification characteristic.

The heavy vegetation in and about fresh water marshes is typical habitat for the species. In the northern two thirds of the state it is quite common throughout the winter months but on the lower portion of the peninsula it is very rare.

From Newfoundland southward through New Jersey and westward into at least the northern part of Nebraska is the breeding range of this species. During the winter months it moves toward the south with some birds reaching the Gulf coast and on down as far as central Mexico.

Swamp sparrows do much of their feeding on the ground. Here they find the vegetable foods, mainly seeds, that make up the major portion of their diet. Grasshoppers, ants, beetles, and other insects add animal material to the ration.

Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia

The Song Sparrow, well known throughout much of the country, is but a winter visitor to the northern part of Florida. It is fairly common during the cooler months from Alachua County northward. On down the state it is increasingly uncommon although specimens have been seen well down toward the southernmost tip of the peninsula.

In average size the Song Sparrow measures about 6½ inches in total length. A characteristic dark spot in the center of the breast is the most readily observed identification feature. Brushy pastures, the margins of woodlands, anywhere there are to be found the thickets that make up typical sparrow habitat is a likely prospect to find Song Sparrow.

Vegetable matter, mainly seeds of various sorts, are the mainstay of the diet, accounting for about two thirds of the annual food consumed. Insects provide about one third of the animal food consumed.

White-throated Sparrow, Zonotrichia albicollis

In the northern part of the state the White-throated Sparrow is numerous during the winter months. Southward from Putnam and Levy Counties however it is increasingly uncommon.

Of fair large size for a sparrow, the white-throat measures 6½ inches on the average. Characteristic of the adults is the white throat and the yellow stripe between eye and bill. Coupled with the striped pattern of the head, the bird’s appearance is distinctive enough to make identification of the species relatively simple.

Sharing the trait with most other members of its family, the species does sing on the ground. Here it scratches noisily among the leaves in the brushy forest margins, hedgerows, thickets and vine tangles as well as beneath the shrubbery in city yard and garden. This sparrow shows a definite preference for company of others of its kind. For this reason it is seldom encountered singly, during the winter season at least, but rather moves about in small flocks.

The song is frequently heard even during midwinter. It carries a sweet plaintive quality that makes the bird's presence very noticeable.

The English Sparrow, Passer domesticus, is one of the few of its kind that are must be kept out of the way. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the English Sparrow is its white throat.

The Bakeless, a very satisfactory variety of the species, is a little darker and more massive than those found in the north. The Bakeless has a much broader and longer tail.

For versatility, stamina, nose hunting instinct, and gameness—the Foxhound bows to no breed on the American hunting scene. He gives the sport of the chase, running the trail hour after hour over all sorts of terrain and under all sorts of conditions. Of rugged constitution, the Foxhound is built for the long grind. In the field he has a one-track mind, the utmost persistence for game animals. In addition he has a most remarkable homing instinct.

Dog Tale

The Gaines Progress Bulletin, published periodically as a service to Dog Breeders by the Gaines Dog Research Center, will pay $5 for a true, short story or experience, about dogs, if it is acceptable.

The following story appeared in a recent issue and won $5 for Mrs. Lynmar Brock, Newton Square, Pa.

"My neighbor's Boxer "Shasta" loved to play with a three-foot piece of black rubber hose. Often he brought it to her for a friendly tug-of-war. One day he trotted up for a game, black lengths trailing down either side of his mouth. She grabbed one end for the usual tussle, but to her horror realized she was handling a live three-foot black snake. Shasta couldn't understand her scream and sudden departure."

Doggy News

In Scarsdale, N.Y., a poy-pedigreed resident called the police station to report he saw a dog running loose, wearing blue pajamas. The police converged on the scene and found, sure enough, a Welsh Terrier sporting blue pajamas.

The owner finally turned up at the station to claim the animal. She told police that the dog had run off just before bedtime.

Sheriff Deputies of Volusia County, Fla., have un-corked a novel way to trail moonshiners. First, they stop at the State Prison farm in DeLand to borrow Princess, a bloodhound. Then, Princess is given a strong whiff of the shiner's merchandise and the hunt is on. Thus fortified, Princess soon overtakes the culprit."

NEXT MONTH
Hunting Season Regulations
Arrows Away
Ask Peterson and Other Articles on Hunting and Fishing in Florida

SEPTEMBER, 1960

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

BY GEORGE H. CROWLEY

The Fox Hound is America's oldest sporting dog. And no breed has ever been or is likely to be, the fountainhead of so many different "families" or strains.

Dog history reveals that many such strains have been developed in this country and practically all of them date back to the hounds of Robert Brooke who brought the first pack to these shores from England more than three hundred years ago, 1650, to be precise.

Among the American strains are the Walker, Trigg, July, Travis, Goodman, Hampton-Watts-Bennett, Shaver, Sugar Loaf, Robertson, Whippoorwill, they exist from Florida, Trumbo, Bywaters, Birdseyes, Arkansas Traveler, Spalding-Norris, Byron, Cook, Buckfield, and New England natives.

Some still exist, but the most popular are the Walker, Trigg and July— with Walker enjoying highest favor at the moment.

The Sport that Robert Brooke established in this country spread rapidly and widely and is now enjoyed in practically every state. In fact, fox hunting has provided thrills for American sportmen almost as long as it has for our British cousins.

For versatility, stamina, nose hunting instinct, and gameness—the Foxhound bows to no breed on the American hunting scene.

Entrepreneurship is handicapped by a lack of proper control measures against the birds but results are usually little more than temporary resentment against the pests.

A great variety of nesting sites are put into use by the English Sparrow. It does not live in trees but on the ground. It is commonly found in tall grass or sage and cacti and in and about buildings are favored. These may be stuffed with a collection of straw, string, scraps of paper, feathers, and other litter to form a nest. A tree nest is typically a domed structure formed of the same sort of material constructed with an entrance hole on one side.

The 5 or 6 grayish white eggs comprising the clutch are speckled with brownish dots. The broods of young may be brought off during a single nesting season.

Although Europe, Asia, and North Africa are the breeding grounds, the White-throated Sparrow, is a gregarious species, going about its activities in flocks of considerable size and gathering together on favored roosts at night in even larger congregations.

They are noisy and parochial in nature. In addition they do varying amounts of damage to agricultural crops, eat grasses, intended for poultry and livestock, feed on grains, and in other ways make a general nuisance of themselves. Various municipalities, have undertaken control measures against the birds but results are usually little more than temporary resentment against the pests.

Florida Wildlife
Actually, only a few basic safety rules need to be observed. These involve the boat driver primarily, because the skier (other than in a stunning spill) is in full control of his or her movements. A moment of carelessness or inattention by a boat driver—any driver, as well as the ski-tow cr raft's operator—can place the skier in jeopardy.

On a mid-state lake recently, this writer observed the following in one-two-three order:

1. A boat, with skier just coming on plane, shot off into the lake from a side-channel. In the boat were a driver and observer. Both were looking backward at the skier—and the boat almost crashed head-on into another skier who was passing along the mouth of the channel.

2. It's the observer's job to watch the skier—and the driver's job to watch ahead and to the sides. Also, the second boat and skier were at fault in ranging too close to the semi-concealed side-channel.

3. A boat towing two skiers; one skier lost his balance and spilled into the water; the boat driver, instead of immediately stopping and allowing the skier to swim to the sides. Also, the second boat and skier were at fault in ranging so close to the semi-concealed side-channel.

Ski belts are not imaginary hob-goblins. They have caused, and will continue to cause, death. It takes time to turn a ski-boat, return and locate the body of a disabled skier who has sunk below the surface. In one of the more noteworthy cases, the drowning victim was a professional skier and expert swimmer who was stunned in a hard spill during a public performance. They may strike their head on a ski or some other object in the water; they may simply suffer a severe impact on the water that has the stunning effect of a solar plexus punch; they may sustain a fracture or dislocation that impairs their swimming ability.

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The Florida water skiing regulations are excellent so far as they go, but they fall a long way short of insuring safety in skiing. The principal reason for this is the truth of the old saying that "you can't legislate common sense and alertness into the human mind"—those things are the product of experience and education.

I have trouble selling the idea to my own sons and daughters, but I'm fully in accord with the requirement—adopted in many other states—that a buoyant ski belt or jacket is "must" equipment for safety.

"Dad," the youngsters plead, "we don't need it—we can swim." So they can, and very capably. That ability to swim isn't worth a hoot if they're knocked unconscious in a spill. They may strike their head on a ski or some other object in the water; they may simply suffer a severe impact on the water that has the stunning effect of a solar plexus punch; they may sustain a fracture or dislocation that impairs their swimming ability.

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There are compact units that clamp around the sides of the water skis and provide enough flotation to keep the disabled skier afloat in the water until help arrives.

Outside of boating itself, water skiing is probably the fastest growing participant sport in the country. It can be thoroughly safe and exciting, or it can be thoroughly dangerous to the spectators.

"Life Saver" says the lettering on this life belt—and that's exactly what it is. Even though the skier is an expert swimmer, there is always a possibility of being stunned or disabled in a spill. The instructor, incidentally, is the world's champion water ski jump star.

By DON CULLIMORE

These near-accidents? Of course not—only common sense and alertness could. That common sense and alertness can be acquired only by experience and education.

Patrol Supervisor Conger, Brown of the Lake Texoma area reported they had lost only one skier—a non-swimmer (although expert skier) who for some reason had taken off his ski-belt. His wife was driving the boat, alone (Oklahoma recognizes the rear-view mirror). The engine conked; the skier drowned.

Recently concluded on the West Coast was a long, scenic and interesting "race" of an unusual nature: a predicted log race from Seattle, Wash., up the inland passage to Juneau, Alaska. Participated in by both inboard and outboard craft, it gave the boaters and their families an opportunity to combine sightseeing and camping experiences in a primitive area with the thrill of competition.

Predicted log racing is, of course, known in Florida as well as in the Pacific Northwest, but in outboard circles has never achieved the popularity that would result in an extensive cruise of the Washington-to-Alaska type.

At any rate, an extended trip of "predicted log" nature is an idea for outboard and other boating clubs whose members may have become somewhat jaded by the "get-on-the-water-and-get-there" fast cruises which leave little or no opportunity for sight-seeing and fishing along the way.

A proposal that the Corps of Engineers relinquish authority on the headwaters of Cedar Creek in Jacksoville—a tributary of the Ortega River which in turn flows into the St. Johns—has brought protests by boatmen, boating organizations and marine industry representatives.

Crux of the matter is that, with the Corps of Engineers remaining in control, construction of any barrier or obstacles to navigation must first receive C. of E. approval. The Jacksonville boating interests fear that, with the upstream end of Cedar Creek no longer subject to Corps authority, low bridges and other obstructions to navigation may result.
FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEDERATION CONVENTION

As many as 60 conservation and education organizations and agencies may be represented Sept. 16, 17 and 18 when the Florida Wildlife Federation holds its annual convention at the DuPont Plaza Hotel in Miami. One of the main legislative topics of discussion will be proposed constitutional amendment change to be voted on in November and which would alter the status of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission. Also on the program will be consideration of additional pleas for boating legislation and water resource use in the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District. Registration will begin at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, Sept. 16. At 2 o'clock there will be a meeting of the Conservation Council, a non-policy-making discussion group involving representatives of many Florida conservation organizations. Among those expected at the Council session are representatives from the Florida Boating Federation, the Florida Audubon Society, Florida Archers, Department of State Parks, Florida Development Commission, Izak Walton League, Department of Conservation, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Florida Flood Control District, League of Women Voters, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Florida Island Sportfishing Hosts, Florida Outboard Writers Association, Florida Skin divers, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Women's Clubs and Garden Clubs.

Russell Mason is chairman of the council.

There will be a dinner Saturday night with no speeches planned. Following the dinner will be a Fourth Region Sportsmen's meeting and Ed Dall, director of the central and southern Florida Flood Control District, will present a motion picture concerning the national use of installations of the FCD.

Dr. J. W. Cooper, Jr., of Honeystead, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, will present the fourth district, is scheduled to deliver the “welcome to Miami” address at 9 o'clock Saturday morning, Sept. 17.

Following announcements by President Robertson, Leonard Foote, executive secretary of the Southeastern States Representative of the Wildlife Management Institute, will speak on “Wildlife Management Institute Interests in Florida.

Charles Bevis, executive secretary of Southeastern Fisheries, will speak on “Where Conservation and Recreation Intersect.”

FISHING

(Continued from Page 9)

on a recent fishing trip. He is right—it is a ridiculous-looking headpiece. What's more important to me, however, is that I did not look like a bobbled lobster at the end of three days of bright sun and open water.

I intend to have these hard hats and a few of these face screens aboard “No Strain” from now on. Here is a way to beat the heat. I envy the dark-eyed bunette their ability to absorb the sun. We blue-eyed blondes have a much greater problem. Redheads, of course, are hopeless when it comes to sun exposure in big doses, but for good health, the problem is to avoid excess exposure.

When Old Sol beams down, try to duck between 11 and 3. By then, all your Sunburn has been baked on, and students go out in the noontday sun. If you must stay out, cover up. Only by so doing can you really protect yourself. If your face looks like a version of my hard hat and Little Dandy Face Screen idea, I've found it is a real comfort. In fact, after a few hours in the no-glare retreat of my head rig, I find I am safer and more comfortable. It is a ridiculous-looking headpiece, but it really protect yourself.

If you use a version of my hard hat and Little Dandy Face Screen idea, you've found it is a real comfort. In fact, after a few hours in the no-glare retreat of my head rig, I find I am safer and more comfortable. It is a ridiculous-looking headpiece, but it really protect yourself.

Taking no genius to figure that no state can put enough wildlife in the field to halt violations if the public won't cooperate. If half the license buyers were delirious violators we'd take a beating, even if we doubled or tripled our staff of enforcement officers. When violations are reduced it is often the result of education—partly by the officers themselves—and not because the officers have become rougher and tougher.

The game law violator is a thief, stealing from his friends and neighbors. If everyone did as he does, there would be no game to hunt and no fish to catch.

The violator destroys public property as surely as if he spent his nights wrecking public water systems and sawing down utility poles. What we must have, if we expect to have any game law officers left, is a pious attitude toward conservation. They are valued nonetheless.

Reluctance to turn in a neighbor is something like this:

"Why stop here Lois? You kept telling me the good fishing spot was around the next bend."

LIKEN CHART, CONSERVATION begins at home. A sportsmen's club with game law officers on its roster is in a poor position for aiding in law enforcement.

Fortunately, conservation is becoming increasingly popular. During the past few years I have attended several sportsmen's club meetings that turned into conservation sessions when old-timers told of their deprivations of many years ago. Like reformed alcoholics, they have swung from one extreme to the other and take such a pious attitude toward conservation they are likely to denounce their old associates in public.

They usually their fervor turns toward law enforcement and they become active helpers of wildlife officers. Sometimes they are the leaders in movement to establish rewards for the apprehension of violators. This is a worthwhile aid—not so much because it results in the apprehension of more violators, but because it places on record the feelings of sportsmen's groups with regard to law enforcement. This in itself, it becomes a form of education—and education is what we must have.

At one time, the "warden" was considered a sort of rustic policeman of limited authority and inferiority. His duties pertained mainly to putting the arm on offenders and trying to get them convicted. The concept has changed, partly because of more public understanding and partly because of the caliber of officers sent out by the conservation agencies.

We know now that he is as much a public relations man and educator as he is an enforcer.
For a man in Florida's brush country, where shots at 30 yards or less can be expected, Bradshaw recommends a recurved-end bow, between 40-50 pounds. Hesitation to shoot a bow with proper care reduce the life of many fine bows.

Between periods of use, a bow should be kept unstrung or un-braced. As Heywood accurately wrote back in the year 1546, "a bow grows weak very slowly."

The best way to store a bow is to hang it in a cool, dry place, away from outside walls of variable temperatures.

Never draw a bow farther than the length of the arrow for which it was made and marked. Also, never pull back and release the bowstring without an arrow fitted to it. Either abuse may snap the bow.

If you do abuse a bow, just make sure you don't abuse yourself. Stradivarius violins, they are too fine and too few to be wasted.

MIZZLE FLASHERS

(Continued from Page 7)

style check pad. You can buy these ready-made, lace-on pads from Buddy Schollkopf Products, Inc., 8200 Sovereign Row, Dallas, Texas. They come in Low, Medium, High and X-high—the comb height differences being approximately 1/4 of an inch between one size and the next. One of our highest height designation teams up with the MunIl 356ADL. The pads cost around $4.00, post-paid. So far, I have had to order all of mine because of not being able to find them in Florida sporting goods stores. I find the low and medium height pads the most practical of all the different number of gun models, both rifles and shotguns.

In short, your first base step in preparation for the hunting season is to get your gun in perfect mechanical condition and fitted to your physique and eyesight. And get it in shape three months before the opening of hunting season, I impose on myself a rigid schedule of gun handling practice. I do not try to

in some actual shooting a couple of times a week at the local rifle range, but also make it a habit to pull back and shoot at the backyard and practice throwing the weapons to shoulder, aiming and shooting at selected targets via the "dry practice" method.

At first gun handling movements are usually sloppy and inconsistent, but after two weeks of daily 15 minute practice sessions, there is noticeable improvement in dexterity and accuracy per gun.

By hunting season, I'm usually able to get "on target" with split-second precision. Pre-season practice has been essential because guns have fitted from the first day shooting exercises started.

Physically, I start getting into shape by working off any excess poundage and making sure eyesight and vision correction glasses are in harmony. (One year I made the serious mistake of taking the latter for granted; a slight degree of unknown myopia, complicated by other matters considered at hunting time!) This method of getting guns and self ready for an active hunting season isn't perfect, I'll admit. Actually, we should all keep physically trim all year round. But, as many of you readers know, and as Robert Burns said, "The best of all the years is just the year that's past, and the promise of the future is a bit of uncertain cast."

But hunting season arrives. So get ready for an active hunting season. Get into the proper shooting form the self ready for an active hunting season.

As you can get, it's a tough choice, but only mosquito protection plus regular veterinary visits and preventive treatment will ensure results.

Question: I plan a boating vacation in Florida this winter and would appreciate information about best camping areas, maps, marine service, and other data that will help me in planning my trip. Is there such an organization? C. Garden, Chattahoochee, Tenn.

Answer: You are in luck. Write to the Florida Development Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Ask them for their free book, "Florida Boating, Fishing and Hunting Guide". This book lists hundreds of launching ramps from one end of Florida to the other, and that's an "A" piece.

There are guides to the principal rivers and the intercostal waterways. There is information on almost every phase of the date, a briefing booklet might want. You plan to return in Couple of years, at which time I intend buying a charter boat and operating it on the gulf coast. Is it necessary to own a boat to get an operator's license? Where can I get more information about these examinations? J. Jenkins, Tampa, Fla.

Answer: You do not need to own a boat to take the commercial operator's license examination. Further particulars can be obtained from your nearest U.S. Coast Guard Station.

A word of caution seems indicated. I wish you were, also, make a detailed study of the cost of owning and maintaining an operating charter craft. Camp.

It's true there, but only mosquito protection plus regular veterinary visits and preventive treatment will ensure results.

I, as a fisherman, have found that some target archers who bowhunt with Stradivarius violins, they are too fine and too few to be wasted.

HOTTEST LURE GOING

(Continued from Page 19)
duce a new concept of the plastic worm, one with the scent built in. Ten years ago Burke was a plastic expert in a Detroit company.

He started tinkering in the kitchen, in his spare time, and went on to move because of his health he took his life savings and gambled on starting a tackle business.

His original $1,500 permitted him to open a small tackle shop in Traverse City, where the plastic worm craze began to snowball, booming Burke's business. Presently the Michigan plant employs more than fifty people.

The sales of both companies and others which manufacture the popular worms reach into the millions today, thanks to the vinyl plastic which have gone a long way toward fouling the temporal warming black bass box.

So goes the fairy-tale story of the plastic worm and its sudden emergence from complete obscurity to the largest selling artificial lure in the United States. But what about the future? Every fisherman recalls how several manufacturers tells of surf casting failures which have hit them, notably a few in the industry. Only to die a natural death after a few successful bass-catching seasons. Yet the experts with whom I've talked agreed that the plastic worm has a long way to stay for a long time.

The consensus of opinion is that the plastic worm always will be a steady seller. I have been in the vine material business and it operates effectively in a vicinity where much of the bass' natural food is found. I can learn more? I am very interested. D. Cook, Mount Dora, Fla.

In your newsletter you mention April 1960. In it was information about the present change in the certification by the Florida Pure Products, address: Ringoes, N. J. Write to the above for full particulars.

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jeeps and pickups seemed to take off all at once. We drove down a long-unused trail, bounced into a draw and stopped. Flashlight beams scattered over the landscape and the air was filled with grunts, uncomprehending phrases, horn blasts, whistles and thudding feet.

People were grabbing dogs all over the place. We were in a clump of trees and undoubtedly the fox was in one of them but we couldn’t seem to care just which one. A gray fox is an expert climber.

Some of the dogs were willing to call it a night but others had already started out for another fox. It would take a canine psychologist to figure the pattern of a fox-bound at a tree. Some of them bark and others simply figure the game is over and lose interest.

Now take Wimpy’s Rattler. They used to trail the Training Fox, an ideal subject for pups. The Training Fox would seldom run for the old dogs, shake the hounds and when the hunters came up to the tree they’d shoot him before he’d tree. Trig Fox would seldom run for Wimpy’s Rattler. At a tree is something as rare as finding a small tree vigorously growing over the landscape and the air of sand roads and through some areas where someone had neglected to build roads.

It was partly in Wimpy’s Jeep pickup during this tour and, although I didn’t know where we were going, I was agreeably surprised each time we stopped and found we were working closer to the dogs.

Finally Wimpy bit his cigar, hunched over the wheel and muttered something about a swamp and the possibility that they might be passing all sorts of dogs on the road without so much as a howdy-do.

So Rattler took to hiding when the Training Fox tried. After looking for him a while, the hunters would shake the Training Fox out, whereupon Rattler would be on his trail with a joyous whoop. Rattler was hard on everyone’s nerves, especially those of the Training Fox. I, personally, believe it was this sort of underhand operation that caused the Training Fox to leave the country and I feel that it was good enough for Rattler though it is a shame the pups have no place.

Current procedure for catching Rattler at a tree is something as follows:

Ted: “Well, that’s all the dogs except Rattler.”

Wimpy: “Okay! Shake him out, T.”

(T. J. shakes small tree vigorously.)

Wimpy: “Here he comes!” (Throws a heavy stick into the air. It falls with a loud thud.)

Rattler (jumping out from behind a bush): “Yippee! Which way did the sneaky little varmint go?”

(All leap upon the disgusted Rattler and stuff him into a dog box.)

We would load up and Nubbin did. So that made two of his three dogs.

I don’t know how Wimpy knew the exact spot at which the Railroad Fox would cross some obscure road several miles from any recognizable point but we had all the dogs except, of course, Dixie. It was 3 a.m., and even as we wearily mounted the jeep again I thought I detected a faint, high-pitched bay in the distance but probably I was mistaken.

Anyway, Wimpy went back the next day and Dixie was waiting at some point to which both of them had been drawn—obviously by mental telepathy. If a dog is lost in an unfamiliar area, his owner may lead a three-quart can dog box so the wanderer will know where to wait.

Now I could take hounds or leave them alone. For years I have been passing all sorts of dogs on the road without so much as a howdy-do. The possibility that they might be strays didn’t enter my mind but a few trips with the fox hunters have changed my life.

On my way home in broad daylight the other day I suddenly pulled my car to the side of the road and crashed off through the wet underbrush in my store clothes to seize a bewildered hound.

“C’meere, Dixie!” I grunted triumphantly. Then I looked at the collar and it didn’t say W. S. Steer. It said Joe Adams and I didn’t even know Joe Adams. I do now, though, because I had to take him home.

Now what I want to know is this: Will I be jumping out of cars and chasing smelly hounds the rest of my life or will I get over it?”

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**Florida Wildlife**

**Know Your Florida Game Birds**

**Rules for Hunting Rails are Gouverned by Both Federal & State Laws**

**Better Known as Marsh Hen!**

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**Florida Wildlife**

**Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**

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**Know Your Florida Game Birds**

**When Flushed Marsh Hen Fly Only a Short Distance with Legs Dangling**

**Short Bill Long Bill**

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**Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**

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**SCRAPBOOK**

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