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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S COMMISSION ON NATURAL RESOURCES, on recommendation of Dr. W. B. Chadwell and the Florida Audubon Society [which later became the Florida Audubon Society, Inc.], has issued a proposed report and request for public comment in connection with the conservation of the Bald Eagle.

Because of the unique characteristics of the Florida Bald Eagle, the state of Florida has an obligation to the nation and the world to protect it, with the ultimate goal of its restoration to self-sustaining numbers.

The Florida Audubon Society, Inc. has been active in the conservation and protection of the Bald Eagle for several years. It has worked with federal, state, and local agencies to develop a comprehensive plan for the conservation of the Florida Bald Eagle.

The society has also worked to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting the bald eagle, through educational programs and public events.

The proposed report and request for public comment is a significant step in the conservation of the Florida Bald Eagle, and the society encourages all interested parties to participate in the process.

To learn more about the Florida Audubon Society and its efforts to protect the Florida Bald Eagle, visit their website or contact them directly.
I fe you're a reason who likes a lot of shooting, or a newspaper Sunday supplement feature writer momentarily styed for interesting local area material, the Florida chain of Winter Trapshoots, to be held in eight Florida cities between the dates of January 27 and March 10, should not be overlooked.

In all, more than a million shot- gun shells will be fired at clay pigeon targets thrown from electronically operated traps, with at least 500 out-of-state shooters competing against Florida's resident best. Last year, visiting competitors came from 28 different states and from as far away as Canada and California. There usually is an especially heavy representation from Middle West states.

Many of the out-of-state shooters come to Florida as early as September, to get used to shooting conditions on Florida club ranges, prior to scheduled competitions. This season marks the fourteenth year member clubs of the Florida State Trapshooters' Association have held round-robin invitational shoots. Each year has seen an obvious increase in interest and activity and acknowledged enjoyment.

Location and dates of this year's chain of winter month trapshoots, statewide, are as follows:

- Daytona 
  - Jan. 27, 28, 29
- Palatka 
  - Feb. 1, 2, 3, 4
- Miami 
  - Feb. 9, 10, 11, 12
- Sarasota 
  - Feb. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
- St. Pete. 
  - Feb. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
- Tampa 
  - Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Orlando 
  - Mar. 9, 10, 11, 12
- Orlando 
  - Mar. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
- Orlando 
  - Mar. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

The competitive firing will be divided into three general classifications—the 16 Yard, the Handicap and Double-aid Events.

All scheduled competitions are registered shoots—which means that scores of individual contestants are reported to the American Trapshooting Association for record and for future use in determining fair handicap systems. ATA rules govern all the shoots in the Florida chain.

Uniform tournament opening and closing hours will be observed all over the state. Firing will start promptly at 10:00 A.M. and close by 5:30 P.M. Shooting will be continuous, as numbered relays proceed to each. Even during the lunch hour, firing will be continuous, as some relays shoot while rival competition is getting under way.

A printed program explaining all scheduled events, giving entry fee information and a list of the various awards available, will be sent to Luke Sadler, secretary-treasurer, 4328 Arapahoe Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.

For shooters flying to sites of activity, local clubs have made arrangements for fast transportation to and from nearest airports.

While advance expression of intention to participate will materially help tournament officials, still, entries will be accepted right up to the day of scheduled events. However, very few shooters are guilty of such procrastination. Most want to know in advance of their entry classification, and plan for successful participation.

As usual, many colorful personalities will be seen at this year's Florida chain of trapshoots. All of the big arms companies, like Winchester-Western and Remington-Peters, will have representatives in attendance. Paul Graf, nationally famous gunstock maker from Hamilton, Ohio, will be both a competitor and an exhibitor. The editor of Trap and Skeet, Luke Sadler, will have representatives in attendance also. Paul Graf, right, noted gunstock maker from Hamilton, Ohio, is a regular competitor and exhibitor of Florida trapshooting.

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Typical of participating clubs is the Lealman Rod and Gun Club, St. Petersburg, featuring a modern club house and range layout on 20 acres of developed property. The club maintains five electrically controlled traps and a separate Skeet shooting range. During the coming mid-winter season, the trap shooters, like others, will use four of its traps for main events and make the fifth available for contemporary practice use by competitors desiring to "warm up" their guns or otherwise check on their gun handling techniques. For family use, there are also adjacent picnic areas, and idle hour entertainment inside the club's spacious recreation building.

Whether competitor or spectator, most persons interested in shooting like to see targets break or otherwise register a hit. In essence, this is the primary reason why trapshooting and Skeet outreach frankm rifle and pistol tournaments in maintained participant and spectator interest. One can see and feel growing excitement and results as they develop, somewhat more so. A recent study of posted scores simply cannot be traced to their

To provide adequate, convenient eating facilities close to scenes of activity, the Florida Trapshooting Association has a contract with a well known caterer, who comes in and sets up a large dining tent at each scheduled shoot, offering hot food—fruits, vegetables, meats at pre-approved prices. Competing shooters and their families do not have to leave ranges at all or move to distant, motionless paper targets.

Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create.

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The theme and slogan this year is "Multiple Use—Balanced Conservation Planning for the Future." National Wildlife Week is sponsored annually to highlight particularly conservation goals through educational and informational means. National Wildlife Week was first established in 1939 by presidential proclamation. Observances now are states and mayors of many cities as well as by the President of the United States.

Here in Florida Governor Farris Bryant will proclaim the Week and will also issue a proclamation for Youth Conservation Day, March 25, 1961.

Tag Day will be observed by the Junior Conservation Clubs of Florida. This year will be the sixth annualTag Day. Other interested groups are invited to join the Florida youth in raising money for their Camp in the Ocala National Forest and for other associated activities. Tags are distributed to the two dozen clubs in the State and monies raised are evenly divided between the league and the local clubs. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs assisted in some areas last year for the first time.

Money received from citizens interested in conservation and our youth camps. Receipts from the last three or four years have aided the youth in purchasing four aluminum 17' foot Grumman canoes, a school bus for camp transportation, six .22 caliber rifles and two drinking fountains.

(The fountains were presented 1960 by the boys Junior Conservation Clubs of Bartow. Between the two clubs approximately $500 was raised.)

Don't forget these two dates, March 19-25, 1961, National Wildlife Week and March 25, Youth Conservation Day.

L. B. Sharp Joins Southern Illinois University
The friends of Dr. L. B. Sharp were happy to receive the announce ment that he has been appointed Professor-Lecturer in Outdoor Education at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, beginning this fall. We congratulate both L. B. and Southern Illinois on this appointment, which should give great strength to both teaching and leadership preparation in outdoor education. The pioneer efforts of Dr. Sharp, through Life Camps and National Camps, coupled with the fine leadership and facilities of Southern Illinois should speed the use of the outdoors in the enrichment of education. According to the announce ment, Dr. Sharp will continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the Outdoor Education Association, Inc., which is a private organization for the advancement of outdoor education.

Scouting for Conservation
Inquiries have been coming into our office with greater frequency these past three months. For any scoutmaster interested in this program sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, please write to us in Ocala at 2320 East Silver Springs Blvd.

At the present time, thirty-two scouts have participated in the program during the last three years. The program was inaugurated during May, 1957. The following scouts have received these honors and ranks:


Pinellas Area Council: Steven D.


Book Department
Free and Inexpensive Books — (Order from Sources)
First Aid and Care of Small Animals—by Ernest P. Walker—$0.35, free to teachers.


Turn to the Sea—by Athelston Spilhaus—The International Oceanographic Foundation, Coral Gables, Florida.

CONSERVATION FILM MADE IN FLORIDA

The NATIONAL WILDLIFE Federation and the Remington Arms Company, Inc., currently are sponsoring a conservation film, titled "Runaways in the Wild," in cooperation with the U. S. Air Force.

The 14'/4 minute movie, in 16mm sound-and-color, is planned for release early in 1961. Produced by Douglas Productions, Inc. of Chicago, Ill., the film will be distributed by the sponsors and the Air Force for public interest television use and showing in civic groups and schools all over the country.

Utilizing facilities at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, "Runaways in the Wild" portrays a graphic account of how natural resources at defense installations are being managed for public recreation, by both military personnel and the general public, and other conservation goals. Many of the conservation principles outlined in the film are applicable to both public and private lands.

In an entertaining fashion, an Air Force crewman writes his father to tell of outdoor experiences which he and his young son are enjoying at Eglin Field. The camera actually visits many of the conservation projects referred to in the narration.

Film sequences were obtained through the cooperation of the Commanding Officer at Eglin Air Force Base, officials of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and members of the Florida Wildlife Federation, a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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New Programs
1961 presents many things among which are special programs sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Junior Garden Club Conservation Program
Camp Fire Girls, Inc. of Florida Opening of the New Youth Conservation Camp in South Florida.

Others will be announced from time to time.

That's it for this issue. Remember what the little girl said as she defined Conservation?

CONSERVATION IS WHAT WE EAT AND WHAT WE WEAR AND WHERE WE LIVE. AND IF YOU DON'T, WE WON'T... How about that?
The legislative committee is concerned about some bills that would break it down into phases—a work of seconds.

An attorney. Here’s a man the organization they may not have found that he can learn something from the case of a forester. The area is in a national forest. He then decides to check with the attorney to see if the proposed legislation is really legal. He passes the Conservation Officer, checks for an opinion with the Wildlife Officer, figures he now has the word and he may not have to call on his biologist or his educator.

The committee that never meets comes through with the facts and the legislative committee decides what to do and brings it before the membership.

This is an obvious dividend. Let’s give it a shot. In the first place, the very act of appointing this committee is a piece of public relations. The people approached are made to feel that they understand your problems and he spends a lot of time in the areas you’re interested in.

A wildlife officer. Here is the direct contact with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. He may set policy but he understands your problems and he spends a lot of time in the areas you’re interested in.

The county agent and a soil conservationist. These people could give quick insight to soil problems that are plaguing the county. They are often interested in soil conservation matters. The legislators which would in some way change the status of a large hunting area. He would bring the problem to the attention of the technical committee who would break it down into phases—a work of seconds.

An educator. Conservation is in the interests of youth and it is youth of seconds. The legislative which would in some way change the status of a large hunting area. He would bring the problem to the attention of the technical committee who would break it down into phases—a work of seconds.

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A forester. This fellow’s value is obvious. Probably he has a sound background in game management and is interested in that field of conservation as he is in the wise use of timber. He may need help from the club and the club certainly can use help from him.

An attorney. Here’s a man the legislative committee is likely to call on repeatedly. He can be a valuable ally against problems of conservation law enforcement. He’s a contact with the legal profession.

There is an increasing tendency for sportsmen’s clubs to aid in the prosecution of game and fish law violators. He is a ready source of advice in this work.

A salt water conservation officer. He can be a real help when salt water information is needed in a hurry. His recommendations are likely to be the result of department policy and worthwhile to any club.

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SHOOTING PRESERVES?

Commercial shooting preserves have been operating in Florida for three years. The first year there was one open to the public; this winter there are nine.

What do these preserves mean to the average sportsman? How do they affect the overall hunting picture? Are there disadvantages to preserves? Is the shooting sporty on commercial preserves? These are common questions that frequently arise and they should be answered.

A commercial preserve is a licensed area, restricted to 1,000 acres in Florida, where pen-raised game is stocked for a six-months hunting season. The hunter pays a fee to hunt on the privately owned and operated area and there is no bag limit. Since the game that is shot is essentially stocked birds there is no bag limit and the season may run from October 1 through March 31.

It would be highly desirable to have a six-months season on native game—except for one factor. The native game cannot stand that much pressure. But where modern incubators and brooders are substituted for Mother Nature's yearly cycle, game birds can be turned out by the thousands for stocking before and during the preserve season.

One need only drive through Florida to see how the vast developments are gobbling up hunting land. And if one is interested in statistics, he knows that America is having a population explosion.

There are few hunters in America today who have not run into the problem of a place to hunt. Despite Florida's progressive programs of refuges, wildlife management areas, management of military lands and other programs, it is becoming more difficult each year to have enough huntable areas and game for the general public. What will it be like 15 years from now in 1975?

Every hunter likes to recall the good old days when he could hunt where he pleased and the bag limits were high. I can remember talking to one hunter who quit huntingducks when the daily limit dropped below 25; another quit hunting quail when the limit was reduced below 25. The days of unlimited game are gone forever. An expanding population, industrial development, highways, changing agriculture, pulp wood growing and other factors have destroyed the old order. If we are to continue to have hunting, we must use different approaches. Shooting preserves are now just beginning to provide part of the answer. Preserves are no panaceas; they are just one of several ways of trying to provide hunting.

Let's try to be as realistic as we can about the future of hunting. In the first place, no one ever wanted to see the day come when it was necessary to do pre-season and in-season stocking of pen-raised game. Certainly it is more desirable to hunt native game. And no one ever wanted to see the day when hunters would be charged for hunting.

It is now apparent with the zooming population in Florida that the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and other agencies which work with wildlife, can use an assist from private enterprise. Americans have always been proud of their initiative and free enterprise system. Why keep these traditional factors out of wildlife? Why shouldn't sportsmen have more recreational areas which are privately owned and operated for a profit?

State and Federal agencies are necessarily limited by annual budgets in what they can provide. These are no limitations to private enterprise in America.

Commercial shooting preserves are ultimately controlled by the sportsmen. It is a simple economic fact that only as many preserves as the sportsmen are willing to support will stay open. A commercial preserve cannot stay open unless sportsmen pay their money to hunt on it.

Looking ahead 15 years, as the sportsmen find it more difficult to locate a place on which to hunt and game to shoot, then they will be more willing to pay a fee to visit a commercial preserve. That will create a demand and there will be more preserves. But they will not grow any faster than the rate at which the sportsmen will support an economical production of game—with incubators, brooders and flight pens—provides a quantity of game never dreamed of in nature. A native pair of bobwhite quail will on the average raise off one clutch of about 15 chicks a year. But in captivity it is not unusual for a pair of bobwhite quail to produce 150 fertile eggs or more a year by the use of artificial lighting.

The plantation country north of Tallahassee offers some of the finest quail hunting in the world. Millions of dollars have been spent by the large landowners.
their habitat, they are often domesticated, then naturally they will give a poor field performance.

It is only in the past five years that quail have been used to any degree on commercial preserves in America. There was a period when some preserve operators thought the quail and chukar were hopeless. The greatest growth in shooting preserves in the nation has been in the past five years. Smart operators have conducted hundreds of experiments to find better techniques for handling upland birds. Feeds companies, the arms and ammunition industry, state agencies and colleges are now experimenting with better ways to raise conditioned birds for in-season stocking.

The field of game breeding is moving so fast that it is hard to keep up with new developments. Better techniques for managing game birds are being discovered and refined each year. The field performance of the bobwhite quail and chukar is being constantly improved.

The progressive preserve operator has as his goal that he will provide hunting as near like the hunting for native game as is humanly possible. Every year he gets a little closer to that goal but he still has a long way to go with quail and chukar.

How good are the shooting preserves in Florida? As in any other business, there are some fine operations and there are some that are far from being ideal. It’s similar to the restaurant business: There are the top dining places which are a delight to visit, the average cafe and the hot-dog stand.

Hunters are slow to try preserves. Unfortunately they make up their minds about preserves on the first trip they make. If they happen to choose a good preserve, then they think that type of hunting is great. If their first visit is to a below-average preserve, then they jump to the conclusion that all preserves are unsatisfactory.

The sincere hunter should try three or four shooting preserves to get a broader picture. Then he can decide whether or not he likes this kind of hunting.

Commercial preserve operators have considerable expense and there is a small margin of profit. If any. It is easy to spend $5,000 in setting up a top preserve and there is rarely any return for the effort of ten years. The preserve has been operated from two to four years.

The hunter should encourage the preserve operator who is an institution in his effort to provide more recreation. The hunter should be patient with the preserve operator. Actually preserves are in a growing and experimental stage and the operators are spending huge sums in an effort to learn the best methods of raising game and managing it in the field. There is no question but that the smart operator will continue to improve his game hunting.

It has not been so many years ago when game breeders used bastard hens for hatching game bird eggs; they didn’t think the eggs could be hatched in quantity in incubators. But now they breed off single hatches of 500 to 7,000 quail. New antibiotics have been of tremendous help in fighting various game bird diseases. The federal government and state departments have helped develop high-protein feeds so that the pen-raised bird could be a better balanced ration that his native cousin. Preserve operators have worked out ways of weather-conditioning and flight-conditioning young birds so that they have a better chance of survival when stocked and also give a better flight performance.

The start and growth of preserves in the nation can be tied in almost exactly with populations. The first preserve was organized in 1911 in New York and the first commercial preserves to open were near our largest metropolitan area. Other high-population states which followed with preserve legislation were Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, California and New Jersey. Now 41 states, including Hawaii, have legislation which allows preserves to operate on a commercial scale.

One obvious disadvantage of shooting preserves is that not every hunter can afford them. But the preserves do take some pressure off of other lands by satisfying a portion of hunters who can afford commercial preserves.

The experienced hunter or fisherman never actually counts up what his trips cost; his wife might make him stay home if she ever found out. Some hunters say that they can actually hunt cheaper on preserves than they can in good country hunting, if all expenses are taken into consideration.

Anyone in the middle income bracket can certainly afford one or two trips a year to a preserve. The history of preserves in other lands is a good indication of what more there will be that cater to the middle income bracket. For instance, in states as New York and Pennsylvania, sportmen can hunt preserves for $30 a season. The assurance of bagging at least two pheasants. The

(C)ontinued on Page 41)
Through all seasons and conditions you always can depend on the minnow.

OLD FAITHFUL

By RUSSELL TINSLY

Ilic baits.
'Dae aim is lots tie aid adage: To catch ab _, ..._. is best, one that will • l, • lalack bass.

A free S P.ing shiner minnow is ale and give a lot of motion.

This of is particularly sound logic in

A large

horse the shoreline growth.

and will wallow likely looking ler poles slowly and quietly along the

king-sized shiner minnow. The ang­

age over his artificial-lure counter­

pads with droplets. Here the min­

ing head showering the hyacinth

the big glistening bass will come

in their mouth might work free, but he'll

fighting the unsuspecting bass pull out

the casting reel to run freely, let­

ing for it to draw tight; others open

jerk the minnow free. Some fish­

minnow lightly in his jaws, before

protective cover, still holding the

minnow in mind. But through all

the artificial-baits used on crappie like tiny

speckled perch's diet. All the arti­

ficial plugs are fashioned with the

lower hook gets the most action,

nates the play. It pays to cover all

eyes (this won't kill the minnow),

tion, even

channel catfish. Occasionally, the minnow

I've had just as good results by

tie a small bell-shaped sinker on the end of the main line, add a

snelled hook about a foot up and another a foot or so above that. Ex­

cept for a brief period during early spring when crappies move into the

shallows and can be caught near the surface, they usually are found

somewhere near bottom. At times the lower hook gets the most action,

while on others the top one domi­

natests the play. It pays to cover all

fertile water for consistent pay­

offs.

A minnow can be hooked in sev­

eral different ways. Most anglers

either impale the minnow through

both lips or just behind the dorsal

fin, above the spine so that the

minnow isn't fatally crippled. A

few even hook them through both

eyes (this won't kill the minnow), or

through the tails.

When the fisherman lowers a wig­

gling minnow down near bottom, he

never knows what might latch

on. I've caught just about every
game fish imaginable with this meth­

od—speckled perch, bass, bream and
catfish. Occasionally, the minnow

is a toplight for bottom-feeding
cats, particularly the sporty

channel catfish.

For cats, however, the minnow
doesn't necessarily need be alive.

I've had just as good results by

stringing the minnow lengthwise

from mouth to tail on a long-shank­
ed hook and fishing it right on bot­
tom or a few inches up with a cork

bobber. The minnow isn't a good

all-round bait for bream, but some­
times tiny minnows will catch sun­

fish, especially the larger bluegills.

Trolling minnows is, at times, a

surefire method for catching bass.

A lure or trolling sinker is used to

carry the minnow down and keep it

riding at a pre-determined depth.

This depth of course depends on

the season and the depth the fish are

most apt to be concentrated. Most

trolling rigs are improvised by tying a

piece of monofil about twenty to

thirty inches long behind a plug or
trolling sinker and putting a hook

and minnow on the end of the lead­
er. When trolling I prefer to hook

the minnow through the lips to give

it a lifelike forward motion through

the water.

There are various ready-made
trolling outfits on the market. Some

use "spreaders" with the lure on

one end and the spinner and hook

on the other. No. 1 or No. 2 aber­
deen hooks are good for trolling

since you can grasp the minnow

slowly straighten the hook when the

rig fouls on bottom. The hook then
can be bent back to shape with a

pair of pliers and used again. A big

minnow is best for trolling, the

larger, the better.

Here is a handful of lightfish baits in a new "breeding" "Tree minnow bucket.

Keeping minnows alive for any length of time used to be a head­

ache, but modern minnow buckets have eliminated much of this prob­

lem. Nowadays "breathing" type buckets keep minnows alive and

hardy for hours without replenish­

ing the water. Commercial chemi­
cals in tablet form on the market are good for supplementing the natural

oxygen supply in the water, espe­
cially if you plan on keeping the

minnows for any length of time. The

time-honored bucket with the perforated insert still is good, but it is

troublesome to replace it in the

lake or stream each time you move.

The artificial bait remains by far the most popular of all methods

for taking bass, simply because when fishing with lures there always is ac­

tion, even if it is only catching the

plug. But there never has been an

artificial concocted which will re­

place the original thing it imitates.

Some people will lead you to be­

lieve that there is no challenge or

sport to catching a big bass with

minnows. Anyone who makes such a foolishly claim evidently has never tried it. Minnow fishing is both dramatic and exciting—and usually the most productive of all baits during any given day or se­a­son. Certainly it is the most con­
sistent anyway, and will pay off with the largest variety of game fish.

Florida Wildlife

January, 1961
Choctawhatchee Watershed

As in many cases, Lake Cassidy is becoming a target of varied interests. Local residents are joined with scores of Alabama and Georgia outdoorsmen that flock here to relax and enjoy nature's offerings. Accessibility, lovely scenery, and good fishing have all done their part in bolstering the popularity of this lake.

When spring, the best fishing season, rolls around; Cassidy fishermen select their favorite rod or pole and strike out to get a mess of bass or bluegills. To do this some use worms, others pick live shiners and still others like artificial lures. The place and time of day is also a matter of individual choice; most, however, choose the maiden cane edges and small hooks. Some of the bass enthusiasts do their fishing at night with top water plugs. They find this method exciting and productive.

Date of Survey: 1957.

Size: 225 acres.

Location: Western Holmes and Eastern Walton Counties, Florida. Seven miles northeast of Defuniak Springs, Florida.

Water Color: Colorless.

Aquatic Vegetation: Maiden Cane, Pickerel Weed, Sphagnum Moss, Spatterdock.

Bottom Type: The bottom consists of sand, mud, and some thin layers of silt. In densely vegetated areas one to six inch layer of organic matter overlies the bottom.

Depth: Depth recordings showed the deepest point to be 32 feet.

Fluctuation: Very slight.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 5 miles of graded sand which is kept in good condition. Sand landings allow launching of moderate size boats.

Fishing History: Fishermen claim that over the past few years the fish have slightly decreased. This is probably due to the prolonged dry spell.

Although bass and pickerel populations are good in Lake Cassidy, bluegill breed extremely abundantly, offering excellent sport for the punyfisherman from Alabama and Georgia.

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game Fish</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmouth</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Sunfish</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Game

Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)

Brown Bullhead

Bowfin (Blackfish, Mudfish)

Spotted Gar

Eastern Chubucker (Pond Sucker)

American Eel

CRYSTAL LAKE

There are a number of glowing comments that could be used to describe the beauty of this lake, for it is rich in esthetical value. Although possessing an over abundance of natural splendor Crystal Lake still lacks the most important trait of all—good fishing. The white sand beaches and clear water while pleasing to the eye are closely associated with poor fish production. Clear water indicates a need for basic fertility necessary to produce a good population. An encouraging point which should be brought out is that though the lake doesn't support an impressive fish population, the few bluegills present grow to an unusually large size. If seeking a world record for this species, Crystal Lake should certainly be kept in mind. Bass are also present and in fairly good numbers, they how-
PORTER POND

One end of Porter Pond is of the sandhill type, banks covered with scrub oaks and pines grade down to sand beaches and finally to slightly stained, but clear water. The other end of Porter is shallow and grassy and eventually leads into a cypress swamp which supports most of the lake's fishing. Here bluegills and warmouths prefer redworms and wigglers, while bass favor both artificial plugs and salamanders (Puppy Dogs). The most effective way to use the Puppy Dog is to cast it near a grass bed or cypress tree and allow it to settle for a few seconds, then start slowly easing it along the bottom. If the old "Mossy Back" is around he can't resist this temptation.

Date of Survey: 1958

Size: 908 acres.

Location: Washington County, Florida. Eight miles south, southeast of Wausau, Florida.

Water Color: Slightly stained.

Aquatic Vegetation: St. John's Wort, Floating Heart, Cut Grass, Bladderwort.

Bottom Type: Mostly sand in the south end, with mud and decaying vegetation in the north.

Depth: Generally shallow in the north section with depths varying from 8 to 12 feet. Depths up to 24 feet in other areas.

Fluctuation: Normally between 6 to 12 inches, but during extended dry periods it varies greatly.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 7 miles of unpaved road, one-half mile of which is ungraded sand. Boat landing of sand. All could be greatly improved. One fish camp is present (see map).

Fishing History: Excellent for all type fishing before going dry. Gradually building and improving now that the lake has refilled.

PORTER POND

The speckled sunfish by special control, in small areas, is one method used by technicians to collect fish species for detailed study.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

ever, do not attain the size associated with most of Florida's largemouths, because small bream, their favorite food, are lacking.

Date of Survey: 1958

Size: 151 acres.


Water Color: Colorless.

Aquatic Vegetation: St. John's Wort, Maiden Cane.

Bottom Type: Sand in the shallow areas and large deposits of silt in the deeper portions. In places this silt is from 10 to 20 feet thick.

Depth: The bottom is very uneven with numerous ridges and drop-offs. The deepest areas reach to a depth of almost 30 feet. In most cases the shoreline slope gradually to a depth of around 20 to 30 feet and then abruptly drops off.

Fluctuation: Under normal conditions fluctuation is very slight. Evidently this lake is stabilized by underground springs entering somewhere in the bottom.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 1 mile of sand road leading from Highway #77. Any boats launched would have to be carried or drug 50 feet or more. This limits the size of boats to those which are handled easily.

Fishing History: Very little is known about the fishing history, because the fishing pressure is low. The bass usually run small, while most of the bluegills are above average size.

Best Fishing Areas: In the shallow grassy areas along shore.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name: Largemouth Bass
Relative Abundance: Common
Blugill
Abundant
Warmouth
Occasional

Non-Game Fish

Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)
Abundant
Spotted Gar
Occasional
Bowfin (Mudfish) (Blackfish)
Occasional
Eastern Chubsucker (Pond Sucker)
Abundant

GAP POND

Gap Pond for the most part is bordered with steep banks covered with spreading live oaks. These trees, beard with spanish moss, present an inspiring picture of the living South. At the waters edge, these proud oaks are replaced by a tree of equal fame, the cypress. The cypress in turn quickly give way to extensive grass beds which often extend completely across the lake.

Grass beds, deep shores, and cypress sloughs offer the visitor a variety of choice, fishing spots all of which provide their share of good fishing throughout the year. The most popular and most productive spot is between the grass beds and shore. Here, there is usually an open strip around 5 or 6 feet deep that seems to be a favorite haunt for bluegill, warmouth, and bass. Pan fish are best taken with earthworms, catalpa worms, or crickets, while the old largemouth finds it hard to resist a salamander (puppy dog) eased along the bottom.

Date of Survey: 1958

Size: 429 acres.

Location: Washington County, Florida; approximately 3 miles south of Wausau, Florida.

Water Color: Stained.

Aquatic Vegetation: Yellow Water Lily, Cut Grass, Bladder Wort.

Bottom Type: Mud and silt.

Depth: The most part, it runs shallow, with an average depth of around 8 feet. The deepest part was found to be 26 feet.

Fluctuation: Normally 6 to 12 inches throughout the year.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 3 miles of graded sand road. An excellent boat ramp capable of handling large boats was recently constructed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (see map).

Fishing History: In the past this has been a good bass and panfish lake.

Best Fishing Sites: Between the grass beds and shore, also in the deep rooks.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name: Largemouth Bass
Relative Abundance: Common
Blugill
Abundant
Warmouth
Occasional

Non-Game Fish

Yellow Cat
Common
Spotted Gar
Extremely Abundant
SYMPOSY

OF WINGS

The still waters of early morning suddenly erupt with a wraped beast against the surface as the fog shrouded air vibrates with a mixed melody by feeding mallards.

A sudden call of alarm, the wingbeat alters, and with daring wings the magnificent Mallard moves into the distance.

It has been written, and rightfully so, that the waterfowl hunter who has killed a duck and takes it from his retriever, or picks it up from a marsh surrounded mud flat, loves and understands that duck far more than the group that clamors for him to cease his hunting.

The wildfowler has in all possibility done more toward the conservation and continuation of his sport than any other type or kind of hunter. He has imposed more self restrictions on his sport, voluntarily taxed himself again and again by increasing the price of the duck stamp, contributed to organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and others designed to aid wildfowl. He has watched his gunning season and bag limit grow shorter with each year as valuable waterfowl nesting habitat continued to disappear.

Wildfowling is not just a thirty-eight day proposition for the man who really loves his ducks. He talks and thinks of them the year around, and plans to aid and help them when the shooting season is over. Many duck hunters go to the marsh before and after the hunting season just looking at ducks and enjoying this pleasure. They go to watch and observe the mystery of migration and to marvel at the symphony of wings.

PHOTO STORY

BY JIM FLOYD

Satisfied that the migration is complete, the mallards glide toward their winter quarters; another spectacular has ended.
Our first hunting excursion afield this year can well be catalogued as . . .

HIGH ON THE HOG

By EDMUND McLaurin

Most of my incoming long distance telephone calls are either expected or so closely tied in with seasonal activities that they are readily identifiable. But when I returned to my type writer to find the cryptic note, "Call Operator No. 7, the message had me puzzled. Who could be calling? Frankly, I could not guess as I dialed for the operator.

"You have a call from Inglis, Florida," Operator No. 7 informed me. "Will you hold the line, please?"

Over the wires I heard an exchange of telephone company lingo, but did not get the actual identity of the connections being made.

Then, suddenly, a familiar cheerful voice came over the wires, loud and clear. "That you, Mac?"

There was no longer any doubt in my mind who was calling. Anyone who has known Miss Dessie Smith, operator of the Withlacoochee River Lodge and Hunting Preserve, on U. S. Highway #19, at Inglis, isn't likely to forget the unusual lady's voice—a slow Florida Cracker drawl, disposed with obvious girlish enthusiasm for hunting and fishing, and occasional, spontaneous Cracker style humor. To me her voice was the cheerful hail of an old friend; in matters of hard, exciting hunting we share avid interest.

"We're opening the hog hunting season Saturday morning, Mac. Can you come up?" . . . Evidently, she incorrectly figured I needed additional sales talk, for she quickly added, "The hogs are plentiful this year and fat. We're sure to get action. You'll probably be able to get some pictures."

Her enthusiasm proved immediately contagious. I am afraid that some of Emily Post's students would have defined my next action as a serious social error; I accepted the invitation before even politely inquiring as to Miss Dessie's health and that of her staff.

"Just get here Friday night, or early enough Saturday morning to make a before daylight start," was her parting bit of information . . . . Like deer, wild hogs habitually do most of their serious feeding from late afternoon until shortly after daylight, then bed down in a cool spot during the high heat hours. In areas where they feed on root vegetation delectable to a hog, it is not uncommon to see deep furrows plowed in the soil bordering a pond or stream.

Hog scent disperses rapidly once the sun starts to climb in the sky. Therefore, for the best of hunting, it is decidedly advantageous to hunt early in the morning when dogs can better find and follow scent trails left by hogs on the move . . . .

"I'll be there!" I said—and I was. Since she cannot be guide for two widely separated hunting groups at one time, this season Miss Dessie has made arrangements with likeable Major Charley Branton, a happy to be home Cracker boy, just retired after 28 years of regular Army service, to help her on busy days. Also born and raised in the Southern scrub country, Branton shares Miss Dessie's enthusiasm for the outdoors and has a background of field experience that makes him a capable guide.

Others who help guide hunting parties are equally colorful. "Junior" Cannon, six feet, three inches, 195 pounds of hard muscle and bone, is one. A true Florida cowboy, he can throw a rope over and hog-tie anything that walks through the Florida scrub.

Then, there is Herbert Wilkinson, age 20, born and raised within sight of the Withlacoochee River. Wilkinson knows wild hogs about as well as any human ever gets to know them, and can locate them when others cannot. On occasion, he can vocalize magnificently, in explosive volume that can be heard almost a mile and that will be investigated by even the most disin­terested hog.

I was fortunate in being able to share the season's first wild hog hunt and to have all named as hunting companions.

A couple of hours before dawn Saturday morning I reached my destination and immediately transferred shotgun and camera equipment from my car to one of Miss Dessie's Jeep station wagons, then helped load the dogs we would need for the morning hunt.

Charley and I were to ride with Miss Dessie, and Herb would drive one of the ranch trucks carrying a cage filled with a relief dog pack. We were to meet "Junior" Cannon in the scrub at 5:30. A bulldozer operator, or a member of a logging crew, might find it well worthwhile to study the way Miss Dessie handles a Jeep in swamp water, sticky mud and sugar-sand—all sometimes in one morning's hunting.

Having driven through some pretty rough backwoods country myself, I know how unexpectedly driving conditions can change and how a car's steering wheel can sometimes suddenly twist from a driver's hands with surprising resistance.

"I told 'Junior' we'd meet him in the swamp at 5:30," was Miss Dessie's only comment. There wasn't any doubt in my mind that we would!

I don't know Miss Dessie's exact age, and I don't need to know, for she is a type of woman who seemingly is blessed with eternal youth. She is robustly built, with a firm, trim figure that is quite the reverse of many pretty women. Her hands are big and strong and she doesn't shrink from hard work.

"I'll get there!" was Miss Dessie's tone of voice when I got off the phone.

"Miss Dessie is an astonishing woman," she penned. "She was born and raised in rural Florida and guns and campfires and fishing rods and creeks are corporal in her blood."

So far, no man has been able to keep up with Miss Dessie. At the moment, she's as free and as spirited as any wild creature roaming her vast acreage. It will take a very, very unusual man to even approach the fidelity Miss Dessie from her beloved Florida brush country.

Meanwhile, she is having the time of her life, as the Withlacoochee—(Continued on Next Page)
Although proud of her dog's performance, Opal Smith won't keep my dog dual-laced courting, "I won't send a cow out!" is her sole explanation.

Although the mongrel cow country dog has proven his worth, some hog hunters feel that blood lines count, too, and favor a cross between a Weimaraner and a Boxer, for good trail and effective close-in fighting once a hog is bayed. But whatever the blood strain, a dog used for wild hog hunting must be courageous, able to absorb punishment and fast in reflex action. A "slow" dog seldom lives to old age. The Florida wild hog should by no means be confused and ranked with the small and stupid javelina of the western states. Besides being tough, smart customers, our Florida wild hogs are also much larger—often weighing 200 to 300 pounds, with tusks or tushes (to use a Southern synonym) capable of fatally ripping open man or dog in one savage slash.

Undoubtedly, our present stock of wild hogs are descendants of animals brought to Florida by Spanish explorers more than 300 years ago, augmented by generations of domestic stock roaming in the wild state. The true Florida wild hog is black and large of ears and snout, although free roaming specimens of other hide hues may be just as mean and ready to do battle, if molested. The swamps of the Oklawaha and Withlacoochee rivers, the palmetto-studded Gulf Hammock area and the sawgrass country of the Everglades are good places to seek wild hogs in Florida. A 12 gauge shotgun loaded with rifled slugs, or a rifled of the 30-30 class, should be the chosen weapon—if you are not sufficiently skilled in wild hog capture that you can rope and wrestle an animal into reluctant captivity, as some Cracker cowboys can do.

We hadn't followed the dogs more than 400 yards before combined canine clamor and brush-crashing alerted us and every wild animal within half a mile. "The dogs have one!" Miss Dessie exclaimed. "Charley, bring your shotgun in case we need it. Mac, you stay close to Charley, and be ready with your camera, 'Junior' and I will try to rope the critter." Photographing the action-packed climax of a successful wild hog hunt is usually far from easy. For one thing, the action is apt to be fast, furious, unpredictably sporadic and wandering. Once it starts, critical judging of focusing is usually futile under the changing conditions encountered. Your best bet is to pre-set your camera's focus for a certain distance and an action-stopping shutter speed, then try to stay within the sharp depth of focus shield while awaiting opportune moments for tripping the shutter.

Also, a wild hog brought to bay will often make a come-and-fight-it-out stand against hunters and dogs along the fringe of low-lying palmetto to scrub, making it extremely difficult to discern the animal's full body or facing direction, much less etch it on film. You can't work in too close because the thick brush underfoot invariably precludes fast retreat. You should suddenly become the hunted instead of hunter. A mean boar, or sow, is something to avoid in cramped quarters, if you value your own hide and your camera. Admittedly, there are moments when you can work in close, but you definitely need to be more nimble than Jack of nursery rhyme fame if you are to get out of the way of an angry, destruction-bent hog suddenly in full charge from only a few feet away.

This was the situation I faced when we closed in on the hog the dogs were holding at bay and subjected to more of a harassing, than effective action. It was a big sow and a mean one! She tossed several dogs back as fast as they rushed her in the palmetto. However, when we appeared on the scene in full force the hog made a break for freedom, with the snarling, snapping dogs cutting off her escape route, in a clearing just short of another clump of palmettos. "Junior" and Miss Dessie quickly took advantage of the situation. While the dogs attempted ear and leg holds, "Junior" rushed in and grabbed the angry sow by her tail and right leg. Miss Dessie somehow got hold of the left leg. Between the two of them, the struggling hog was roped and tied in short order. I had been snapping pictures as fast as I could operate my camera, but didn't know if I had caught the major action, so fast did it occur and change position. "Well, that's one!" Charley commented. "I was still marveling at the expertise of 'Junior' and Miss Dessie.

The roped—but still protesting—sow was taken back to the Jeep, and we all headed across the swamp to join Herb, who was scouting untried territory. We found him waiting for us, the other dogs still fagged. There's plenty of sign about 150 yards from here," he said. "I think a big boar is holed up somewhere down by the river bank."

We watered the tired dogs, took a few minutes to plan our strategy, then released an entirely fresh pack of dogs from Herb's truck. The scene trail was strong and the dogs had no trouble following it. Their troubles started when they reached the source. So did ours.

This time the dogs were holding a big boar at bay. He could be seen under the low-lying palmetto fronds—head held close to the

(Continued on Page 32)
OR

hen mallard," carries more prestige than the hunter that says, "This is a 'grey duck' and is probably an old male because it is a big duck." With practice, every duck hunter could be his own "waterfowl technician" in aging and sexing waterfowl.

Keeping records of the seasons kill of ducks by species as to sex and age can result in interesting comparisons between years for the hunter's own personal use. More important, accurate data kept by the hunter could furnish the trained technician with much information that would take the technician considerable time to collect by himself.

The methods of sexing and aging waterfowl presented in this article have been gathered from various reference materials as well as from experience in the field. Some of the methods are practically fool proof; others have less reliability. One thing must be remembered, no one technique alone should be used in determining the sex and age of a species of waterfowl. Rather, several methods should be used with the final check being the cloacal examination or, if at all feasible, an internal examination of the gonads.

All methods of sexing and aging waterfowl are not presented in this report. Many valuable publications are available of wing patterns, plumage differences and sex and age differences. F. H. Kotricht's, The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America, and St. H. Pough's The Audubon Waterfowl Guide are excellent books for the duck hunter. The free booklet published by the Atlantic Waterfowl Council titled Florida Waterfowl Identification Guide and available from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is of great help to the duck hunter especially in identifying species of waterfowl. The hunter no

ternally is seldom used by the technician in the field for the majority of hunters dislike having their birds "cut up." When at all possible, however, internal examination for the gonads should be made to verify all other sexing and aging methods.

Cloacal Examination: The most popular and most often used sexing and aging technique is the cloacal examination. All normal male birds of the Order Anseriformes, Family Anatidae (ducks, geese and swans) have a penis. In all stages of the duck's life, it differs greatly between immature and mature males. Barring accident or mishap, the lack of a penis in ducks, geese and swans indicates a female bird.

Examination of the cloacal cavity is made with the bird on its back with the head toward the examiner. The vent of the bird is manipulated with the fingers separating the cloacal lips and applying pressure to expose the penis. The oviduct in the adult female is also noted in this manner.

In the immature male, the penis is a small cork-screw shaped structure attached to the forward wall of the cloaca inside the cloacal opening. The cork-screw shaped penis is retained in the adult male but is fleshier, larger and covered by a prominent sheath. The mature female has a distinct slit on the left forward wall of the cloaca; the opening of the oviduct.

(Continued on Next Page)
The most common and accurate way of aging waterfowl is inspecting for the presence or absence of the Bursa of Fabricius, a pouplike structure hanging on top of the cloacal opening. Although the function of this structure is not accurately known, its presence indicates birds of the year. A blunt tipped tail feather or primary feather is commonly used to probe for the bursa.

The eclipse plumage constitutes a complete molt or change of all the feathers and the males resemble the dull drake coloration of the females of their species. Immature or juvenile plumage is usually held for eight weeks and young birds not yet wearing their nuptial plumage resemble the mother bird in coloration. Scapul may hold their immature plumage until their first March or April. Wood ducks change into their nuptial plumage as early as August of their first year. Eiders and scoters take several years to reach full adult plumage.

With a few exceptions, i.e. the scoters and eiders, almost all ducks have two distinct plumages each year. The nuptial or winter plumage is the bright coloration of the drakes separates them from their less colorful counterparts. In all other species, the brighter coloration of the males only, with a few exceptions. Females having vermicular feathers are scapula, canvassbacks and redheads. Males lacking vermicular feathers are black ducks, Florida, New Mexican and mottled ducks, and goldeneyes, old-squaws, buffleheads, eiders, scoters and the harlequin duck. Geese and swans are not sexed by this method.

Vermiculation, or light wavy wormlike barring of the plumage, is found on the males only, with a few exceptions. Females having vermicular feathers are scapula, canvassbacks and redheads. Males lacking vermicular feathers are black ducks, Florida, New Mexican and mottled ducks, and goldeneyes, old-squaws, buffleheads, eiders, scoters and the harlequin duck. Geese and swans are not sexed by this method.

Sexing by Vermiculation: Vermiculation, or light wavy wormlike barring of the plumage, is found on the males only, with a few exceptions. Females having vermicular feathers are scapula, canvassbacks and redheads. Males lacking vermicular feathers are black ducks, Florida, New Mexican and mottled ducks, and goldeneyes, old-squaws, buffleheads, eiders, scoters and the harlequin duck. Geese and swans are not sexed by this method.

Sexing Dabblers by Bill Markings: Most female dabblers or puddle ducks can be distinguished by dusky markings on their bill and by dark spots on the upper and lower mandibles, usually along the rear edge of the bill. All dabblers except the pintail, wood (Continued on Page 34)
The number stocked is based on the amount of surface water of the pond, and its fertility. The two species are stocked in fertilized ponds at the ratio of 1,000 bream to 100 bass per surface acre of water. In unfertilized ponds, the rate drops to 500 bream and 50 bass per surface acre. In Florida, with these stocking rates, the bass should weigh from 12 ounces to one pound, and blue gill from three to six ounces each at the end of twelve months after the bream were stocked.

When To Stock A Pond?

Because of the spawning habits of the fish, the bluegill are usually introduced into the pond in the fall. Bass are stocked the following spring. The bluegill diet consists primarily of insects, and they can live in a pond without other fish. However, if allowed perfect freedom of the pond, the bluegills will soon become overpopulated and stunted for lack of food. Therefore, bass are placed in the pond to help control the bream.

The small bass at first live off insects, but after reaching a length of several inches they begin to eat the offspring of the bream that were stocked the previous fall.

Can A Pond Be Overstocked?

Yes, it can. One of the most popular misconceptions is the belief that placing vast numbers of fish in a pond will provide better fishing. This is the exact opposite from the truth. If too many fish are stocked, or the fish population becomes crowded, the food supply will be depleted in a short time, and the fish will not reach adequate size. Fishing success will then drop off.

When Should Fishing Begin?

After both species have spawned, which is about a year after the bass are stocked. The pond should then be fished regularly so as to remove surplus fish and allow other fish to grow.

Why Fertilize A Fish Pond?

Because the ability of the pond to produce fish is directly related to the fertility of the water. Properly fertilized ponds will produce many more pounds of fish per acre than an unfertilized one. Fertilizer also controls underwater plants by shading them out.

How Does Fertilizer Do These Things?

The fertilizer is dissolved in the water, and the nutrients from the fertilizer cause a growth of microscopic plants. These plants provide food for tiny water animals and insect larvae. Bream and small bass feed on the insects and tiny animals. The microscopic plants are the only plants desirable in a fish pond, and the millions that are produced by the addition of fertilizer will color the water a dark green or brownish green, thus cutting out the sunlight necessary for the undesirable water plants and moss.

What Kinds And Amounts Used?

Commercial fertilizer is preferred; although organic types such as manures can be used, they have a tendency to support undesirable pond scums. The pond needs a certain amount of the nutrients, nitrogen, phosphate, and potash for best results. The formula which has proved the best is 8-8-4. That is, eight pounds of nitrogen, eight pounds of phosphate and four pounds of potash in 100 pounds of fertilizer. However, it may be necessary to buy another formula and adjust it. All major fertilizer companies can do this adjusting.

The standard application of fertilizer is 100 pounds of 8-8-4, or its equivalent, for each surface acre of water. Ponds that receive nutrients from fertilized pastures or groves certainly require less fertilizer than ponds that do not receive any nutrients.

When To Fertilize?

The first application of fertilizer should be made during the first warm weather of spring, or around mid-February to early March. Within a few days the properly fertilized ponds will produce many more pounds of fish per acre than on unfertilized one.
in a pond, kill the weeds with chemicals and then fertilize the pond.

2. Emergent or marsh weeds are plants with leaves that float or stand above the water surface.

3. Floating type weeds are not rooted to the bottom, and float freely upon the water surface.

**How Best To Control Waterweeds?**

1. Eliminate shallow edges and marshy conditions. Deepen the edges of your pond to at least two feet.

2. Fertilize enough to shade the pond bottom.

3. Cut brush and trees from around the pond to assure unhampered wind action.

4. Mow around the pond edges when needed, or allow cattle to graze the area.

5. Use chemicals for spraying the weeds if they occur.

6. Check with major chemical companies for the type of chemical to use and how to apply it.

**The U. S. Soil Conservation Service will assist you in selecting the site, and help in the construction of the pond. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, with offices listed on page-3 will assist in stocking new ponds, renovating old ponds, and suggesting methods for the best management of the ponds.**

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**DRAKE OR HEN? (Continued from Page 30)**

Du k, balldrop and European woodpigeon can be sexed by this method. Caution should be taken when examining immature dabblers. In some instances, the immature male bill will have the dusky markings of the female bill but will lack the dark spots. Mature males usually have a uniform color to their bill.

**Sexing by the Trachea:** In ducks, males can be sexed from the females by the enlarged lower end of the trachea, or wind pipe, where the voice box is formed. In all ages, from the downy young to the mature bird, the enlarged swelling of the trachea indicates a male bird. In live birds, an experienced person can probe with finger into the depression formed by the clavicle and feel the voice box, determining if the bird is male or female. All ducks except mallards, ruddy duck and the scoters can readily be sexed by the trachea method. This method does not apply to sexing geese or swans.

**Additional Sexing and Aging Methods**

Many additional ways of sexing and aging waterfowl exist. A few of these may be briefly noted:

Measurements of body length and wing length as well as weights are used in sexing and aging ducks. Eye color, bill color, foot color and various plumage differences are also used in sexing and aging other waterfowl.

**Sexing and Aging by Wings:** Recently, waterfowl technicians of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have greatly improved on sexing and aging techniques for ducks using only the duck's wing. In future years, hunters will be able to sort put these things to the usefulness of the Service thus yielding much valuable and previously unavaialble information concerning this nation's waterfowl populations.

**Black Duck Breast Feathers:** Black ducks can be sexed and aged by means of certain breast feathers. Breast feathers of male black ducks have a distinct "U" shaped marking compared to the "V" shaped markings of the females. Either immature or mature black ducks can be distinguished using these breast feathers.

**Wood Duck Wings:** Male wood ducks can be separated from male wood ducks by certain feather markings on their wings. Most obvious distinction is the "flame" shaped light markings on the trailing edge of the secondary wing feathers of the female compared to a slight light line on the trailing edge of the male secondary wing feathers.

In considering the collection and use of such material as pertaining to aging and sexing of waterfowl, it must be remembered that a considerable quantity is necessary to give valid results. Also, distribution of the sample is important, so that careful consideration of these facts is necessary before any conclusions are reached. Within these limitations, information on the age and sex composition of the American population, as gathered by the techniques described here, are most important to proper management.

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**Whose WHOOOO In Miami?**

*By JOHN FIX*

The vicinity of a modern airport would seem to be the last place any bird in his right senses would select for a homesite. And if he were joined by scores of his kind he would, in the same lethal locale, find that he was no longer safe from his fellow birds. They would viciously attack him, as if to cap the climax—every one of the obvious morons settled down to housekeeping in the grassy areas between jet landing strips . . . well, all we can do is shake our bewildered head and tell you their story. But we give you fair warning. The story will put a heavy strain on your credibility. For the bird in question is none other than the little fellow we have held in awe all our lives for his reputed high IQ: the Feathered Egghead— the Wise Old Owl.

It happened at Miami, Florida— at Miami's famed International Airport, one of the newest and busiest in the world. There visitors are curiously affected when they catch sight of a sign. The sign reads: "Miami International Airport - BURROWING OWL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY."

Often the visitor, baggage-laden, is scurrying from one point to another in the huge terminal and has only caught the sign out of the corner of his eye. But that is enough. He stops abruptly. He frowns. Wh-what in the World . . . ? He purses his lips. He shakes his head as though to dispel an incredulous dream. He turns and slowly retracts his steps. No, By Golly—or, Por Dios, as his nationality may be—he has not been mistaken. Miami International Airport IS a Wildlife Sanctuary. Dazed he blinks his way through the rest of the message: "Burrowing owls found in the Southeastern United States have established a nesting colony in the grass fields between the runways. Because of danger from planes visitors are not permitted on these fields. However persons leaving by plane may watch for these 9-inch-tall owls. Their food includes mice, crayfish and crabs. They are no hazard to air traffic and are protected by airport personnel."

The words are repeated in Spanish for the edification of Miami's many Latin visitors. And the planes carrying the signature of the Dade County Port Authority which has jurisdiction over the Airport, and the Florida Audubon Society. Thus far the only potential residents of the airport have been eliminated from the runways. By the time he left it might cause an eventual dangerous erosion. Displaced Mr. Owl, grumbling under his breath, waddles away to burrow elsewhere in the vicinity, but always between the airstrips.

Thus far the only potential danger from the presence of the owls has been the always imminent possibility that a curious human will wander out onto the runways in an effort to get a closer view of the cocky little fellows, or in an attempt to photograph them.

But their only Miami portraits to date have been those snapped at long range with telephoto lens.

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**Florida Wildlife**

**January, 1961**
CAMPING
COOKING
AND
WEATHER

By Lou Mussler

Picking anything as the item from an entire market with today's new-fangled equipment, plus each person's finicky buying habits makes the writer a prime target when he says, "This is the thing—the best—the only—that is the thing, and my pick!" Lake being a judge in a beauty contest?

Arguments about all-purpose camping items, especially tents, run the gamut. Generally, many are considered all-purpose. But camp gear, like automobiles, or houses, or beauty creams, is pretty much an individual matter. In fact, two matters when Mrs. Individual has her say.

Getting down to hard facts, however, my choice of the wall tent isn't based on snap-judgment. For utility, and we're sticking to this theme, the wall tent is no 'gadget' tent. There's no tricky inner framework to go wrong should it get twisted, misshapen, rubbed or stuck as frequently happens. By its very shape you can exercise full space utilization. In my opinion it has the least problems to erect, adjust, or set for tension strain.

True, my old-fashioned selection does have bothersome upright poles, a plus ridge top. Except for an outright break, tear or split, there's no hinges to lubricate, or to set for tension strain. A broken pole can be repaired anywhere, or substituted entirely. Repairs are easily accomplished by using saplings, scavenged 2" x 4"—even by splicing with wire coat hangers or fence wire. (Don't shoot, friend farmers.)

Transporting the long poles and bulky gear no longer present problems. With the light trailers and sectional poles, ( even the lightest trailers and those with the sewn-in porch enclosures do require some extra work if torn. We cannot argue down the "extras"—like the accessories on your car—they have first cost, require extra attention when packing and transporting, and add to your repair bill.

My wall tent doesn't include these—hence I have no fear or tear of "extras." Moreover, try measuring these price-wise as built-in accessories as opposed to separate "extras." You'll find it quite a difference.

Let's consider "conveniences," or the added features some of the newer jobs offer. Here again the wall tent runs to simplicity. By using an auxiliary fly, or several of them, we get added weather protection—sun and rain, and a front porch, dining room, kitchen, extra sleeping space, very a hodgepodge the "bath" intent. The latter refers to using the extra fly as a screen for bathing privacy close by, next to the sleeping quarters in fact. It doesn't mean having the latrine that close.

But we must consider this close-in screen for other reasons. It affords a measure of privacy for sanitary discomforts during inclement weather. I'd hardly recommend this for anything but emergencies. On the other hand, family problems making it impractical for certain members to use the way they want sometimes difficult to keep clean in the field, and to trying to remove the lubricant stain isn't easy.

The larger wall tents, especially with the extra fly is tougher to erect. But since we're talking in terms of a family outfit, there's no lack of man or woman power that I can see.

Generally, canvases repairs to the wall tent are less. They have straight sections, rags, and whatever fittings to replace are less expensive. Naturally, the wall tents with built-in screens, openings, or those with the sewn-in porch enclosures do require some extra work if torn. We cannot argue down the "extras"—like the accessories on your car—they have first cost, require extra attention when packing and transporting, and add to your repair bill.

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The notion of snakes and other predators talks up the sewn-in fly. Heck, by using a sod cloth and wrapping it in the ground, a worm couldn't get in, much less a snake.

Objection to a wall tent's lack of space, slanting walls, no "comfort room" and their "poles always in the way" doesn't hold valid in my book. Usually the complaints stem from people who carry too much useless junk anyway. If you cannot move about, it isn't the tent's fault. You got too much junk! Don't blame the tent's not been properly staked it. Then, have you considered just might have an undersized tent for your purposes. You cannot stand upright. I'm 6'4", and guess I've spent as much time in a tent as the average career—maybe a lot more, it doesn't bother me.

We find many additional objections—mostly by those with ideas akin to suburban-in-the-woods. I only suggest they overlook "rough" closures do require some extra work if torn. We cannot argue down the "extras"—like the accessories on your car—they have first cost, require extra attention when packing and transporting, and add to your repair bill.

No tent is ideal—and certainly the wall tent has many shortcomings. With the extra fly as a screen for bathing privacy close by, next to the sleeping quarters in fact. It doesn't mean having the latrine that close.

No tent is ideal, and the wall tent has many shortcomings, but it is my choice for best all-round camping cover.

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I F YOUR FAMILY got a new dog for Christmas, you will now go through a period of adjustment. And by the end of February there is a good chance your pet will end up in the shelter of your humane association unless you are approaching the situation in the right way.

Of course, if you have had dogs before, the adjustment period is much easier. But even so there will be things about this dog that will be different from your previous pets, just as every child is different from even his brothers and sisters.

Here are a few basic things to remember that will make things a little bit easier.

First, be sure that your dog has a place in the house which he can call his own and which he can feel free to keep out of the way. A good idea is to have it equipped with a small chain so that he can be tied up until he has learned to stay there on command.

Second, don't start pampering him in his feeding. Feed a good commercial dog food that you know contains everything he needs for perfect health, and if he doesn't eat it just throw it away and give him another helping at the next meal.

Third, teach him to come, go, sit and lie down as quickly as possible so that he will be manageable.

Fourth, never let him run all four feet are not on the floor or you may spend the rest of his life trying to keep him from jumping up on you or the furniture.

Fifth, get a good dog book and follow the directions when in doubt. If you don't want to invest in a full size book write to Pet Department, Swift & Company, Chicago 9, Ill., and ask them for their free pamphlets which are also distributed by many veterinarians.

In Anchorage, Alaska, Jory, the Schnauzer pet of Capt. and Mrs. Edwin Sweeney had the city in a turmoil after he escaped from air- line attendants. The dog, who hates cages and distrusts strangers, was being shipped from the States to join his owners in Tokyo where Capt. Sweeney had been transferred to a fighter base. While being staged he escaped and no one could get near enough the distraught animal to capture him.

Finally, it was necessary to fly Mrs. Sweeney from Tokyo to Anchorage to search. A telephone call sent her hurrying to a vacant block, isolated by a cordon of police to keep strangers away from the frightened animal. When Mrs. Sweeney was 100 yards away Jory recognized her and dashed into her arms.

Rescued Dogs

There are no statistics to show how long a dog can survive without food or water—and it would certainly depend to a considerable extent on the condition of the dog and the circumstances. However, papers in various parts of the country have often carried stories of rescues that will certainly give encouragement to many who lose a dog.

In Seattle, Wash., a great mound of rain-soaked dirt smashed into the home of Jim Snedden. The family barely escaped but their dog, a wire haired terrier, was buried beneath the debris. Mr. Snedden re- turned to his home the moment he was released from the hospital, found the dog and listened for some indication that the dog might be alive. Getting no response they gave air to the barking and finally received a call from a sightseer who said she had heard a dog barking under the ruins.

With the help of four friends Mr. Sneddon started digging for three hours later out came a gaunt, but unjummed, little dog.

In Dover, Ohio, a coon hound belonging to Kenneth Welch disappeared on the same day that Paul Miller visited him. Ten days later Miller opened the truck to his car and found the dog weak but still alive. He had used all his money by staying there for the entire time, even making a trip to the welch farm, but had not heard a bark or whimper.

In Ashland, Ky., Lassie is back home apparently none the worse after a 8 week stay at the bottom of a dry cistern 30 feet deep. The dog, a shepherd type pet of two children, disappeared suddenly and was never seen again. The family saw the gleam of eyes in a deep cistern under a house next door. The dog was emaciated but recovered.

In Pasadena, Calif., a cocker spaniel spoiled a dramatic attempt to rescue him from a mountain ledge by rescuing himself. George, the pet of the Bernhart family, fell off a mountain trail while on a family hike and wound up on a little ledge halfway down a 225-foot canyon wall. He spent the night there seemingly too trapped to move. Next day, as a rescue was being lowered by ropes down the steep slope, George sud- denly appeared at the top, having found his own way out of his difficulties.

And that's my wife, I barged her in Duplin County."

EDWIN SWEENEY

WEBCHATTER

BY GEORGE CROWLEY

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1961

Again, the committee members may become interested in conserva- tion, may join the club and will cer- tainly be appreciative of the prob- lems. Its services can be available to all others, and it is not a bad idea to have the club through its chairman.

Fishing Contests have long been a source of publicity, new membership and sometimes funds for sports-men's clubs. The juvenile variety has been widely touted as a means of introducing youngsters to fishing and hunting.

The value of any sort of competition for the biggest, most or first in fish and game is being questioned widely by conservationists and the Washington State Department of Game recently conducted a nation- wide survey to learn just what the various state conservation agencies thought about contests. When the returns were in, the was a general feeling that competition and most of those an- swering indicated fishing contests for children probably did more harm than good to the youngster's attitude toward sportsmanship.

In many states, the one-day "fish derbies" have become so firmly entrenched as institutions that it is difficult to stop them and most con- servation agencies feel they can "go along." In some states, there are laws restricting the use of pub- lic fish and game in competition.

Persons queried about fishing con-tests in Florida (where there certa- inly are many) have displayed widely divergent opinions but most of them have stressed the promotional value of fishing for prizes and contests, saying that they can ac- sure a lot of publicity and consid- erable immediate business by giving prizes for big fish.

Most of the Florida people queried about the contests stated that they may be good promotion and have not discussed the conservation as-
commercial preserve charges in Florida are not yet low but there were several attempts to operate in the future with an eye on the lower income groups.

Perhaps in the long run the greatest contribution to hunting preserves to the general hunting picture will be their developments in producing penned and birds and managing the flocks. In the future, there will be a trend in small groups of sportmen getting together for inexpensive in-season stocking of birds. Instead of having to do their own expensive experimenting, they will be able to use the techniques developed by commercial preserves. By 1970 there will undoubtedly be many farmers who will stock game on limited acreage during the state-wide season only at reasonable rates to small groups of local sportsmen.

As mentioned before, preserves are only a partial answer and approach to providing hunting for the future. They are no substitute for wildlife management areas, public lands, managing military and timber lands for the public, farmer-sportsmen relations and other programs.

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Two Speed Spinning
Writer•, Holiday
Along The Edge

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WHAT ABOUT SHOOTING PRESERVES
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January, 1961
Muzzle flashes
(Continued from Page 7)

Barrels are, as a rule, at least 30 inches long, to lengthen the sighting plane and make for more accurate pointing, while making muzzle blast less noticeable. Many also have ventilated ribs, to better dissipate heat waves created by continuous firing.

No muzzle attached choke conical or recoil compensator devices are allowed on the guns of competitors, because of the objectionable noise they tend to develop.

Many competitors handload their own ammunition, to be accurate, better than 50 per cent do. Others buy factory loaded shells of the brand of their choice from stocks of conserving clubs. For the convenience of competitors, each club maintains a stock of various brands of shotgun shells in shot size 7 and 8, and powder loads of 2½ and 3 drams.

Besides previously mentioned Luke Sadler, current officers of the Florida State Trapshooting Association are: W. R. Gause, St. Petersburg, president; Peter Ashlock, Orlando, vice-president, and Carl Mayburg, president. Participating delegate from the American Trapshooting Association.

The Florida organizations only recurve is a percentage of the profits earned by conducting and supervising the shoots. Consequently, much of the time and effort required to successfully stage the shoots is voluntary, solely for love of competitive shooting.

Managing an active gun club isn't an easy job, even for someone who has plenty of time to devote to the many details. Neither is it a job for an untrained, inexperienced person. It takes years of apprenticeship to gain the knowledge needed for good club management. Significantly, all the local managers of clubs operating under the Florida Trapshooting Association's banner have had long training and experience, one reason why the shoots run smoothly and safely.

Don't fail to attend the one nearest you, whether you are a shotgunner, interested spectator or sportsman's writer.

**Statewide Tag Fish Contest Announced**

Starting January 1, 1961, (and for the following six months) Floridians may very well find themselves packing in a spare bank deposit slip or so with the rest of their fishing tackle.

After all, it isn't every day that somebody puts up a $200,000 fishing contest! But that's just about the size of it, and according to the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company 12,004 tagged fresh and salt water fish—each worth a prize—will be released.

Four "contest zones" have been set up within the state. Each released fish will be tagged. Each tag will be numbered. Four released fish will be tagged and released.

Here is the list of the zones.

Zone one contest ends March 31, 1961—any fish tagged from Zone one will be released to each zone will be $1,000 tags—one in each zone: 100 fish will have $1,000 tags: 40 fish will be worth $100 each: 1,000 fish will carry $50 awards, and the remaining 10,000 fish each will be worth $25.

In addition, the first tagged fish caught and turned in after the contest opens in each of the four zones, will be worth a $1,000 bonus, according to Schlitz Executive Vice-President: Robert A. Uhlein, Jr.

The Florida Schlitz $500,000 Tagging Contest is combined with a research project in cooperation with the Florida State Board of Conservation and the Florida State Fish and Game Commission.

The contest opens in each zone, Schlitz will pay $3 for every one of the tagged fish caught until December 31, 1961.

Competition will be open to everyone, except employees of the Florida State Board of Conservation and the state Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, employees of Schlitz, its wholesalers and advertising agencies. All Florida fishing regulations must be complied with, Uhlein said.

**Alligator Dealers and Buyers Cautioned**

Alligators and buyers of furs or alligator hides are cautioned that they must follow the provisions of the state laws requiring reports of the number, kinds and source of all hides bought or handled.

In addition, no common carrier may knowingly ship, transport or receive any hides or furs unless such shipments are marked with the name of the shipper and the number of his license.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has furnished special report forms to all licensed dealers and buyers of furs and alligator hides.

Florida Statutes, Section 372.66, requires dealers and buyers to forward reports to the Commission every two weeks.

Violators may be fined up to $300.00, or imprisoned up to 90 days, for the first offense, and up to $500.00 or six months for any subsequent violations.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is required to enforce the law. Failure of any dealer or buyer to file the required reports will make such persons subject to prosecution.

**Hunt Safely**

And be sure your hunting buddies do.

**Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**
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