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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

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

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APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed date listed below:

Name (please print): __________________________

Address: ____________________________

City ____________________________ State: ____________________________

Type of Tackle: ____________________________

Species: ____________________________

Weight: ____________________________ Length: ____________________________

Bait or Lure Used: ____________________________

Where Caught: ____________________________ County: ____________________________

Date Caught: ____________________________

Catch Witnessed By: ____________________________

Registered, Weighted By: ____________________________ At: ____________________________

(Signature of Applicant)

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>WEIGHT REQUIREMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>LARGEMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>8 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL</td>
<td>4 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLUEGILL (BREAM)</td>
<td>1 1/2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHELLCRACKER</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLACK CRAPPIE</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED BREAST</td>
<td>1 pound or larger</td>
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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 fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

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

BILL HANSEN, Editor

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Conservation

H. ORR ALLEY, TANNERS CIRCUIT, has been elected president of the Florida Wildlife Federation for the 1961-62 term. Alley, who served as vice president last year, operates a motel and conducts Audubon tours. He is probably best known in conservation circles for his recent work with the Upper Keys Conservation Council and one of their outstanding projects was support of the "underwater park," which was dedicated recently. Alley attended the national convention of the Wildlife Federation last year as an alternate delegate.

Hubert Robertson of Ft. Lauderdale is the retiring president, having served for two terms.

Don McAllister of Orlando, well-known television personality and master of ceremonies of a popular outdoor program is the new executive vice president. Mrs. Doris Southwell of Ormond Beach, wife of Don Southwell of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, continues as secretary. William F. Theobold of Miami is the treasurer.

Regional vice presidents, none of whom are new to conservation circles, are Bill Condor of St. Petersburg, Paul Mains of Jacksonville, Max Horne of Pensacola, P. L. Causey of Miami and Tom Needham of Ocala.

One of the Federation's resolutions that caused widespread editorial attention was aimed at the programs of filling and dredging on Lake Worth. The resolution calls for approval of either the State Board of Conservation or the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for any change of the famous lake's shorelines could be made.

The lake has been greatly reduced in size by housing developments built on filled land.

A past president and one of the active members of the Florida Wildlife Federation, Porter Lansing of Sanford, died recently following a heart attack. Mr. Lansing had been in ill health for some time following an automobile accident.

Born in West Palm Beach, Lansing had lived in Sanford for 58 years. He had been active in the Seminole County Sportman's Association and the Fifth District Sportman's Association. He was a member of the Methodist Church, the Elks Club and Mouse Lodge.

Puter Lansing Dies

A very merry Christmas to all

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1961
SOME GUNSMITHING JOBS ARE DEFINITELY NOT IN THE REALM OF THE AVERAGE GUN-OWNER, AND SHOULD BE LEFT TO A COMPETENT GUNSMITH. OTHERS THE SHOOTER CAN DO HIMSELF--AND SHOULD, IN ORDER TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE FEATURES AND MECHANICAL OPERATION OF HIS GUNS.

There are a number of specific items and specialized tools that I try to keep on hand for tuning-up and repairing guns.

Many are usually already in the average home. Acquisition of others is not difficult; neither is any substantial financial outlay involved.

It may be helpful to gun-owning readers to know the various tools and products I use to keep guns functioning and in perfect condition.

Screwdrivers: Home gunsmithing calls for a variety of screwdrivers, and of various blade widths. Nothing will mar the appearance of a fine gun like bent screw heads. The secret of screw tightness combined with neatness is to use a screwdriver that properly fits the head slot of the screw being worked.

Because sight base and other gun screws have to be finely seated as possible, most gunsmiths use guns on which the tip is subject to variable force and twisting. They have to be of good quality to last.

Besides conventional screwdrivers with blades 1/8, 1/16, 1/4 of an inch and larger, I keep on hand an assortment of small screwdrivers, including several Allen type screwdriver-wrenches. A set of jeweler’s or watchmaker’s screwdrivers are especially useful.

Files: Smoothening Stones: Files serve the amateur gunsmith in many useful ways.

Most of mine are fitted with handles for better holding and more efficient application. Here, again, I use to other fields for special, practical types of files. I find a set of jeweler’s files very versatile.

Among good files, I use a number of small, hand-held abrasive stones, and an electric Handee-Tool complete with an assortment of small grinding, cutting, sanding and polishing points. To the various accessories that come with the Handee-Tool, I have added a variety of used, but useful, dental drills obtained from my dentist. Equally useful are discarded dental picks and scrapers, they get into those hard to clean recesses of gun breech and receiver frame.

Special Solvents, Adhesives: For loosening rust-stuck screws that a screwdriver won’t budge, I apply a little Liquid Wrench with a pipe wrench. The solution softens rust and frees frozen screws and joints.

To degrease guns and wash out accumulated dirt from actions and powder-gas pistons, I use mineral spirits available at any paint store. Mostly I use a small, clean paint brush to apply the solution and recesses.

Occasionally I have to use supplemental methods—forcing the mineral spirits into actions and removing hard to dissolve dirt with a dental pick. Whenever a degreasing solution is used on disassembled parts, take care to let the cleaning agent drain off, and the parts get fairly dry before reassembly.

When removing slight, surface rust spots on gun barrels and receivers without affecting the blued-finish, I use finest grade steel wool soaked in tricotine. (The quality of finished job depends on the quality of the gun’s original finish and the skill of the gunsmith in removing the rust blisters.) For re-touching scratches and coloring sight screws, I use a cold chemical blueing solution, like Perma-Blue, Osters Laboratories’ Gun Blue or J. C. Higgins’ (Sears, Roebuck) Gun Blue.

Certain adhesives are very useful. I use Bond-O, 5-Ton Epoxy Glue and DuPont Duco Cement to permanently seat sight screws, first cleaning screw holes and all screws with a pipe cleaner dipped in denatured alcohol.

When a sight—especially a scope—is to be mounted on a rifle of heavy recoil or on a slug-shooting shotgun, take the precaution of cleaning and coating the sight base as well as holding screws before attaching component parts. This is practically necessary where the sight is to be mounted on an aluminum alloy receiver or where developed gun recoil is heavy. Bond-0 and 2-Ton Epoxy adhesives help make a satisfactory job. Don’t use these bonding pastes if you do not intend the sight installation to be permanent.

For storing guns for long periods, I coat all surfaces generously, inside and out, with Gard Anti-Rust Spray. I’ve been using this preparation for many years and it has never failed me, despite our humid Florida climate. It sprays on as an oil, dries to a semi-grease that is hard to wipe off film. To degrease Gard-treated guns preparatory to use, I wipe off surfaces with a cloth wet with mineral spirits and also use the same solution to rinse out actions and barrels.

Guns in active service are not again sprayed with Gard Anti-Rust Spray, but instead coated with Silicote Gun Spray and wiped frequently with a Silicote Polishing Cloth. Special care is taken to remove all acid fingerprints each time a gun is handled.

Certain light oils and silicone sprays are fine for preventing rust on guns in seasonal service, but for long storage Gard Anti-Rust Spray, Rig, or applied antihydrous lanolin, must be used.

Where barrels show signs of "loading," I don’t go wild with a wire scratch brush and Hoppe’s No. 9. Instead, I use the barrel’s chamber to protect the breech and internal working parts, pour a quantity of lead-absorbing mercury into the muzzle, plug the muzzle and allow the mercury back and forth to pick up lead deposits. After considerable sloshing, I unplug the muzzle, pour out the mercury, and rinse with the cleaning rod if I first use the lead-absorbing mercury.

Barrel wear is thereby minimized.

Front Sights: When changing from factory-installed open sights to the shooter’s choice of rear peep style, often a front sight of different height or style is needed.

Keep shooters a supply of front sight styles on hand, preferring instead to order as required. How, since I test fire so many different rifles and cartridge combinations, and have frequent need of precision shooting aids, I maintain a small stock of standard blade front (Continued on Page 32)
I acquired a houseboat, and country didn’t simplify it up seemed to call for the full-time services of a shipwright, a painter and somebody with captain’s papers. I needed talents and keeping that boat worthwhile. Maintenance is not one of my greatest worries. In the first place, boat fishing is commonly a three- or four-day trip to be worthwhile. I began to figure ways of camping out in a fishing boat.

Camping in swamps and on mangrove islands presents a prov­lems. If you’re using a boat no more than 16 feet long and wide open for fishing activities, your first thought is to pull it ashore and rig a camp on the ground, leaving most of your equipment in the boat.

We’ve started doing it backward. We put the equipment and supplies on the shore and sleep in the boat. This has simplified things a great deal for us.

We recently did some overnight fishing in the Lostmans River coun­try with our present rig. The cam­panying photos show what it looks like when set up for overnight camping. Here’s what we do:

The boat is too open except for the usual seats. Wimpy Steerman made us a sectional plywood plat­form that can be laid over the seats, which would like to have one of those night stands. As I recall, the Bemis folks were discontinuing the model I have, but we brought out something else.

Such tents are expensive—around a hundred bucks. You can see why when you examine one.

Ventilation is essential and you will note from the picture that since the tent is set up well below the gunwale, much of your breeze is blocked by the sides of the boat. This particularly is true when you’re a hundred feet away. We’ve started a discussion, and if you anchor from the stem you’ll get most of the air.

Once we get our gear hung in the trees, we try to find just the right size of open spot—large enough to get some breeze and put you away from shore-hugging mosquitoes but small enough that night winds won’t rock you too much or make you get up to anchor from the bow.

Now this outfit is not intended for long stays. After a couple of nights you’re probably hard in the two or 16-foot boat is concerned. For a one-night stand it’s perfect.

Cooking on board is not too con­venient. You can use a small alcohol stove or one of those with canned fuel. Good idea to try to divorce your cooking from the gasoline tank or a tank as far as possible. One good scheme for giving yourself extra room is to get one of the clamp-on trays such as are used by drive-in car hops—only you hang it outside instead of using a clamp-on. It’s small enough that night winds won’t blow it up and you can get up to anchor from the bow.

Worst of all, I can’t tell where they’ll be and where they won’t. Generally, where I am they are. If you have some high ground and want to stay ashore, it’s hard to beat the jungle hammock—a simple hamm­ock with its own roof, wall and mosquito netting. Let’s face it though—and some folks just aren’t hammock sleepers.

Using the boat system, I’ve tried mosquito netting instead of the tent during a dry time. That’s okay too. A good ice chest and the use of “Scotch Ice” or some other prepa­ration that holds the cold is a big help on short trips. Where weight is a problem, I’d advise that beer and soft drinks have crowded away a good meal into oblivion. Unless you have lots of room far ice, better go easy on the heavy, bulky stuff. You can keep your fish, you can keep your fish, you have another problem. Better take plenty of ice and some fish­cleansing equipment that can be used aboard if you’re in country where you can’t go ashore.

If you’re not really fish-happy, I’d suggest turning them back on such trips. A race against fish spoilage (Continued on Page 33)
What would happen if hunting of wild animals was stopped completely? Would the animals benefit? Here are some facts proving that managed hunting programs help preserve our wildlife populations.

UNWANTED DEER HUNTERS

By ELIZABETH ETHERIDGE

FOUR YEARS AGO wildlife conservation authorities of 11 Southeastern states joined forces with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to seek out an unwanted "deer slayer."

They wanted to know what caused periodic "die-offs" in the region's white-tailed deer herds—die-offs which sometimes claimed so many animals that hunting was poor for years to come if not absolutely prohibited because of the shortage of animals.

The agency that sets up to investigate these baffling die-offs was the Southeastern Cooperative Deer Disease Study. This regional organization is sponsored by Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, with headquarters at the University of Georgia's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The search began; clues were collected and fitted together; and now answers are beginning to emerge. Officials at the Study—which now substituted "Wildlife" for "Deer" in its title because its activities have been greatly broadened—are careful to say "beginning to emerge," for there may be new evidence to turn up later, but at least they feel that they are on the right track.

It appears that there is not just a single killer, but many. They are parasites, the major offenders being round worms, tape worms, flukes, bot flies, and lice which with a host of other organisms work their way into an animal until it sickens and dies.

In all the deer die-offs in recent years in the Southeast, significant numbers of both internal and external parasites have been found. They gain their best foothold in deer when the deer themselves become so numerous that the area they occupy is inadequate to supply their needs. When the natural browse and mast crops, or acorns, are gone and deer get hungry, the parasites have a good opportunity to move in and take over. They seldom miss the chance.

The staff of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study has been looking for these killers all over the Southeast from the hayous of Louisiana to the highest mountains of the Carolinas. They call them "a new kind of deer hunter," which abide by no laws, recognize no seasons, and are governed only by their voracious appetites.

to date 12 different kinds of potential deer killing parasites have been found in the Southeast. They are brain worms, gutlet worms, stomach worms, nodular worms, whip worms, lung worms, tape worms, liver flukes, rumen flukes, nasal bots, biting lice, and ticks.

All can be deadly. In the first place parasite infection results in a marked reduction in the deer's body weight and antler size. In the second, they take a heavy toll on the vitality and reproductive potentialities of these animals. Finally, they take the animal itself. Dr. Frank A. Hayes, Director of the Study, estimates that within the past year stomach worms and lung worms alone have harvested more deer in certain areas than all the hunters put together.

In the Southeast last year there were three significant instances of deer mortality in isolated areas of Maryland, Mississippi, and North Carolina. In each case the mortality appeared to be intricately associated with heavy parasitic infections, and on each occasion there were more deer in the area than there was natural food available for them to eat.

In Maryland, for instance, the deer died as a result of the combined effects of starvation, stomach worms, biting lice and a bitter cold winter. The deaths were concentrated among young deer which could not compete for the remaining food, deer crippled by automobiles, and those animals weakened by nature. A long siege of deep snow triggered the die-off.

All of the animals which died in the Maryland area were extremely emaciated and a marked absence of abdominal and kidney fat was evident. Very significant differences were shown by a contrast of the bone marrow of these animals with those of the healthy animals that were taken for comparative studies. The lipid content from the bone marrow of the animals that died varied from 2.5 to 11.3%, whereas those of the healthy animals ranged from 59 to 83%. According to confirmed accounts from earlier workers, a bone marrow lipid content of less than 10% affords substantial evidence of malnutrition and subsequent starvation. Comparative studies also strongly suggested that stomach worms and enormous numbers of biting lice contributed greatly to the mortality rate.

During December 1969, on a Private hunt club in the delta region of Mississippi, a five-and-a-half year old doe was found in an extremely weakened condition. Because of obvious signs of illness, this animal was killed and a careful necropsy was performed. A large number of adult lung worms were found in the air passages and a diagnosis of verminous pneumonia was later confirmed in the central laboratory. The lung tissues were riddled by the larval forms of this parasitic species. A few months later, approximately 36 dead fawns were found in the immediate area.

Several weeks after this mortality, an investigation was conducted to determine the possible cause of deaths. Heavy stomach worm infections were found in three subjects that were examined and in all animals collected, the walls of the stomach were greatly thickened and there was marked inflation. It later appeared that both lung worms and stomach worms had also contributed to the deer deaths. In late winter and early spring of this year, 73 dead deer were found in three isolated and isolated caves in the North Carolina mountains. Although an investigation was inadvertently delayed until six weeks after the peak of mortality, nine representative deer (continued on next page)

Large American liver fluke procured during the survey in South Carolina. Fifty-eight of these trematodes were harbored by one animal. These parasites are found within thirteen endemic areas of the Southeast.

Whipworms attached to the lower digestive tract of a deer collected in Alabama. Over a hundred of these parasites have been found in a single animal, but in general, they are relatively rare.
“...these were...”

“...parasites come from? How are they carried? How do they get into deer? What can they mean for deer...”

“...and the bone-narrow-fat content of each deer...”

“...the more stomach worms present, the lower the percentage of bone marrow fat...”

“...Members of the Wildlife Disease Study staff were on hand to inspect each of these instances of deer mortality...”

“...They collected animals that had died and made complete or partial necropsies of each...”

“...They also looked for systemic fungal infections, attempted...”

“...The specialists are ready to go anywhere in the 11 state region at any time to investigate mysterious wild animal deaths...”

“...Every incidence of deer die-offs last winter occurred in areas that are overpopulated...”

“...So far worms have been found in the nasal passages, brains, pharynxes, gullets, lungs, livers, stomachs, small and large intestines and the abdominal cavities...”

“...In some localities various species of lice and ticks are also quite common...”

“...Complete surveys have already been conducted in Alabama and Louisiana, in localities where heavy deer concentrations existed. Similar surveys will be made...”

“...Such research is expensive, too expensive for one state to carry on alone. That’s why 11 Southeastern state biologists...”

“...James F. Smith; Medical Technician, Gloria J. Dills; and research assistants, for fat analysis studies...”

“...Field Biologist, Charles M. Marshall; Biological Assistant, James F. Smith; Medical Technician, Gloria J. Dills; and Business Manager, Lounette Whelchel. George R. McCahan and Annie K. Prestwood are also employed...”

“...The Southeast’s wildlife veterinarians and biologists say that steps must be taken to alleviate the overcrowded conditions that now exist in many deer herds...”

“...The light mortality noted in recent years should be interpreted as a precursor of a “major die-off” within a few years to come...”

“...The logical solution to the problem of parasitism in white-tailed deer, the Wildlife Disease Study experts say, is the reduction of deer populations...”

“...In many overstocked areas, it is becoming imperative that hunters take more animals, and this must include does, before the number of animals ever can be reduced at a safe level...”

“...If this is not accomplished by sportsmen, the parasites and their accomplices will do so without invitation or hesitation,” Dr. Hayes says. “A few parasites do not exert harmful effects on the animal’s health or its venison, but when they are present in great numbers, they become the unwanted hunters...”

A necropsy scene takes during a recent parasitologic investigation conducted in Madison Parish, Louisiana. From left to right–Field Veterinarian Theodore T. Ridgeway, Biologist Dan Dennett, Jr., and Biologist Charles M. Marshall examine the body of a dead white-tailed deer in search for heartworms. Mr. Dan Dennett (center) is with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and has participated in two regional field surveys with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study...
The pushbutton ignition reel is generally accepted for youngsters to operate. Little Beth Ann Hendry got one other she caught a 7-pound bass with her daddy's outfit.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The fisherman's Christmas packages are generally opened with some apprehension.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1961
These prices are only clues and please don't take them too seriously. They are simply to give you an idea of what it will cost to start from scratch. I am writing this with a bunch of tackle catalogs open before me. I don't intend to offend any manufacturer but probably already have.

For really top-notch equipment in any of the classifications listed, I would say you should spend around $50. For that amount of money you can get an outfit that should be good enough for anybody. For the most part, when you pay more than that for a spin-casting, spinning, bait-casting or fly-fishing outfit you are getting superior finish, useful but unnecessary features and perhaps (whisper it softly!) a famous name.

When I say "outfit" I am speaking of rod, reel and line. Lures, boxes and other equipment are separate and if you DO go all out for a good outfit of any kind I'd suggest that you go a little easy on the lures. Let the new fisherman pick his own. It will be more fun that way, it will add to his interest and most lures are bought one at a time for specific areas anyway.

I have not touched on trolling or heavy salt water equipment. In Florida Wildlife we like to concentrate on fresh water and light salt water fishing that would employ bass weight tackle.

I sincerely believe that it is in the light tackle category you are most likely to develop a fisherman in the family. Light tackle can be used at any time of year in Florida without a boat and certainly without a deep water cruiser. It is usually most fascinating for the beginner.

It can be used from piers and even from the surf or jetties.

The whole country laughs at the woman who receives a fishing boat when she wanted a mink stole and a casting rod instead of a new purse.

When it comes to buying fishing tackle for ladies—especially housewives—it depends on too much interest—you may miss a bet if you get the whole works at once. A beginning woman-angler needs good equipment to use and frequently gets cast-off stuff. However, part of the fishing business is understanding your tackle. It's nice to have her help pick out her own simply because it gives her more understanding of what it's all about.

The advent of glass into fishing rods has performed one miracle for the youngster or lady just starting.

When all good rods were made of steel and bamboo and hickory, it took an expert to fish with a featherweight stick without breaking it. Generally, the beginner was the one who had difficulty handling a heavy rod but was most likely to break a light one. Now you can get tough rods light enough for anyone.

One item that should go with every beginner's spinning or plug-casting outfit is a practice casting weight. The back yard or city park will do the beginner a lot more good than a lake or river—for a short while at least. Get the fundamentals and then get out where there are some fish.

I have often been asked what I think of Japanese, Swiss, Italian, German and English fishing tackle—generally by persons shopping for presents.

It is bad business to say tackle is bad because it is Japanese or to say it is good because it is Swiss the same as it is inadvisable to say it is good or bad because it is built in America.

Believe me, I have seen some real junk come down the American assembly lines. Japanese workmanship has run the full gamut from completely useless stuff to top-quality equipment. Jap workmen can do as well as anyone else if they have something to work with. They get a bad reputation with their really cheap stuff and some of the Japanese "combination rod sets" were jokes because the builders evidently didn't even know how the stuff was to be used. Anyway, the windings were pretty. But that was years before they knew what we wanted. Some of the Japanese reels are excellent, others are inferior copies of gear made in other countries. Now and then the copies are almost as good as the originals.

The Swiss, Italians, French and Germans are good workmen—and look at some of the beautiful work the Spanish turn out, even though they used to be on the wrong side of the ledger with their cheap firearms.

(Continued on Page 36)
Any hunter can learn to use a duck call — but calling right is another thing! Properly used duck calls can mean big bonuses to waterfowl hunters!

Call 'Em—RIGHT!

By H. Lea Lawrence

Lack of "know-how" with a duck call will ruin a duck hunt, not only for the inexperienced caller, but for hunters in adjoining blinds.

We crouched low in the blind, tense and expectant, as the mallards dipped in over the decoys, gabbling in response to the soft feed call I had coaxed them down with.

Out of the corner of my eye I could see their heads turn from side to side as they surveyed the spread below them on their down-wind pass. They swept directly away, then banked sharply to make their return trip into the set. My finger felt out the safety on the pump gun.

Then it happened! From across the inlet came a sound that might have matched closest the noise made by a Halloween horn, or one of the ten-cent noise-makers people blow on New Year's Eve. A second later the flock of mallards was headed for far-away places, half-scared out of their wits by what someone had hoped would be seductive "come hither" talk on a duck call.

You've probably had the same thing happen, and you've probably uttered the same harsh words under your breath. It's a tough break to face, especially in the days of fewer ducks when one good pass by a flock might be your only chance of the day.

But let's take a more careful look at the problem and try to explain why this sort of thing happens. Exasperating as it is, there's still the fact to face that hunters don't mean to create an effect that is going to make ducks go in the opposite direction.

Lack of "know-how" with a duck call is obviously the reason for this trouble. But how will a beginner pick up what he needs to know to operate a call effectively? Here's where the major part of the difficulty occurs.

Time was, in the days of lots of ducks and longer seasons, when a fellow who wanted to learn something about ducks and duck calling had both the time and the birds available. He could even afford to spend some time listening and observing rather than shooting. Some of today's experts with calls picked up most of their knowledge in this manner. Nowadays, not many hunters can expect to learn this way.

My father, the late Harry Lawrence, was one of the most effective men with a duck call I had ever heard work. He learned in a manner one can't hope to duplicate today. Dad began hunting in the days of live decoys, and he kept several of these birds in a pen behind our house. I can remember watching him sit for hours on end practicing their calls. The ducks would attempt to talk to anything that flew over, whether it be robins, blackbirds or pigeons. So getting them to go through their repertoire wasn't any trouble.

Most hunters today attempt to learn calling by use of either phonograph records or booklets which are meant to provide instruction for the neophyte. Both of these have some merit, although they often prove to be more confusing than helpful. The records, for instance, usually cover more territory in the area of duck calling than can be digested. Trying to sit down and mimic the sounds generally leaves a person baffled and a long way from attaining any degree of finesse on even one call, much less the dozen or so calls demonstrated. Too, I have heard calls on such records that are, as a matter of fact, bizarre. I sometimes suspect them of being devised just to fill space on the record.

Booklets, on the other hand, while often written expertly, are also difficult to learn much from. Trying to put sounds into words has never been very effective, and this trouble shows up prominently in instruction books on duck calling. Even with plenty of experience in duck calling behind me, I can't make heads or tails out of such books.

Your best bet in learning to call is to receive some
first hand instruction from someone who can call well. This sort of help, plus a lot of practice, can put a beginner in shape for actually working with wild birds. But the practice sessions should be held at home, or in the field before or after hunting season. Ask the person assisting you to tell you when you’re ready to try coaxing the birds.

In all likelihood, a good caller will start you out on three basic calls to learn. These will be the hail, or greeting call; the feed call; and the series of soft quacks often referred to as the “lonesome hen call.” These three, once mastered, will give you a terrific introduction to what is the most important part of calling. But a much less expensive call may function equally well. Results are the most important consideration, anyway, not appearance. The best call I have ever had to use cost me $1.50, and I have had plenty of experience, custom built jobs. They’re good, but not that good.

The late Herb Parsons, famed exhibition shooter for Winchester-Western, who held the world and international duck calling championship, once confided in me that he thought price of a duck call meant nothing whatsoever. Herb said that the “million dollar sound”—that which put ducks into the decoys—could come from a home-made call just as easily as from a custom built model. I heard Herb produce beautiful duck music on a very inexpensive call. It pointed up more than anything that it is the man behind the call that is the most important part of calling.

Herb’s favorite illustration of good duck calling was one told of a trip he was on at Reelfoot Lake, near his home at Somerville, Tenn. He said it proved that even a poor duck day could have its compensations.

“That day,” he related, “it was bluebird weather and not a duck was in sight. I tuned up on my duck call just to pass the time, and before thirty minutes had passed I had called up over a dozen decoys people had lost on previous trips to the marsh. Now that’s real duck calling!”

You may get good with a call, but not that good! Why does know-how with a duck call pay off in the field? Let’s take a look and see.

Whether you’re hunting over decoys or not, being able to interest ducks by calling them and bringing them in for a closer look will provide you with much better shooting. Hunting over a well-placed set of decoys, birds can be brought in to within thirty yards range, a distance where clear, sure kills can be made. Too, with restrictions in effect on some species of ducks, it gives you a closer look at what you’re planning to shoot at, making identification lots simpler and more positive.

In pass shooting or pothole hunting, passing birds can be brought in for a close swing by some good calling. You seldom can get them to sit down when there are no decoys with which to lure them, but those extra yards you can pull them will increase your chances tremendously. Considering the amount of lead needed to put a duck down for keeps, this yardage can mean plenty to you. It can put birds in your bag that otherwise might not be there.

There is another value in duck calling I haven’t touched on yet, but it is by far not the least important. Duck calling is an art, and one which can provide a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction.

For instance, when you hail a flock of ducks heading the other way, see them turn at the sound, then watch your following series of calls pull them to you as though they were on a string—brother, you feel a sense of accomplishment! You know what brought them in, and you know where they’d be if you hadn’t called them. It’s a mighty warm feeling!

I know a couple of hunters who are also camera bugs who call ducks in order to photograph them at close range. They try to catch them with a telephoto lens. They have actually called ducks into the decoys, then had them walk on out on the bank toward the blind in search of the hidden “duck.”

These are some of the dividends proper calling can bring you. There’s nothing mysterious about the art; it requires only a familiarity with what you’re trying to do, plus a lot of practice. I can’t overemphasize the latter.

Finally, it makes you a lot more welcome in a duck blind, not only to your companions, but also to other hunters sharing the same marsh or waterway. For poor calling spoils the sport for everyone within earshot.

And regarding intempered duck callers. I’ll borrow and rearrange an old phrase as a bit of advice: “It’s better to keep your duck call in your pocket and appear an amateur than to blow it and remove any possible doubt!”

A large variety of duck calls are on the market. Cost of the call is an indication of how good it is. Beautiful duck music can be played on inexpensive calls.
Christmas Tree For Birds

By HELEN STEWART KNAUS

It was almost dusk before we were through. By that time the birds were bedding down for the night, except the cardinals who kept late hours.

Papa Jack, our handsome male, and his plain little mate, Claudia, had been biding their time, for as soon as we were inside the house they flew to the tree. They circled it cautiously a few times before light­ning on the table where they began munching sunflower seed.

In the pale first light of Christmas morning I was startled by the announcement of the doves. It did not take them long to find their food in the new location instead of further back in the garden, and soon the ground was dark with what could pass for little grey ghosts. A few flew to the rim of the table and helped themselves to the Christmas breakfast of wild bird seed.

After that a company of blue jays arrived in a fanfare of excitement. Seemingly agog with curiosity and delight they screeched and called for other members of their colony to join them. Soon the air was blue with late arrivals who flew straight to the tree. They chortled and ate, and then flew away with their beaks full, leaving a trail of sunflower seed scattered on the ground behind them.

From the nearby strawberry tree the woodpecker family announced their arrival by a series of loud, insistent honks. When Papa wood­pecker flew down and latched on to a doughnut, his wife followed him and began scooping up the crum­bling bits that fell to the table with quick, side-wise movements of her beak.

Soon the sun came out bright and clear, and with it came the red-winged blackbirds. Forgotten now in their cheery little “oka-lee-oka­lee” music as they plunged into the tree with small chirps, grabbing the first tid-bits they saw. Shortly after that the sparrows and grackles joined the party. The big male grackles were hard put trying to negotiate the small tree, but they managed to grab bits of crumbs from the table. The smaller female grack­les ferried food to the bird bath where they dunked it throughout the day.

We scattered generous servings of sunflower seed and cracked bird seed on the exposed part of the table top, and on the ground sur­rounding it, sprinkled grain for the doves. For “atmosphere” we hung a few bright Christmas ornaments among the green pine needles, and the tree was draped with lengths of tinsel. As an after-thought, a sprink­ling of glitter polished off the job.

While we decorated the tree we were conscious of being bird­watched. From surrounding trees and shrubs the eyes of our fea­thered friends were fixed upon us. But there was no sound. Until a blue jay, apparently unable to con­trol his curiosity, whammed over to the lowest limb of the golden shower tree and studied us intently as he flexed his knees and bobbed up and down in a fury of courtesy.

(Continued on Page 34)
in rare cases.

Be Controlled?

1en spraying a pond to rid it
es wise to spray only a fraction
at a time to avoid too much vegetation
at once. Weed control, especially aquatic
weed control, can result in a fish kill if the chemicals
aren’t applied with the correct technique. On the other
hand, the proper selection of chemicals and use of
techniques will minimize harm.

What Is Water Pollution?

Pollution means the introduction of any foreign
solution or matter into the water so as to alter
the original pristine quality of the water. In the case of
water pollution, it usually refers to oils, or other
harmful substances such as chemicals, which are harm­
ful to plant life and fish populations. The result is,
water pollution can destroy the recreational values of
a body of water for an indefinite period, if allowed
to exist.

What About Sewage?

Sewage pollution by some of the larger cities and
industries have from time to time created quite a prob­
lem concerning fish and plant life. Raw sewage will
cause oxygen depletion in much the same manner as
decaying vegetation.

Is Water Pollution Worse Than
Decaying Vegetation?

Yes, in most cases it is. Industrial and sewage pollu­
tion is much more serious and permanent than fish
kills caused by decaying vegetation. It should be
considered to be extremely dangerous and action should be
taken at the first sign of such pollution. Pollution is much
like a cancer: If caught in time, it can usually be cured.
If it is permitted to exist, pollution can lead to the
"death" of a stream or lake for all recreational uses.

What Side Effects Relate To Crowded Fish?

Game fish are not killed by extremely low water
conditions, nevertheless suffer from being overcrowd­
ed. Outbreaks of various fish diseases, usually found
(Continued on page 26)
**Why Do Garfish And Mudfish Survive?**

Unsustainable removal of rough fish, as well as game fish may be destroyed, of the water as the proper balance

...a species that poses lung-like air bladders serving as secondary breathing organs. This enables the two species to

...survive by floating at the water surface, which in many cases, saves them from suffocation.

**Are Rough Fish Beneficial?**

Yes, with quantities of rough fish, such as gar and mudfish act as predators against abundant small game fishes. Other species of rough fish such as gizzard shad, shiners, threadfin shad and catfish serve as a source of food supply for many species of game fish. This is a part of the dynamic balance nature has devised to keep a proper check on any given species of fish. Roughfish may be beneficial so long as the proper balance is maintained in the fish populations.

**After A Fish Kill, What Happens To Dead Fish?**

A portion of the dead fish are eaten by other fish, waterfowl and other forms of wildlife, while the remainder decays, if man does not remove them.

**Do Decayed Fish Have Any Effect?**

Yes. The overall effect serves to balance the fertility of the water by returning the necessary minerals that are required for a future balanced fish population.

**What About Fish “Balance” After A Kill?**

Again, in small water areas, a good possibility exists that the recovery population is unbalanced. For instance, bluegills are notorious for being very prolific, for they tend to spawn four to seven times a year, while other species of fresh water fish, such as bass, spawn only once. So it can be seen that if insufficient numbers of predator fish, such as bass, gar, mudfish, and speckled perch (crappie) are present, the Bluegill may become too numerous.

**What Can Be Done About “Unbalanced” Populations?**

Several techniques can be employed by the fishery biologists to correct the unbalanced body of water.

1. Partial renovation - A controlled number of small fish are successfully eliminated chemically, in hopes of getting populations back to normal.
2. Selective renovation - Chemicals are used to remove certain undesirable species of fish.
3. Total renovation - This is a complete fish kill by use of tested chemicals.
4. Water draw-downs - This system is used on highly controlled water areas. The waters are drained to a small area, therefore crowding the existing fish populations together, making it easier for the predator fishes to feed on the small fish. This water draw-down method occasionally has to be repeated 2 or 3 times, in order to realize the correct fish balance desired.

**Who Can Determine The Kill And Its Real Effect?**

Only a qualified fishery biologist can determine the type of fish kill and its real effect.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**Wildlife Management Areas**

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting 57 Wildlife Management Areas as listed below. In addition to a regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the Management Areas.

**MULTIPLE Public Use Code For Listing Below:**

- Open To Fishing
- Open To Taking Of Frogs
- Open To Hunting Under Special Permit
- Open To Fishing Under Special Permit

**See Special Management Area Summaries For Regulations, Permits, and Seasons.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>LOCATION (Counties)</th>
<th>TOTAL ACRES OPEN</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL GAME SPECIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Blackwater (*)</td>
<td>Santa Rosa &amp; Okaloosa</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>Deer - Turkey - Quail - Squirrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Epifin Field (*)</td>
<td>Santa Rosa, Okaloosa &amp; Walton</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>Deer - Quail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Roy S. Gaskin (*)</td>
<td>Calhoun, Bay &amp; Gulf</td>
<td>118,300</td>
<td>Deer - Quail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Apalachicola (*)</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Deer - Quail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Liberty (*)</td>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>133,120</td>
<td>Deer - Bear - Squirrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Leon-Wakulla (*)</td>
<td>Wakulla &amp; Leon</td>
<td>67,000</td>
<td>Deer - Bear - Turkey - Squares - Ducks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ausill (*)</td>
<td>Jefferson, Taylor &amp; Wakulla</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>Deer - Turkey - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. DeSoto (*)</td>
<td>Dixie &amp; Levyette</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>Deer - Bear - Squirrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Okaloosa (*)</td>
<td>Baker &amp; Columbia</td>
<td>92,000</td>
<td>Deer - Bear - Turkey - Squared</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Lake Butler (*)</td>
<td>Columbia, Baker &amp; Union</td>
<td>98,000</td>
<td>Deer - Turkey - Squared - Waterfowl</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Gulf Hammock (*)</td>
<td>Levy</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Quaid - Deer - Turkey - Wild Hog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Camp Royllton (*)</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>Waterfowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Guano (*)</td>
<td>St. Johns</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Oscoal (*)</td>
<td>Marion, Putnam &amp; Lake</td>
<td>203,600</td>
<td>Deer - Turkey - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Tomoka (*)</td>
<td>Flagler - Volusia</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Deer - Turkey - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Forrest (*)</td>
<td>Volusia &amp; Brevard</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Circa (*)</td>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>Deer - Quail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Cream (*)</td>
<td>Hendrano &amp; Sunner</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Richboon (*)</td>
<td>Hernando &amp; Sunner &amp; Passco</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Arno Park (*)</td>
<td>Highlands &amp; Polk</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Cecil M. Webb (*)</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>57,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Lee (*)</td>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Gokbchshoe (*)</td>
<td>Gokbchshoe</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Fishingotw Cove (*)</td>
<td>Glades</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. W. Caddo (*)</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Dews's Garden (*)</td>
<td>Hendry</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Everglades (*)</td>
<td>Palm Beach, Dade &amp; Broward</td>
<td>724,000</td>
<td>Deer - Squared</td>
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**DECEMBER, 1961**
Currently, there is a great deal of talk among quail hunters about paid shooting preserve set-ups. Some of it is highly laudatory, and some of it isn’t.

Sportsmen who find it increasingly difficult to acquire hunting privileges on private land, and those whose professions leave little time for hunting, are enthusiastic about the assured quail hunting offered by paid shooting preserves.

The matter of convenience is no minor attraction: You know where to hunt to bag game, and can go directly to the area with little loss of time, with expectation and assurance of opportunities for shots. Finding and shooting birds is not the gamble associated with making the rounds of free-open-to-hunting land tracts during a short hunting season. On a paid shooting preserve chances to bag birds are heavily in your favor....

Opponents argue that quail raised in pens and later released for hunting fail to manifest the desirable, tricky flight characteristics of wild native birds. In many cases, they are right. Numerous first-time-out patrons have regretfully reported that some of the released birds later located by their dogs have had to be virtually shot from underfoot into reluctant flight.

Kneeling down a confused, domesticated quail a few arms’ lengths from the gun is not the true quail hunter’s idea of sport, no matter how high his hunting fever! The fact that every bird bagged counts toward the allowed kill quota — and costs the hunter approximately $2.50 — makes him think even less of such hunting situations.

The shooting preserve operator, being a business man, fully realizes that his continued success depends on making the shooting set-up attractive. He knows that good flying birds and quality dog work mean fast action afield and repeat patronage.

The basic problem arises from the fact that artificially propagated quail tend to become domesticated to the ways of man, like poultry in a farmyard, and grow fat and friendly instead of nervously flighty.

Realizing that the majority of their patrons hunt for sport and not for meat, the shooting preserve operators are making every effort to acquire birds that exhibit all the characteristics of wild native game.

Many are beating a path to the door of Vern L. (“Shelly”) Sheldon, a quail-raising operating a picturesque, 20-acre farm six miles north of Leeburg, just offcombination Highways 27-441.

Sheldon is one of the few quail men in the country able to artificially propagate truly wild quail that meet every field and flight qualification. He does not operate a paid shooting preserve — just raises wild quail!

From hatching to sale, the birds are cut off so far as possible from domestic influences. Pen-wire is buried lap bag screened to a height that prevents birds seeing out and being seen. Necessary contacts with man are kept to a minimum.

In Florida alone, eight commercial preserves now buy Sheldon’s wild-flying, weather-conditioned birds for release on their own acreage. The wild native bird characteristics of his pen-raised quail are so pronounced and apparent that even preserve operators in distant states order from Leeburg man.

Field trials among dog handlers throughout the country provide another specialized market. Prime, select birds are in demand for these events. Sheldon recently shipped 500 birds to Michigan for a field trial.

Breeding stock is shipped to other states, too — California and Pennsylvania, particularly.

Many organized groups of sportsmen purchase from 200 to 500 birds for release on land they have rented especially for quail hunting.

Likewise, landowners buy with the idea of providing sporty hunting for themselves and friends. Only recently, a Ponce de Leon resident purchased 2,000 birds for release on a private farm just outside that community.

At the present time, Sheldon has some 400 pairs of breeders, and 7,000 additional birds of all ages. He had more, but recently sold 4,500 birds.

Economically, it is to the advantage of a quail breeder to sell stock within 16 to 22 weeks of hatching, since continued maintenance of birds in perfect health and wild state entail costly feeding and added work.

Quail breeders consider an annual egg production of 75 eggs per bird excellent, but Sheldon has some breeding stock that lay as many as 200 eggs per hen per year.

From eggs to subsequently released adult game bird is an interesting sequence.

On paid shooting preserves, chances to bag prime birds are heavily in favor of the hunter.
weeks of age the quail chicks can fly remarkably well and will flush when approached. During the first week of their lives, chicks live in a constantly maintained environment temperature of 95 degrees. Subsequently, this initial temperature is reduced five degrees per week for the next four weeks.

Each brooder-pen’s occupants represent birds of a single hatch, not mixed hatchings. To discourage compact hovering that might smother layer birds in a pile up, wire mesh squares, curved and tilted, are placed in the four corners. Birds that show any symptoms of sickness, droopiness, or tendency to be cannibalistic are segregated, and disposed of, if necessary. Broken legs are common, especially among young birds.

Each pen has a posted chart showing mortality rate and other pertinent information.

The mechanical brooder moved from the brooder end of the fifth week.

Raising quail for restocking and shooting purposes is not all “quail gravy.” Losses can be sudden and serious. Once Sheldon lost 10,000 birds like these.

There are six major species of quail in the United States, and a number of recognized sub-species. The all-time favorite of hunters, and the most widely distributed, is the Bobwhite. Sheldon’s birds are of this lineage. His original breeding stock came from a Joplin, Missouri, game breeder, from whom twelve mated pairs were ordered for experiment.

The other five primary varieties are the Gambel or Desert quail; the Valley or California species; Mountain quail; Scaled quail and Massena quail, the rarest and least hunted. The introduced Japanese Coturnix quail species has shown increase in some states, and has been a flat experimental failure in others.

Although you can purchase quail for immediate release for restocking or hunting, you cannot keep game birds species in captivity in Florida without a special permit (costing $10) from the Game Commission. Many persons who approach Sheldon with the idea of purchasing a pair of quail as pets change their minds when they learn of this state law. Others obtain the necessary permit. Like people in certain sections of our country, quail have their own clannish idiosyncrasies. If pen-raised birds have lived together as a group for a long period, they will not tolerate individual birds from outside their cage environment. Deliberate or unintentional “gate-crashing” usually results in severe, even fatal, treatment.

In the wild state, however, coves are a bit more tolerant. They also tend to gradually break up during the spring nesting period and pair off to propagate new coves. While quail nest in the protective cover of an idle weed field, a brush-covered fence row or in unpastured woodland. Both the hen and the cock share in the nest’s construction.

The average clutch is 14 eggs, assembled over a laying period of 15 to 20 days. Game biologists point out that the hen is only on the nest long enough to lay one egg each day, but soon after the last egg is deposited, incubation begins. The last egg is usually a family arrangement, incubation sometimes being started by the cock bird. Should the hen meet accidental death during the 23 day incubation period, the cock will complete the job.

If eggs laid early in season are destroyed, the birds will try again. Only one brood is raised each year, however.

Jim Floyd, Florida Game Commission official, says “Weather plays an important role in successful quail nesting. Disastrously, there may be too much rain, or the weather may be too hot and dry. Embryos may be killed and, consequently, none of the eggs hatch. There are also many natural enemies of nesting quail—skunks, cotton rats, snakes and ants particularly.”

Those that do hatch and reach maturity face a high population turnover each year. Normally 70 to 80 per cent of all quail in the wild die from various causes during a year.

For high, natural quail production, there must be adequate food and protective cover where birds tend to roost. It is useless to release quail for restocking unless these necessities exist in proper ratio.

Quail propagation can be aided by growing suitable foods like legumes and partridge peas in plots or along fence rows. Artificial feeders can be made to serve admirably in areas possessing good cover, but lacking adequate natural foods.

Sheldon claims that the secret of successful restocking is not to put out too many birds, for restocked birds will stop there, but to periodically release additional covies, consistent with food and habitat.

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In the wild state, however, coves are a bit more tolerant. They also tend to gradually break up during the spring nesting period and pair off to propagate new coves.
Another field mission is not taking time to properly advance and position the gear before making a shot. Only when the hunter is able to pivot his body smoothly and execute a coordinated gun swing can have done centuries before our sport's targets be accomplished. For some upland gunners, the Bolwhite is a hard enough target; no sense in making it even more difficult!

Dr. Wilbur M. Davis, of Orlando, who has profusely killed as many quail as anyone in Florida, is especially enthusiastic about the flight performance of Sheldon's hards. He uses dog shooting companions regularly purchase birds for release on private land and subsequent hunting.

Whether you elect to do likewise, or do your quail hunting on a paid shooting preserve that utilizes Sheldon's wild birds, the effect will be similar to hunting native quail in their natural environment. Birds released ahead of your gun will fly wild when eventually located and flushed. You couldn't ask for more.

Still do not... A sling is an invaluable aid to steady offhand shooting, a task that should be mastered as quickly as possible. The sling should be snugly fitted, with the slack eliminated by the use of a proper tensioning device or by means of a proper fitting. The sling's job is to hold the rifle firmly against your shoulder, so that it rests on your shoulder, not your arm. The sling should be long enough to allow the rifle to be held with your arm completely relaxed, and short enough to prevent the rifle from being too far ahead of the shooter's body. The sling should be made of a material that will not slip, such as leather or canvas. The sling should be adjustable, so that it can be tightened or loosened as needed.

A sling that is too loose will allow the rifle to move excessively, while a sling that is too tight will cause the rifle to dig into your shoulder. The sling should be placed on the rifle just below the forend, and should be centered over the rifle's center of gravity. The sling should be adjusted so that the rifle is held at a comfortable angle, and should be held firmly in place by the user's hand or the use of a sling swivel.

Sling swivels are relatively inexpensive, and are an important accessory to any rifle. They are available in a variety of materials, including leather, canvas, and metal. They should be made of a material that is strong and durable, and should be designed to fit your rifle properly. The swivels should be placed on the rifle in a position that allows the user to hold the rifle firmly and comfortably, and should be adjusted so that the rifle is held at a comfortable angle.

The sling swivels are attached to the rifle with a metal or plastic stud, and are secured with a screw or a snap. The swivels should be placed on the rifle in a position that allows the user to hold the rifle firmly and comfortably, and should be adjusted so that the rifle is held at a comfortable angle.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1961

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is here again and it's time to wish all of you a season filled with gladness and peace of mind and soul. It is a time when we reflect and review and reflect to determine and count our blessings. You'll find in most of your countings that your blessings were indeed small. You'd been so surprised and pleasures. If you have experienced some of the bigger ones, you have been most fortunate.

One blessing that we can count on is our freedom. From the governments of our nations under the yoke of dictator- ships, we can lift our eyes towards the open sky and thank GOD for our blessing of Freedom in these United States of America. Of course, we can have this liberty if we stay on our toes and watch carefully the natural gifts that have made this nation of ours a leader in the cause of human advancement. If we are to continue to live as free agents under our constitution we must be alert to anything which will dissipate the forces of our great nation. Observation points out to us there are groups willing to sacrifice the future of our Republic for quick returns in the present. What and make this Union of 50 states so enviable has been its abundance of resources. Down through the years since our early settlers and pioneer days, we have practiced (and) regard for the use of our resources.

We all know the story of the past, years of waste, mismanagement, improper use of natural resources. We all the importance of endeavoring to do something and not knowing why. We behooves us then to stand guard and recognize the need to protect and preserve this immensely great gift of our natural resources.

Now more than ever before we must, as we have done in the past, Minute, work toward this precious heritage. We should be ever on the alert. Let us rid ourselves from the “talkers”; let us gather the “doers.” Passiveness must be sub- stituted by Activity. Do something must be substituted for the Do Nothing- ing. Conservation as a way of life must concern all of us. It is not a project for a few; it is a program for all of us. Let us be determined to take care of our blessing. Let us ever watch- ful that our Freedom remains as a part of our heritage and to remember our strength to guarantee this Free- dom depends upon the gift of abun- dance of our natural resources. Managing these resources wisely assures us of a proper way of living, the Conservation Way. Have you been alerted?

With all this the writer extends a Happy Yuletide Season to each and every one of you.

Around the State

Our new 1962 Directory for Junior Conservation Clubs has been completed and is being mailed to all Senior advisers of clubs in the state. If you haven’t received your copy, let us know. For a quick reference we list the following clubs. West Palm Beach Police Benevolent Youth Conservation Club; Palm Beach County Boys Conservation Club; Palm Beach County Girls Council in all; Vero Beach Rod & Gun Club; Bay County All Girls Junior Conserva- tion Club; Allappattah Optimum Junior Conserva- tion Club in St. Petersburg Junior Conservation Club;


For the Camp Fire Girls, Inc. of Florida final corrections were made in the Conservation Project Manual. One hundred copies of these have been sent to the headquarters office in Jacksonville.

At a recent meeting of the Florida Wildlife Federation appointments were made to the newly organized board of directors as known as the Youth Conservation Camp of South Florida, Inc.

For those of you who would like to have these names, may I present the following officials and directors: President, Sam Dubson, 90 N. W. 16th St., Vice-President, C. Anderson, Jr., 520 51st St., West Palm Beach; Secretary, Ed Buckow, West Palm Beach fishing Club; or Director, C. West Palm Beach; Treasurer, Peter Shunich, 209 Monroe Drive, West Palm Beach. Serving on the Board of Directors: Ira W. Ramsey, 320 Day- tona Avenue, Holly Hill; Russell L. Sanon, 829 Canal St., New Smyrna Beach; Eric Watson, 215 Freeway, New Smyrna Beach; Sam Sundvik, Lanark Village, John Grif- fin, 8120 3rd St., N., St. Petersburg 1. Handling drives for finances will be

(Continued on Next Page)
FISHERMAN’S CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 17)

Now much of the European reel production is sold under the names of reputable American firms and it is generally good but beware of the ultra-cheap numbers.

The English have built expensive fly tackle for nearly a hundred years. Generally it is good but its name on something is not automatic proof it is top quality. I have seen a few expensive British reels I wouldn’t use for saving a fly.

When you go to buy reels, one of the real treasures is the guy who is a combination repair man and salesman. I know several of these fellows who can toss a dozen reels on the counter and list the things that are likely to break first on every one. Under moderate use, almost anything will work for a while. For example, the average recipient of an inexpensive rod will never learn the disadvantage of the lower grade fittings. The guides are apt to last for all the fishing he’ll ever do and the same goes for the ferrules.

One of the most beautiful casting rods I ever saw wouldn’t stand much heavy use. It was an unbalanced outfit. The guides were of top-grade materials, but the ferrules came off as soon as they got wet. There was no lock quit working. The action was beautiful. That’s the kind of thing a real, full-time fishing tackle dealer can see from you.

The inexperienced shopper should beware of bargain sales in fishing tackle. Unless he knows the specific items advertised, he’ll be in for some sad experience. “Christian Specials” CAN be all of the junk that has piled up in the storeroom since World War II. I would especially careful of “complete fishing outfits” for sale cheap. That is the easy way to get someone started but a common fault of the “complete fishing outfit” is that it features one top-notch item of equipment, such as a name-brand reel, and the rest of the gear is simply fourth-rate “fill in.”

Better go to someone who knows.

CHIEF OF THEIR CONSERVATION SECTION. After leaving the conservation section he was field man for Walton League and Southern Outdoors.

CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from Page 4)

Sports Age, national publication of the sporting good industry. He formerly served the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission as chief of their conservation extension section. After leaving the Commission he was field man for the Izaak Walton League and editor of Southern Outdoors.

Fish Names

Because some fishermen seem to be speaking in strange tongues when visiting other states or areas, the Outdoor Writers Association of America is making a brave effort to "standardize" a new system of fish names.

Homer Circle, well-known fishing writer, is chairman of a committee which is trying to promote uniform acceptance of fish names. Some of the common fish of America swim under as many as 30 to 40 local names and use of your own favorite fish such as perch may result only in blank looks when you’re away from home.

The report of Circle’s committee may at least get some of the outdoor writers in line—and that should help.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1961

"How’s that for a test? They all go wild over this pelvis!"

For many years, a certain well-known brand name has had pretty much of a monopoly in respect to automatic name association with quality gasoline lanterns. Now, Thermos—a name famous in an entirely different manufacturing field—is a challenger.

With merger of King Spalding Corporation and American Thermos Products last November, some top quality, rural brand gasoline lanterns have been developed for marketing under the Thermos label.

Four models are now being manufactured, all burning any grade automobile gasoline. All give out brilliant white light, with no yellowish cast.

Largest and most elaborate is the Model 8319, featuring an inverted lamp housing below fuel tank, on a stand of its own. A bail is also provided for hanging. This model will operate safely at any angle of use. It lists for $24.95.

During the hunting season and in the months between, gun safety should be a constant thought among owners of firearms. Especially should this be true where there are young children in the home, and hunting is the chosen sport.

Between periods of active service, all guns should be kept unloaded, and preferably under lock and key. But many homes lack necessary cabinets or storage closets; idle guns are allowed to remain in rooms corners, sometimes months on end. Too often, some are facilitate loaded. So, you may be saving a gun against your car, or place it on car seat while reaching for your lunch or Thermos bottle. A reckless hunting dog has inadvertently bumped against and fired many on idle, loaded gun!

For making guns inaccessible to non-owners, and during periods of non-use, FWTOTR likes the M. B. Trigger Guard, a leather pouch with concealed strap and key- operating lock that fastens over the trigger area of a gun and renders the trigger mechanism inaccessible.

The one-piece, heavy leather M. B. Trigger Guard is shaped to fit a miniature basket, and is lined with suede. Ends are strongly riveted. There is a single leather strap that has a key-locking buckle.

To permanently tailor the Trigger Guard to fit your particular gun, you place the Guard over the trigger area, then feed the strap into the back of the pocket until a snug fit is obtained and holds in the strap and leather pouch line up. You next remove the entire unit and install two furnished rivets at proper points, by hammering slightly.

Thereafter, you can quickly slip the ready protective unit on your gun, snap the strap’s buckle into position and lock it with a key. Your gun is safe until the M. B. Trigger Guard is deliberately unlocked and removed. Besides keeping the trigger immovable, the Guard also interferes with the loading mech anism. 

The M. B. Trigger Guard can be used on lever, bolt and double barrel actions with equal efficiency. Usually these actions are difficult to "block" with mechanical safety guards.

The M. B. Trigger Guard was developed by W. H. Mochibas, a member of the National Rifle Association and now a permanent member of FWTOTR. The very small size of this safety device may be ordered direct from him at 80S Seventh Street, East Gallie, Florida.

Available in shooter’s choice of black or tan leather, with bright brass hardware, Price $3.50.
Turkey of either sex legal game during regular season, two per day, three per season.

First District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Special season in DeSoto and Hardee counties to open November 18 through December 3, and December 23 through January 1, Pinellas County closed.


Third District: Opens November 18, closes January 14. Spring turkey gobbler (hens protected) hunting season March 31 through April 15, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon. Wakulla, Gulf, Calhoun, Liberty, Jackson and Washington counties closed to Spring gobbler season. Except in those parts of those counties that lie in the Roy S. Gaskin, Leon-Wakulla, and Apalachicola Wildlife Management Areas.

Fourth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Collier County closed.

Fifth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7.

Buck deer with one or more five-inch antlers, one per day, two per season.

First District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, and DeSoto counties, and that part of Hillsborough County south of U.S. Highway 92, closed at all times.

Second District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Alachua and Bradford counties closed. Special season in Gilchrist County to open November 18 through December 3. Special Gilchrist county season to include that portion of Levy County bounded by state roads 337 and 339.

Third District: Opens November 18, closes January 14. Special season in Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia counties to open November 18 through December 5, and December 16 through January 2, to coincide with season in Eglin Air Force Military Reservation; Jackson, Washington and Holmes counties closed.

Fourth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7. Monroe County closed to Key Deer.

Fifth District: Opens November 18, closes January 7.

Daily limit, 10 Gray, 2 Fox; possession limit 20 and 4; no season bag limit.

First District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Second District: November 18 through February 11, Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between December 25 and January 2.

Third District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted everyday.

Fourth District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Fifth District: November 18 through February 11, Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days, and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.

All dates shown are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are open to hunting. Should any one of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Christmas Day, that holiday will be open to hunting.Bow and arrow are permitted for taking of game animals and game birds. Crow bows are not legal for taking game.

Shooting hours must be limited to half-hour capacity (magnum and chamber combined).

Side of native game prohibited. No open season on doe deer, brown deer, spotted or Axis deer, buck deer with antlers of less than 5 inches in length, buck bear, snow owl, swan, and non-game birds. Panther protected at all times. Unprotected are European sparrow, crow, jackdaw, buzzard, shrike, flying squirrel, opossum, red and gray fox, bobcat, raccoon.

WATERFOWL REGULATIONS ON PAGE 42

REGULATIONS FOR 1961-62 HUNTING SEASON—MIGRATORY GAME

<table>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
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<td>Goose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snipe</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
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Duck hunting season.

First District: September 23 - December 4

Second District: September 23 - November 22

Third District: September 23 - November 22

Fourth District: September 23 - November 22

Fifth District: September 23 - November 22

Notes:
- No shooting before 9 a.m.
- No hunting on Saturdays.
- No hunting on Sundays.
- No hunting on public lands.
- No hunting on private property without permission.

All dates shown are inclusive. First day of hunting season will be Saturday, September 23.

First Day: September 23

Second Day: September 24

Third Day: September 25

Fourth Day: September 26

Fifth Day: September 27

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
for quite sometime now, many outdoor write-ups have advocated—"take a boy fishing." This is all well and good with the main emphasis on getting the boy interested in a wonderful pastime and also combating that old bugaboo, child delinquency.

But, how about Towner—do you take him on your outdoor trips? Dogs like to go fishing as well as humans do. For instance, a friend of ours, Ernest Lyons, Editor of the Stark News says, "Fishing with a dog teaches patience and forbearance." True words were never spoken, we know.

In fact, and we again quote Ernest, here is his story on one of his experiences in taking his dog "Pudge" on a fishing trip.

A friend of mine insists that he always catches more fish fishing alone. He does not have to indulge in needless conversation or cater to the whims of a companion. He may be right, but it seems to me that he does not really earn his fish. He ought to try my way, which is fishing with a dog. Whenever I put on my old fishing hat, tie a red bandana around my neck, put on a pair of khaki pants and tennis shoes, and hook my big red dog "Pudge," decides that I am going fishing. My wife says that this is a sign of great intelligence on the part of the dog.

My view is that any dog that witnessed all those preparations and didn't know I was going fishing would be a very dumb dog, indeed. Anyhow, the dog always wants to go and I am always reluctant for good reasons, to take the dog along. The family thinks that the dog will look after me. The fact is that most of my time is spent looking after the dog. As I start out the door with my rods, there is a flurry of tail-wagging, barking, wiggling, yips of delight and leaps of tongue-swinging affection.

When I close the door and stow my gear in the car, there are alarmed barks of "Hey, don't forget me!" and as I start the car and roll off there are anguished wails that sound like a lost soul left behind. So I drive around the block, come back and say, "I thought, after all, maybe I would take the dog along." As we set for the fishing grounds the dog looks out the right-hand window sniffing the delicious smells, a seraphic look of victory on its face. That's phase one. Phase two is when we pass other dogs. Dogs along the road barks in automobiles and vice-versa. It has something to do with social status, I guess. You have to be a darn good driver to keep the left hand on the wheel while the right hand grabs the dog's collar and a sixty-pound Weimaraner keeps leaping up from the back seat and grabbing the dog's tail.

I passed through Salerno one morning at 6:30 holding my dog half out of the window while eight town dogs try to eat it. The reason I couldn't pull it in the window was that the dog was all tangled up in the fishing rods.

The third phase is after I get to my boat. The dog tells out of a boat once. It does not trust boats. It decides that now is the time to chase rabbits. After I get the gear stowed in the boat and am ready to shore-off, there isn't any dog around, I yell, "Hey Pudge, come on, we're ready to go!" and the dog flaps up. This time it wants to play tag, the objective being not to let me get any closer than twenty feet. I lose my temper. Dog quits playing tag and lets me put him in the boat. We're off!

There isn't any substitute for the hours of canine companionship. Man and beast get to know each other better. When I want a drink of ice water, the dog wants one. I carry two little pannikins for this purpose, but it is always a matter open to doubt whether the dog is drinking out of mine or I am drinking out of the dog's.

One thing a dog is good for is silent admiration. We were anchored alongshore one Saturday afternoon and I was catching sheepshead. Pudge admired every one I caught, big ones and little ones, with equal fervor. How good life is, fishing with a dog, and going swimming. My dog also thinks that alligators want to play and goes swimming out to them while I bounce rocks off their noses.

There's nothing like that moment when we return home and my wife pats the dog's head. "You took good care of Daddy, didn't you, Pudge?" she says. I reply: "Yep, but I caught some fish despite the much meddling equipment. So, a friend of her own built a feeding rack which holds seven bottles. While six pups bade me mammas, seven line up at the rack. All get a square meal. New York, N.Y.: Sometime ago when a lady was arrested for contributing to the delinquency of her dog through alcohol, she claimed that her pet was nagging her from drinking too much champagne but because, his shoes were too tight! (Incidentally, this gay dog owned 15 pairs of shoes).

Instead of a bit, mailman Jack Orchard gets a leg when he delivers the mail to the home of Rottweiler, "Dixie." The fact is—she sits up and begs until Orchard puts the mail in her mouth.

In conclusion, the new book "The Poodle Chart" by Blanche Saunders, and illustrated by John LaFarge, published by Donald C. Evans Razor Corp., Mystic, Conn., is the finest book on trimming the poodle we have ever reviewed. It is complete in every detail. In covering the two types of clips allowed for mature Poodles in the show ring a thing upside-down, staking hooks, plugs, sinkers, swivels, spares lines, tools, sparkplugs and the panikin of water all over the bottom of the boat.

I refilled the panikin. For half-an-hour I picked up all that mess of tackle, prying swivels out of the cracks in the tackle-box, and I carried a whole bird-neck nest in the tackle-box, without attempting to sort it. The dog had taught me a lesson. There is too much order, cutting children's innocence in this world. It is all a human invention, and entirely unnecessary.

Having the dog along teaches patience and forbearance, even if beyond the call of duty. Like sneaking up on a quiet canal in the west country, hiding behind a bush and preparing to cast into a bassy hole, at the very moment that a big red dog chooses to jump from the bank and go swimming. My dog also thinks that alligators want to play and goes swimming out to them while I bounce rocks off their noses.

And with that dear dog lover's, we conclude the story of Ernest Lyons fishing trip with his dog "Pudge." Incidentally, Ernie says "Pudge" looks like a Golden Retriever, got mixed up with a Chow—"all dog and a yard wide, weighing in at around just under Collie size.

Dog Doings. Poodle owners please take note: A beautiful new book "The Poodle Chart" by Blanche Saunders, and illustrated by John LaFarge, published by Donald C. Evans Razor Corp., Mystic, Conn., is the finest book on trimming the poodle we have ever reviewed. It is complete in every detail. In covering the two types of clips allowed for mature Poodles in the show ring...
Waterfowl Regulations

GESE NOVEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 26

Daily Bag Limit 2
Possession Limit 4
No Season Limit

DUCKS NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 26

Daily Bag Limit 3
Possession Limit 6
No Season Limit

COOTS NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 26

Daily Bag Limit 6
Possession Limit 6
No Season Limit

SHOOTING HOURS: Geese—Sunrise to Sunset Every Day.
Ducks—12:00 Noon to Sunset Opening Day.
Sunrise to Sunset All Other Days.

NEW RULES—Major changes in effect for 1961-62 hunting season, as compared to 1960-61 season are:

ALL REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

NO HUNTING OF CANVASBACK OR REDHEAD DUCKS.

In addition to bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 for other ducks, a day's bag of 5 American or red-breasted mergansers (either species or mixed) may be taken with possession limit of 10.

QUOTE—

NO HUNTING of geese, ducks, and coots Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays in LEON and JEFFERSON Counties in the Third District, except for Opening Day, Closing Day and Holidays.

HOLIDAYS & OPENING AND CLOSING DAYS—During any season or in any locality where specified individual days of the week are closed to hunting for any species, such days shall be open on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Opening Day and the Closing Day for any species is always open for that species. Whenever Christmas Day or New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following such Sunday shall be open.

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

FLORIDA WILDFOWL

A DIVING DUCK • ABUNDANT IN WINTER AND SPRING
OCTOBER TO MID-JUNE ~ IN LAKES AND BAYS THROUGH FLORIDA

MALLE : BLACK HEAD, BLACK CHEST, BLUE BILL
LENGTH : 18 INCHES
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

SCAUP DUCK

FEMALE: ORANGE BILL • MARKED WITH BLACK • BODY • MOTTLED BROWN

MALLARD

FEMALE: YELLOW BILL, GREEN HEAD, WHITE NECK-RING AND NECK-GOOSE • LENGTH : 22 INCHES • WEIGHT 2½ LB.

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
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