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APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Date
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Name (please print):
Address:
City
State
Type of Tackle:
Weight
Length

Boat or Lure Used:
Where Caught:
County
Date Caught:
Catch Witnessed By:
Registered, Weighed By:

(Signature of Applicant)

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.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

| LARGEMOUTH BASS | 8 pounds or larger |
| CHAIN PICKEREL | 4 pounds or larger |
| BLUEGILL (BREAM) | 1 1/2 pounds or larger |
| SHELLCRACKER | 2 pounds or larger |
| BLACK CRAPPIE | 2 pounds or larger |
| RED BREAST | 1 pound or larger |

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Florida Commission on Game and Freshwater Fish

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AUGUST, 1962

ROSE TALLAHASSEE
The controversial issue of hunting in Florida has been a topic of discussion for many years. The state's wildlife is highly valued, and the conservation of these resources is of utmost importance. The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission plays a crucial role in managing and protecting the state's natural resources.

One of the most hotly debated topics in Florida is the early dove season. This season is controversial as it allows hunters to take dove before the official season opens. The argument is that it provides an opportunity for dove hunters to enjoy the sport earlier in the year. However, critics argue that it could lead to overhunting and harm the dove population.

Another point of contention is the issue of poaching, or the illegal hunting of wildlife. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for enforcing wildlife laws, and poaching remains a significant issue. The commission takes severe action against poachers, including fines and imprisonment.

The Florida Outdoor Writers Association (FWWA) is a group that supports outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation. The FWWA plays a role in shaping public opinion and advocating for policies that support healthy wildlife populations.

In conclusion, the issue of hunting in Florida is complex and multifaceted. It requires a balance between conservation, public interest, and economic considerations. The Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and other stakeholders must work together to ensure that wildlife resources are protected for future generations.
FISHING

BY CHARLES WATERMAN

CASTING A LURE TO A FISH the angler
has already sighted is one of fishing's
top thrills. The first item to
consider is what produces
bass fishermen.

Finding away at a fish you've
already sighted combines the fun of
fishing and hunting. It can be
ever boring. I recall an old fish-
ing buddy of mine who would forget
all about his deadly casting when
the prey was in sight.

While drifting down a sluggish
creek one day, he and I saw a big
shiner jump out on a bare bank,
followed closely by a big bow wave
that could belong only to a bragging
bass. While the shiner flipped
unhappily in the sunshine, the big
creek roared up and down a 4-foot
stretch of shore trying to get at badly
gnawed wire but to no avail. It was
too hard to cast. Long rubber legs
can give the impression of a much
bigger fish when worked rapidly on top
and long, narrow feather tails give
the impression of great overall
length without adding much weight
or air resistance.

Spin-fishermen have found
that addition of more bucktail or
feathers to a lead head can completely
change the appearance of a jig without
adding casting weight.

Bulk can help in more ways than
one. In the first place, the fish may
be looking for something bigger than
just a set of small eyes.

In spinning, there is often diffi-
culty in getting something to work
slowly without going clear to the
top. "Rarely spoiled" bucktails
are sometimes helpful.

Some jigs have been made with a
light metal that sinks very slowly.
Since it is a little hard to cast in
the smaller sizes, fishermen tend to
overlook its possibilities.

Fishing with Buddy Normann
last spring, I was doing all right with
streamer flies and figured Buddy
would have to put down his spinning
rod to stay in the act but he came
up with some of those light, alley
jigs and was able to work them
slowly and not far down. They worked
just as well as my flies. I'm afraid I
don't know if you can still buy them.

I have ruined several rods with
stuck ferrules and may ruin some
more. Some ferrules just naturally
tend to stick, especially the ones
that corrode. The old practice of
rubbing a ferrule alongside your
nose before joining up your rod is
practical enough but occasional
application of candlewax will avoid
sticking troubles.

Best of all in my experience is
the waxy stuff they use to keep
zipper working smoothly. It comes
in small pencil-like sticks and the
fly-fisherman-writer, Joe Brooks
gave me a little bit of it called "zip-
per-ease."

When a ferrule corrodes, it can be
smoothed up with steel wool but too
much use of steel wool will eventu-
ally give you loose ferrules. I have
some rods with brass ferrules that
tend to stick if I don't take them apart
frequently.

It's best to take the rod apart,
wipe off the ferrules and then either
leave it apart or put it only part way
together for convenience. Of course,
you must be sure to put it all the
way together before using it again.

There's a whole series of
metallics used on ferrules, even on
good quality rods. But the manufacturer
may be a little in doubt as to the
characteristics of what he's using.
Another firm probably supplies his
hardware for him.

There are too many names for
most of our fish and you almost need
an interpreter, even from one part
of Florida to the next.

One fisherman (who evidently
doesn't waste much time reading
magazines) got very outspoken
about trout the other day.

"The salt water trout is the only
real trout," he told a friend of mine.
"Money talks about trout but they
don't talk about trout at all but
about smallmouth bass. We have
the only real trout there is."

My friend tried to argue but found
it was useless. Of course, what
makes the whole thing ridiculous is
that they have a "trout" that is not
a trout at all but a weakfish that
has a number of species of true
northern trout in fresh water and
that largemouth bass are often
called "trout" in the South but as far
as I know, no bass is ever
called a trout in the North.

All of this makes a recent project
of the Florida Largemouth Bass
Association seem very logical. They
set up a committee to learn the
correct names of all the popular
sports fishes. The common names
for one species sometimes run into
the dozens.

Manufacturers of spinning tackle
are still having a rough time trying
to attach the reel to the rods in such

(Continued on page 34)
Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. If you are one of the many thousands of NRA members converting revolvers to use shot, cartridges can be obtained from the National Rifle Association, 1600...
Hey mate! You should know me—I live just about everywhere in Florida where woods and trees abound. You may never have noticed me because I sleep all day in a nest high in a tree, an old deserted woodpecker hole, or a natural cavity in some old tree trunk. Once in a while I may make my home in the attic of somebody’s house; maybe yours? At night I come out to eat and play, and really live it up! I have big eyes and can see very well in the dark.

I am a rodent and belong to the Squirrel family, but I am much smaller than my cousins the Gray and Fox Squirrels. My maximum weight is less than three ounces, and from the tip of my nose to the tip of my tail I usually measure less than eleven inches. The most remarkable thing about me is that I can “fly,” or rather “glide,” is a better word for it. For a fine photographic sequence and description of how I glide — follow the pictures from the upper right down to the lower left.

**FLORIDA FLYING SQUIRREL**

Ready for a landing on a tree or on the ground, the Squirrel lifts its tail upward and raises its body nearly horizontal, which checks its forward speed —

—and the “Glider of the Mammal World” lands gently on a leaf or on the trunk of a tree.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

In flight, the Flying Squirrel’s course is steered mainly with its tail. By twisting, raising, or dipping the slack in its “wings” the Flying Squirrel can change course and go just about any direction.

PHOTOS BY
LEONARD LEE RUE III

TEXT BY WALLACE HUGHES

This underside view clearly shows the “wing pattern” of the Flying Squirrel — the stretch of skin between the legs, and the flat, rudder-like tail. The usual glide (some folks say parachute) begins high in a tree and moves downward at an angle of 40 to 50 degrees, and as far a distance as 150 feet.

Before leaping into space, the Flying Squirrel bobs up and down, weaves from side to side, and stretches forward giving the impression that it is measuring the distance and angle of its intended flight. Then bunching its tail together it leaps vigorously into space, legs straightened out to the fullest, unfolding the skin that connects the fore and hind legs on each side of its body. Whiskers stretch forward possibly as an antenna to pick up vibrations and to warn of limbs and other objects that might get in the way.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1962
When winter has released its chilling grip and warming spring returns, the buds burst and tender leaves expand. The young tent caterpillars start to weave their silken webs. By the time the busy colonies have pitched their white tents over the countryside, the yellow-billed cuckoo is ready for its feast. He wastes no time. With his long, curved bill, he tears open the shining webs and picks out his meal. To satisfy an enormous appetite, he perches at the edge of a large web for an hour or more, greedily gobbling up the squirming occupants as though he fears another bird might wish to share the larder.

He’s easily approached when he’s feeding, and its quite amusing to watch him. He’ll often get a mouthful of the crawling mass and then try to swallow it all at once, gulping and choking and jerking his head up and down in ludicrous manner. After such contortions he rests a while, then gives his weird, throaty call. The oddness of this call is the ventriloquial effect. You can’t tell just where or how far he is.

After the caterpillars are nearly grown, the cuckoo seldom swallows them; but he presses out the juice and drops the skin. He goes from tree to tree, opening webs and sampling the contents as though trying to find a tender young caterpillar. Or perhaps he’s like the boy with a bag of peanuts—just too hard to quit.

If you don’t already know him, watch for a long-tailed, long-winged, graceful bird that’s about the size of a mourning dove. Unless you seek him when he calls, you’ll have to see him in flight—but only for an instant. He’s noiseless and as fast as an arrow. The black-eared cuckoo, his cousin, lives in the mangrove swamps of the Keys and a small section of the west coast, and seldom ventures far. But he goes south in winter.

Besides the cuckoo, the orioles and the white-eyed vireos tear open the webs to get at the occupants. A few other birds will eat, after the meal has been spread. The tiny vireo eats only the very young caterpillars but the oriole will take them until they become quite fuzzy. We’d have a difficult task destroying these caterpillars in the topmost branches, even with pressure sprayers and potent insecticides. And we’d miss many of the secluded areas.

While the oriole and the vireo work the high places, the inquisitive little vireo spends his time nearer the ground. He, also, is an accomplished ventriloquist. Were he not so active, he would be very difficult to locate in our Florida woods; but he’s in there working all day long. His plaintive call, once heard in the stillness of the swamp, echoes forever in a Southerner’s memory when he’s far from home.

Although these birds don’t completely check the caterpillars in years of heavy infestation, they none-the-less are an important factor in the biological determinants that are a part of those laws which we call “nature’s balance.” And we can see these things taking place.

As the days warm considerably, the tent caterpillars reach maturity and go madly crawling in all directions, seeking the protected spot where they can spin the tough white cocoon to insure their sleep until they emerge a chestnut-brown moth. This is the time that nature brings forth her entire army, trained by instinct through countless years, to battle the increasing horde of destructive insects which, by their very presence, make possible the ecological circle of her existence.

The brilliant cardinal and his somber wife, universal favorites around the home, will eat sunflower seeds before anything else on their bountiful table. Dried corn, meat and most table scraps help to keep them happy. However, they consume a great variety of harmful insects, including certain scales and the Japanese beetles, and are therefore of immense help to man.

The noisy jay consumes insects to a good extent, concentrating on them in the summer. He prefers grasshoppers, weevils, some caterpillars and scale insects. He’s often a blamed nuisance. eats most of the...
NATURE'S WAY

By Edward L. Manigault

There is tremendous complexity and infinite vastness in the economy of life. The elusive patterns of this wonderment of creation are far beyond the mental grasp of most of us. Only a few scientists, unrelished and often unsung, have dedicated their lives to unlocking the secrets of nature. The majority of us are prone to accept their successes in much the same manner as today's children accept the marvels of television and aviation, or even the space-dwelling missile. We simply have such things—no why's, no how's, no wherefores.

But many of nature's ways are often obvious to those who care to look. For, after all,

Two kinds of men there'll always be:

The pseudo blind—and those who see.

We need not completely understand all events that occur in chronological order, as guided by the Omnipotent hand. We can find rare fascination, should we seek it, in many of the simple things that exist and occur in our everyday life; for, truly, there's a sermon in the rock and a poem in the waterfall.

Let's take a close look at the inter-relationship of just a few things—plants, insects, and birds, for instance—and some of the final effects upon man's welfare.

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FISHING THE YELLOW RIVER WATERSHED

By Lake & Stream Survey Team No. 1
KEITH BYRD, Project Leader
PHILIP HESTER, Fishery Biologist
RUTH LEE, Project Secretary

PART 2

DISCUSSION AND FISHING GUIDE

The waters of the Yellow River watershed are clean and beautiful. This river system in Northwest Florida is one of the few remaining that have escaped pollution and other forms of man-made misuse of our valuable clean water supply.

The testing of water conditions, and checking water samples is an important part of the lake and stream survey. Characteristics of the beautiful Yellow River is the cool water temperature throughout the year, seldom rising above 80 degrees during the summer.

ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING conservation problems throughout Florida and indeed throughout the nation is water and pollution. Through pollution and misuse, many hundreds of rivers and streams have become unfit for public use and more are being destroyed every day. With the population expansion and people having more and more leisure time, water demand has increased considerably since the last decade. So as the demand for water continues to grow, the amount of good quality water is rapidly shrinking.

We hope that responsible people will take the situation in hand and formulate steps to halt this irresponsible destruction of the country’s life blood.

Luckily, there are some watersheds left that haven’t felt the effects of man’s misuse and have remained much the same as they were many years ago. Proudly, the Yellow River Watershed is an example of such an area. There are definite reasons why it has remained so: First, Eglin Air Force Base has vast tracts of wooded forest which have been cared for and managed well. All through the watershed, proper land use has held erosion to a minimum. Secondly, industrial waste doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking. Third, raw sewage is controlled and doesn’t enter the picture because industry is almost entirely lacking.

We feel that every attempt should be made to insure that these healthy streams will not become open sewers to be scoffed at by future generations. As you have probably noticed from the fishing information given earlier, fishing is good but not exceptional. When fishing in an area doesn’t seem to be up to par, the first thought in a fisherman’s mind is that it should be stocked so fishing will be better. This, however, is not the answer. As in farming, some lands produce more than others because the soil is more fertile and because of the amount and kinds of nutrients and minerals present. Therefore, when the soil is poor, planting more seed will not increase the yield. This, in a way, is the same when it comes to raising a crop of fish. If certain nutrients and minerals are missing in the body of water, the number of fish is limited to the amount available. Therefore, dumping in thousands of additional fish would not alter the trouble, and these would all be lost with no benefit gained.

One might then ask, “Well, why not do something about this lack of nutrients and minerals?” Presently, river improvement on a large scale is both costly and impractical. The expense would be far greater than the gain. Someday a cheap method will be developed, but now the only thing that can be done is to see that

The testing of water conditions, and checking water samples is an important part of the lake and stream survey. Characteristics of the beautiful Yellow River is the cool water temperature throughout the year, seldom rising above 80 degrees during the summer.

Access is a problem in many areas of the watershed. There are only four public boat ramps, and these are located in upper Okaloosa County. In most areas conditions are hazardous to fast boat travel; therefore, fishing is concentrated near the few access points. This greatly reduces the quantity of fishing area available. It is felt the county and state should attempt to provide more ramps and access roads by acquiring and maintaining sites along the watershed.

In closing, a word of warning to those who aren’t familiar with these waters. Large areas of the river are shallow and contain numerous snags and logs. These cannot only burst a motor, but can puncture or even overturn a boat. So in planning a trip, a small motor and a lot of caution will save time, money, and possibly more.

(continued on next page)
# Yellow River Fishing Guide

**Bass, Pickerel, and Panfish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Other Names</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
<th>Bait</th>
<th>Where and When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 largemouth bass</td>
<td>green trout</td>
<td>abundant</td>
<td>artificial plugs and spoons, live bait</td>
<td>in both flowing and calm water, year round, best during the spring and fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 spotted bass</td>
<td>goggle eye</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>live shrimp</td>
<td>in the swift water of the main river, during the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 rock bass</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>common in certain areas</td>
<td>worms, artificial flies, and small live minnows</td>
<td>usually found only in the clear, fast flowing tributaries which contain grass areas, good, winter and summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 chain pickerel</td>
<td>jackfish, pike</td>
<td>abundant</td>
<td>flashing spinners and spoons, live minnows</td>
<td>favor grass edges, also around the mouth and in the clear tributaries and in shallow grassy sloughs. Most active in the winter, but many are caught throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 redfin pickerel</td>
<td>jackfish</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>same as chain pickerel</td>
<td>same as chain pickerel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 shellcracker</td>
<td>redear sunfish</td>
<td>abundant near bay</td>
<td>on worms fished just outside the sawgrass in the lower section</td>
<td>around the sawgrass in the lower section, some are caught below the Silver Lake Dam, best during the warmer months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 bluegill</td>
<td>bream</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>worms, crickets, and artificial flies</td>
<td>in the deep edges of the rivers and sloughs around snags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 stumpknocker</td>
<td>spotted sunfish</td>
<td>abundant</td>
<td>all small baits</td>
<td>found throughout the watershed. The largest size are found in the clear tributaries, year round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 dollar sunfish</td>
<td>chinkapin</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>all popular bream baits</td>
<td>throughout the watershed. Mostly found in open flowing water, year round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 longear sunfish</td>
<td>chinkapin</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>with artificial flies and on worms</td>
<td>mostly around the mouths of the small tributaries, usually those which aren't too clear, best during the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 warmouth</td>
<td>goggle eye</td>
<td>abundant</td>
<td>on all small bream baits</td>
<td>all areas. seem to favor sluggish, snag-filled waters, year round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 black crappie</td>
<td>speckled perch</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>same as caught with worms and other bream baits, but mostly caught on live shiners</td>
<td>in the deep edges of the yellow river, many are found in the sloughs in deep, snaggy areas, winter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 19)

**Florida Wildlife**

*August, 1962*
### ANADROMOUS and NON-GAME FISH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>OTHER NAMES</th>
<th>RELATIVE ABUNDANCE</th>
<th>BAIT</th>
<th>WHERE AND WHEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>Rockfish</td>
<td>Rare, Only verbal reports, None collected by survey teams.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama Shad</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>Small spinners and jigs, and small live shiners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Cat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Same as Channel Cat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Cat</td>
<td>Butter Cat, Yellow Bullhead</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Same as Channel Cat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speckled Cat</td>
<td>Brown Bullhead</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
<td>Same as Channel Cat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Cat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Shrimp, worms, or any number of small live minnows. Soap is good for set hooks and trot lines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama Chubsucker</td>
<td>Pond Sucker</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Same as Spotted Sucker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Sucker</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Worms fished either on or just above the bottom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacktail Redhorse</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Same as Spotted Sucker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American eel</td>
<td>Eel</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>All bait, best on live shiners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Sturgeon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>Taken mostly by accident on worms and small bits of dough on the bottom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowfin</td>
<td>Blackfish, Mudfish, Cotton Fish</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>All baits and artificial plugs. favors live shiners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longnose Gar</td>
<td>Bill Gar</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Live bait. Fished near surface.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Gar</td>
<td>Fish Gar</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Live bait. Fished near surface.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alligator Gar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Live bait or mullet heads.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The salt water fish move short distances into fresh water and are caught around the mouths of the Yellow and its tributaries entering Blackwater Bay. The most common salt water fish taken are Speckled Trout, Channel Bass, and Ladyfish entering Blackwater Bay. Most common salt water fish taken are Speckled Trout, Channel Bass, and Ladyfish entering Blackwater Bay. Other which are taken occasionally are Flounder, Croakers, Spott, Sting Ray, Tarpon, Bull Shark, Gafftopsail and She Cat.  

*These migrate up the river channel during the warmer months to spawn.*

*Either in current or in the sluggish sloughs around snags and stumps. Year round.*

*In the deep holes in the flowing sloughs. Usually in loggy areas. Year round.*

*Found in both flowing and still water. Usually around vegetation in sloughs. Year round.*

*In the flowing water usually in deeper holes in the main river channel. Many concentrate around the mouths of the clear tributaries and move up these streams during cold weather. Best during winter months.*

*In the flowing water of the main river. Year round.*

*In the river channel. Usually in the deeper areas and around mud banks.*

*In the flowing water of the main river. Year round.*

*In the river channel. Usually in the deeper areas and around clay banks.*

*Usually in sluggish water, clear or muddy. Also found in grassy sloughs and swamps. Year round.*

*Usually in the river channel. Seem to concentrate during the winter.*

*Usually in sluggish water, clear or muddy. Also found in grassy sloughs and swamps. Year round.*

*Usually in the river channel. Seem to concentrate during the winter.*

*Prefer quieter waters in grassy sloughs. Year round, but best during summer.*

*In the open sloughs and eddies usually close to main river. During the summer.*

*In the open sloughs and eddies usually close to main river. During the summer.*

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*In the open sloughs and eddies usually close to main river. During the summer.*
Their beautiful songs and colorful activity cancels out the little we spend for our . . .

BOARDING HOUSE FOR BIRDS

By HELEN S. KNAUS

A regular boarders’-house visitor to the Mockingbird, and prefers meals that includes raisins, grapes, mangoes and similar foods.

What is the favorite dish on the wild bird’s breakfast tray? The answer, of course, depends on the bird. Red, our rakishly handsome woodpecker in checkered jacket and scarlet beret, honks raucously for an early snack of crumbled doughnuts. The doves have mixed grain, and our mockingbird chirps demandingly for raisins. The menus are as varied as the patrons of our bird cafeterias.

Some of the food we serve may not be standard fare for all wild birds, but those who live with us dispose of every crumb and ask for second helpings. Strangely enough, when my husband and I moved into our present home a few years ago we didn’t have the slightest acquaintance with a bird of any kind.

Then one day three beautiful blue-feathered bandits—like creatures with black masks around their eyes—teetered on a telephone wire near the back door. As they flexed their beaks menacingly and scolded loudly we were smitten. Inquiries from a neighbor revealed that the callers were blue jays. We put out bread crumbs, installed a bird bath, and we were in business.

Now, several years, three bird baths, car-loads of provisions and hundreds of birds later, we have at least a working knowledge of bird catering. Such knowledge is something unorthodox in spots, since part of it evolves through the trial and error method, but our lodgers appear happy and healthy, and so do our trees, shrubbery and lawn.

One of the first things we learned in stock our wild bird feeder was that sunflower seed is a culinary favorite of the cardinal. Soon afterward we found that blue jays, woodpeckers, black-birds, and even sparrows, share such a keen relish for this delicacy they will go to any ends to obtain it. Consequently, the merrily cardinals were completely neglected at meal time by a greedy company of birds that found, grabbed and stuffed themselves glutinously.

We thought we had the solution to this problem in a special feeder with a barred opening large enough to admit a cardinal but too small for larger birds. However, it has not proved to be completely protection against the free-loaders who promptly came up with a plan to outwit us and the cardinals. As soon as one of the cardinals enters the feeder a woodpecker makes a fast landing at the barred entrance and honks fiendishly as he pokes his beak inside one of the openings or a blue jay flashes around the narrow rim of the feeder, pausing to claw frantically at the screened sides. The frightened occupant makes a wild exit, scattering sunflower seed in his wake, which is according to the schedule of the marauders who swoop to the ground to gobble up the tidbits.

Each family of the feathered flyers has individual requirements as to meal-time. The doves feed at daybreak, flying over the house with whistling sounds and fluttering to the ground like small, gray ghosts. Twice a day the feeding stations are set up for other birds. Mixed grain is on the menu for grain-eating birds, as well as cake and cookie crumbs, bread crumbs, cereal, left-over rice, grits, macaroni, potato and vegetables. Doughnuts are rationed more sparingly since they seem to send every bird on the place into a seventh heaven of gustatory bliss and they disappear like magic.

The mockingbird has a feeding tray to himself. He doesn’t like crowds, and besides he requires a straight fruit and protein diet. In addition to raisins, we supply him with other fruit, such as grapes, mangoes, avocados, and similar seasonal vianda. He gets his protein from bugs, worms and other insects. And we provide “in-between” snack material for our guests. This helps keep down the food budget, and it gives them a feeling, (we like to think) of being somewhat on their own. Along the back of our property is a tall hedge of elderberry bushes which developed from pigmy plants we brought from a wooded area. For many months of the year the hedge is heavy with clusters of purple elderberries, solely for the enjoyment of the birds.

In the same wooded section we found a young holly tree, (which is not a holly tree at all except to South Floridians). Around Christmas this tree, now tall and luxuriant, is saggy with scarlet berries and thick with raspberry bushes all over the place. We like the fruit, so do the birds, and they have priority. “Birds First” might well be a slogan for the fruit of the canistel, loquat, sapodilla and amarello trees, but the mockingbird claims the hot, crimson pods on the pepper bush. As for flowering trees, such as golden shower, orchid, Queen’s crape myrtle, and even the mahogany and wild olive, which helps turn our garden into a miniature forest, they play an important part in our project. They provide lodgings for our feathered friends.

During the brief cold spells of winter we point up bird meals with bits of suet, dates of peanut butter, and even scatterings of wheat germ. And that’s when we stock up heavily on the fruit of the everglades. At last one day the red-winged blackbirds return from their summer junket to the Everglades. At once they get busy inspecting the premises and singing their cheery little “oka-lee” notes to each other. A few hummingbirds begin to whirl over the shrubbery like tiny iridescent helicopters. We fill small, brightly painted bottles with sugar syrup and hang them on branches, and very soon the fairy-like creatures are sipping it sweetly.

The robins, who never get down until severe cold hits states to the north of us, are old friends who sit in thoughtful contemplation of the area from a telephone wire along the alley before they head for the bird baths. And such splashy, diving, dunking bathing they engage in while their companions crow the rims of the bird baths impatiently awaiting their turn. Bathed and refreshed, they head for a feeding station like the veteran visitors they are.

Occasionally a brown thrasher, (Continued on page 30)
Odd and unhappy things can happen to the hunter who fails to check out his gun and equipment carefully. If the gun is borrowed, know the proper operation, and always test fire it before going hunting.

Photo By Wallace Hughes

Borrowed guns have caused hunters all sorts of trouble and disappointment. One hunting season, it seemed that hunting fever had settled on everyone. Despite my reluctance to let

(Continued on next page)

Active outdoorsmen never lack for variety. They can spin endless tales about their memorable experiences.

EXPERIENCES UNLIMITED

By EDMUND McLaurin

Florida Wildlife

AUGUST, 1962
him use it, an acquaintance insisted on borrowing his air-loading shotgun. The man didn’t know much about guns, and when I tried to explain safe loading operations he kept talking about where he planned to hunt, instead of paying close attention. Also, he spurred my suggestion that he borrow a simple, breech-breaking double barrel shotgun instead of the complex autoloader.

The next morning I picked up the paper and read where the guy had blown off an arm at shoulder joint, through gun handling carelessness at home. He lived a week.

Three old shotguns with Daisessus barrels made of laminated spirals of iron and steel may suddenly lose all their strength and spirit when fired with modern smokeless powder loads. Sometimes no harm is done to the shooter; in many cases, however, the death knell of an old shotgun, intended to handle only pressure blackpowder loads, collects a finger or two or a hand. (Retire those old blackpowder burners, is hope advice.)

Cleaning rags left in barrels are another cause of barrel rupture. A friend of mine living in the Ocala National Forest inherited a shotgun from a neighbor killed in an automobile accident. Noting the gun was loaded, he removed the shells and put them on a shelf before standing the gun in a corner.

One day he looked out his kitchen window and saw an armadillo destroying his vegetable garden. Quickly he shipped the shells into the gun, closed the action, took careful aim and fired.

The explosion burst the shotgun barrel just ahead of gun breech and severely lacerated several fingers of his left band. Only skilful surgery enabled him to retain fingers and usefulness.

I strongly suspect the former owner had left a sheepskin barrel swab or a cleaning patch in the shot-
THE OLD SPANISH FORT

BY STANLEY J. OLSEN

NUMEROUS FISHERMEN FROM NORTH FLORIDA AND SOUTH GEORGIA DEPART FROM SHELL ISLAND ON THE WAKULLA RIVER OR FROM THE TOWN OF ST. MARKS ON THE ST. MARKS RIVER TO RUN OUT TO THE SHALLOW WATER "FLATS" FOR SOME OF THE BEST GULF FISHING THAT FLORIDA HAS TO OFFER. THE SPIT OF LAND THAT IS PASSED A QUARTER OF A MILE FARTHER DOWNSTREAM, WHERE THE TWO RIVERS JOIN, HAS LITTLE MEANING TO MOST OF THESE SPORTSMEN EXCEPT AS A POINT IN THE STREAM WHERE THE THROTTLES CAN BE OPENED WIDE, LEAVING THE CONGESTED SMALLER CHANNELS BEHIND.

This relatively high piece of ground, site of Old Fort St. Marks, is not approachable by land although a wagon road once connected the fort with the mainland. A wide stretch of tidal swamp now separates the ruins of the fort from the town of St. Marks.

A part of the old fort wall is still visible on the Wakulla River bank and some of the bastion foundations can be traced inland, although they are for the most part covered with vines, creepers, and rotting humus. The bulk of the faced limestone that once formed the rising bulwarks was hauled away in the 1830's to build the St. Marks lighthouse, which still serves as a landmark and beacon on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico to the south.

The fort has a long and interesting history dating back to the latter part of the seventeenth century. The Spanish explorers first visited the St. Marks area in 1513 under the leadership of Ponce de Leon. Hernando de Soto's expedition wintered in the area in 1539-40, but it was not until 1662 that the need for a fortification was recommended to the Spanish court. The first fort of logs was erected in 1679 to offer some protection to the fort of Apalachee Province from the pirate raids which were a constant threat to the inhabitants of the area. This fort protected the few settlers that raised garden produce for the flourishing mission system, which was headquartered in St. Augustine. The wooden fort was occupied by the Spanish until 1758 when it was destroyed by a hurricane with the loss of 40 lives. Some of the fort palisades can still be traced underwater on the St. Marks River side of the island.

The Spanish had started construction in 1739 on a permanent triangular three-bastion stone fort and while construction was in progress were garrisoned in the wooden fort. Only one of the bastions, named San Fernando, on the Wakulla River was completed by the time it was turned over to the British in 1764.

Members of the British 9th, 16th, and 40th Regiments of Foot garrisoned the fort until it was abandoned in 1778. Little or no changes were made to the structure during British possession.

In 1782 the Spaniards re-garrisoned their old fort. In 1800 Gen. William Augustus Bowles had declared himself Director General of the State of Muskogee and forced the surrender of the fort in May of that year. About a month later the Spanish sent a large force from Pensacola and the fort was retaken. It was occupied by the Spanish Crown until General Andrew Jackson overran it in 1818. United States forces occupied the area at various times from 1818 until 1821, when they were permanently stationed at the fort until 1834.

Little of importance happened at the fort from Jackson's time until the Civil War except for the construction of a marine hospital in 1859. In 1861 the Confederate States sent armed forces to the island to strengthen the old fortification. This marked the first major constructional change in the old fort since it was completed (continued on next page)
Walter Fielder - wooden Spanish Fort at the confluence of the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers. c. 1832. It was destroyed by a hurricane.

(continued from preceding page)

was erected by the Spanish. The Confederate occupation of this strategic site probably had considerable to do with the fact that Tallahassee remained the only state capital in the south that did not fall into Federal hands.

The fort was known by numerous titles. It was called San Marcos de Apalache by the Spanish. The British referred to it simply as "Apalache." The U. S. troops called it Fort St. Marks, but the Confederates renamed it Fort Ward.

The property is now in private hands but a bill has been introduced in Congress (H. R. 10862) by Representative Bob Sikes requesting that the land be procured by the Federal government for a historical site.

If the bill is passed the fort will be supervised and developed by the National Park Service. The bill calls for the area to be excavated, partially restored, and landscaped with a roadway and parking lot to be constructed for visitors. A museum will be erected to house the contemporary artifacts and records that relate to the area.

Although Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine is more impressive to the average visitor, little more can be learned from the structure as it has been more or less completely excavated. Little remains of the above-ground structure of Old Fort St. Marks, but its inaccessible location plus the lush vegetation have preserved the historical material that surely awaits the trowel and brush of the trained archaeologist.

Scuba prospecting during the last year in the rivers that run on both sides of the fort have indicated that a wealth of historic specimens are yet to be received from this most interesting military site.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

NATURES WAY

(Continued from page 13)

food in the feeder, dominates the area—accepting the mocker and the raucous starling—and does some damage at other birds' nests, though not so bad as he's painted. I still like him, for he's a dash, bumptious personality of the avian world. The clear, piercing calls and the mimicry of this saucy "flash of blue" somehow seems to raise one's spirit and make him know that life is vibrant, full and beautiful—even for the sick and sad at heart. He's smart and cunning, and his sharp eye is first to see the lurking house cat and the slythering snake. And, in a language they all understand, he tells the thrasher, the wood thrush, the cardinal and the jay, and some of the little fellows—the song sparrow, the wren and the titmouse—who raise an insistent and lively din of mixed voices to scare away the intruder. Yes, I like him very much, and I appreciate his work as a forester in planting acorns and nuts. Mr. Bluejay has a country cousin, the well-known Florida branch of the scrub jay (Florida Jay) who loves dense thickets. These equally-noisy ground feeders are first class foresters.

As the days lengthen, the sod webworms, the cutworms and the armyworms intensify their dirty work. Although chlorordan, diesel, lindane and similar insecticides are prescribed controls for appreciable infestations, we do get a lot of help from flickers, grackles, catbirds, mockingbirds, cardinals, bluebirds, thrashers, wood thrushes and towhees and many others— including many of the smaller birds such as the wrens. Even the noisy starlings have that one redeeming side to their despicable character. Some of these birds make insects one ball or more of their diet. The click beetle, progenitor of the wireworm, seems to be a favorite food of the catbird that nests in the bougainvillea vine. It is not too well known that catbirds feed their young entirely on insects. Chimney bags are on the shopping list of many of our birds, glad to say, for that insect has become such a pest.

After a heavy rain, we often see Florida Grackles crowding over some lawn, picking up the various worms and beetles that have been forced into the open. The Grackle, proudly sporting his iridescent attire, sometimes wades around over his boots tops as if unconcerned as a school kid seeking a thrill in a deep puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. Although he sometimes raids other birds' nests, puddle. 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and opened the smelly bottle and opened while I was sleeping. However, in self-preservation, they opened a bottle of strong smelling deer scent and placed it beside me.

On one occasion, companions had come and bore down on me. I was hunting at ground level and leaning against a tree when I spotted a lone dog patiently unraveling my winding, unseen scent at the base of my tree, put front feet to the trunk and howled. At last he came to the end of the scent trail, but there was no deer!

In the first instance, free-running dogs picked up the scent trail left by my odorous passing and bore down on me. I was hunting at ground level and leaning against a tree when I heard dogs coming my way, vocal and obviously eager. I anticipated the advance coming of a deer that never materialized. Instead, I suddenly found myself surrounded by several hundred mosquitoes and ants, and the more the poor guy sprayed his insect repellent, the more ants and sugar-feeding insects he attracted!

In the second instance, I was in a tree-stand when I spotted a lone dog patiently unreeving my winding, unseen scent trail. At last he came to the base of my tree, put front feet high on the trunk and howled loudly. He wouldn’t quit down and he wouldn’t leave! I had to give up the idea of further still-hunting at that spot.

The move active the outdoorsman, the greater his chances of experiencing unusual, amusing or serious situations. Undeniably, he will have his share and to all there exist the necessary ingredients for experiences unlimited.

When big bore revolver barrels become badly worn, they can be smoothed over and used to fire shotshell cartridges under a recently revised Federal Law.

The move active the outdoorsman, the greater his chances of experiencing unusual, amusing or serious situations. Undeniably, he will have his share and to all there exist the necessary ingredients for experiences unlimited.

When big bore revolver barrels become badly worn, they can be smoothed over and used to fire shotshell cartridges under a recently revised Federal Law.

Government red tape knows the typical time and effort involved. Now, after both friendly and stormy negotiations, the Treasury Dept. officials have again reversed themselves and declared that sportsmen can legally convert and possess shotshell revolvers without legal conflict with the previously named section of the Internal Revenue Code.

Owners of such altered guns do, however, have to report and fully describe such weapons to the Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, U. S. Internal Revenue Service, Washington 25, D. C., and pay a fee of $5.00 each time "ownership is transferred" — which is a far cry from the formerly required $200 possession and transfer tax.

Many readers will recall with nostalgic affection the little .410 gauge single shot pistols that were seen, Stevens and others used to market — also the Marble Game-Getter. All these once-popular guns were outlawed by legal emasculation in the provisions of the Federal gun legislation of the 1930-40 decade. Another popular gun model that got the axe as a result of the emasculating "sawed-off shotgun" law phraseology was the Ithaca Auto Burglar gun, a 20 gauge double, with barrels only 13½ inches long and a handgun style stock.

Under the recent notification of the old law and its accepted legal language interpretation, it may be that the way is now clear for re-emergence of the popular Marble Game-Getter and certain other sporting arms.

Possibly, too, Colt, Ruger and Smith & Wesson, the big three handgun manufacturers — will market special shotshell versions of certain current models like the Colt Single Action, Ruger Blackhawk and Smith & Wesson K-38 and 38.44 Outdoorsman models, or shotshell revolvers in new概念. As we write this, it is interesting to speculate just what eventually will be available in ready-to-use form.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
AUGUST, 1962
To release the liquid sound that comes with the unit, or the brand of your own choice, it is only necessary to unscrew the upper half section ONE FULL TURN. The only time it is necessary to open the Miracle Lure Cartridge is when it needs refilling. Open or closed, it cannot spill its liquid.

In appearance, the Miracle Lure Cartridge looks like a miniature deep sea diving bell. Green in color, it measures 3½ inches in overall length and about 1½ inches in diameter at its middle. The molded cardboard cartridge should give years of service. So far as the FWTOG can judge, it need be filled only once each hunting season, for the average user. Refills can be obtained from the manufacturer, or can substitute the brand of your choice. The FWTOG believes it is best to use commercial scents infused by experienced trappers and game biologists.

The Miracle Lure Cartridge, and an initial supply of scent, is $2.99—instead—from Miracle Lure Company, P. O. Box 34, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

Enlisting a wild turkey tom or hen to come within effective killing range of waiting hunter and gun, through imitated turkey "talk", isn't easy to do. The feat not only requires almost infinite patience and immobility (often prolonged to a degree past the stage of mild discomfort), but also ability to imitate basic turkey talk. Made of wood, Johnson's caller is only a trifle larger than a safety match box, and develops its turkey language from vibrations resulting from inhaling air through the caller, thereby activating, via vibration, a thin rubber diaphragm--two tissue-thin sheets of rubber stretched over a light metal frame at one end of the caller's sound chamber.

It usually takes several practice sessions, at least, to get the knack of using the Virginia man's product, but once mastered, the caller gives forth amazingly natural turkey "talk." Having the instruction record for initial lesson and review guidance helps considerably.

We are convinced that the state for a hunter's-choice law is now here for isolated areas such as the Citrus Wildlife Management Area. Biology and mathematics indicate the next two areas that will have serious consideration will be the Eglin Reservation and the Ocala Wildlife Management Area. Meanwhile, hunters had better mentally prepare themselves for the inevitable coming of the hunter's-choice regulation in certain areas.

We must manage our deer, and all wildlife, wisely.

NEXT MONTH
Facts About Florida Fishing Improvement Programs

NORTHEAST FLORIDA

For the sake of all hunters, allow hunting every day. It will not perturb the deer, but keep them in better condition, and allow hunters to hunt every day.

You are awaiting the time when your local group of hunters in the Second and Fifth Districts will form. That day will surely come in due time.

RABBIT HUNTER

I filled out your recent Hunter's Hooty Questionnaire, and have mailed it back to headquarters as requested. I didn't see anything on your questionnaire about rabbits. I have hunted rabbits for twenty years with hounds now in Florida, state-wide. I am against people shooting and killing hundreds of rabbits with a light, at night.

I agree with you. We have, for five years, been trying to slowly impress upon the minds of Florida people that rabbits offer a prime hunting and sporting animal. As you know, we classify rabbits as good game animals during the hunting season, no hunting being listed only in the possession of a firearm during the year. No hunting will be allowed in the possession of a firearm during the remainder of the year, rabbits may be taken without benefit of license.

We are working toward the time when you can classify rabbits as a top-notch game animal. This will afford many hours, and dozens of recreational opportunities in many people. We would like to have rabbit hunting opening on a year-around basis, but to properly do this we will need to classify the rabbit as a full game animal, subject to license.

We have taken the first half-step toward this by making the rabbit a game species during the month of January. We are now working toward the time when the people will help us to take the other half-step.

Don't you large-owners help us take the last half-step.

You might be interested to know that it is my personal feeling that all sportmen who take any type of animals be able to hunt them. The same reasoning holds true for farmers, sportsmen, and other people who should all ask that their sports be licensed so that they can contribute to the management of our wildlife and fish.

I feel that all those who "take" should "give."
Teel combinations of various close-face reels and rod-hand. Sometimes uncomfortable to the mg reel seats are most secure but slip. It is perfect. With others they may secure and it your reel fall off simply held the reel to a cork grip but they are not noted for being firm but comfortable hold. A case for the "release" phase of the competition. Something like 35,000 released fish were reported as anglers competed for release trophies. The Marco Island Inn release trophy was won by Frank Hendrickson of Southold, N.Y., using plug casting gear. He turned back 187 game and food fish, Charles H. Finkelstein of Coral Gables caught and released 32 bonethief to win a trophy in that division. Jack Fitzgerald of Miami released 67 black bass. Everglades Boatscades A series of escorted boatscades has been conducted by the Everglades Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the officials of Everglades National Park. The caravans "make up" at the park's western entrance at the town of Everglades and are for the purpose of introducing boaters to areas difficult to learn without experienced help. The first of the trips attracted 22 visiting boats and was conducted by Richard E. Stokes, supervising park ranger. It was a leisurely, all-day tour through parts of the Ten Thousand Islands and over areas of the back country of the National Park. FISHING (Continued from page 7) a way that the fisherman can get a firm but comfortable hold. Some of the plain old rings that simply held the reel to a cork grip probably are most comfortable of all but they are not noted for being secure and it is disconcerting to have your reel fall off the water. With some reels, a given set of rings is perfect. With others they may slip. The real, honest-to-goodness locking reel seats are most secure but sometimes uncomfortable to the hand. One of the best arguments for various close-face reels and rod-reel combinations is the comfort afforded. I was fooling with a Bronson rod-reel combination the other night. Since the reel was "built-in" the grip was quite comfortable. Lots of blisters and really sore hands can come from hard use of an uncomfortable grip. It is unlove- ly to look upon but generous use of rubber tape can solve a lot of reel seat problems. Engaged in filleting a fish at a public dock the other evening, I was suddenly confronted by the evil eyes and leering visage of a burly alley cat who had jumped on the cleaning bench, apparently with the intent of fighting me for the fish. Contemplating his battle-shredded ears and ominously twitching tail as revealed in the light of a single mosquito-dimm ed bulb I was for the moment tempted to quit the field but my mosquito bites had made me irritable and hence braver than usual so I menaced him with a foot-long knife and he backed down to watch the cleaning operation from a distance. I am seeking a biologist who will explain to me the attachment cats have for fish. Most cats hate the water and prefer death to bathing and why they so dearly love fish and where they acquired the taste remains a mystery to me. Maybe this doesn't even belong in a fishing column.
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