This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the: William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.

DECEMBER 1962
V.16 NO.7

Scanned by:
The Research Information Center
of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida WILDLIFE
DECEMBER, 1962

VOLUME 16 NO. 7

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

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

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director
C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

In This Issue

Florida's Management Areas
Midnight Music
Florida Geese — Who's Who
How To Age Whitetail Deer
Hunting Season Regulations
Tilapia On Trial
Florida's Great Miocene Bear
Snake Safety
This Christmas I'd Like
Hunting Season Information

Departments
Clubs & Conservation
Fishing
Muzzle Flashes

Dogs — Hunting
Tests and Tells
Wildlife Balance Wheel

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE
DECEMBER, 1962

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE
DECEMBER, 1962
Dove Hunters Score on Management Areas

South Florida dove hunters hit the jackpot during the opening weekend of the October season, while hunting the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's new J. W. Campbell Dove Management area in Dade County. Approximately 7,600 of the speedy fame birds were bagged by nearly 1,000 hunters October 6 and 7, for a two day hunting average of 7.6 birds per man.

"This type of hunter success for the early dove season in south Florida is almost unbelievable and indicates that more dove management areas will be in the making next year," stated W. T. McBroom, Commissioner for the Game Commission's Everglades Region.

Hunters have been cautioned, however, that the Commission public dove field program cannot be tabbed an unqualified success throughout the state—there simply are not enough doves present at the right place, at the right time. The Commission's position is that it cannot guarantee that everyone will enjoy good hunting every time they hunt these special dove fields, but the overall program will provide the Florida hunter improved hunting in those areas where sufficient demand for public areas justify the necessary expenditures by the Commission.

In all probability, emphasis will be placed on heavily populated portions of the state, such as the lower east coast. Commissioner McBroom has been instrumental in obtaining and locating the Dade County experimental managed dove fields.

Due to improved water conditions, Florida frog hunters will be allowed to hunt frogs in Conservation Area No. 3, Everglades Wildlife Management Area, starting Nov. 17, 1962.

The Cover

The hunting of bobwhite quail can be enjoyed throughout Florida 17th. See pages 22 and 23.

Cover photo: By Wallace Hughes
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FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open hunting 27 Wildlife Management Areas on listed below. In addition to a regular hunting license, a public land area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the Management Areas.

Available from the offices of the County Treasurers throughout Florida, the $5.00 permit opens most of the 27 Areas, with the following exceptions: Edin A Force Base, where a $4.00 Air Force Permit is required, good for the season; and the Cecil M. Webb Area where a $5.00 daily permit is required.

MULTIPLE Public Use Code for Listing Below:

"" Open To Fishing,
"" Open To Fishing Under Special Permit,
"" Open To Taking Of Frogs,

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

AREAS

LOCATION (Counties)  TOTAL ACRES OPEN  PRINCIPAL GAME SPECIES

1. Blackwater (*)  Santa Rosa & Okaloosa  85,000  Deer — Turkey — Quail — Squirrel
2. Eglin Field (*)  Santa Rosa, Okaloosa & Walton  300,000  Deer — Quail
3. Roy S. Gaskin (*)  Calhoun, Bay & Gulf  118,300  Deer — Quail
4. Apalachee (*)  Jackson  8,000  Deer — Ducks — Quail — Dove — Water
5. Liberty (*)  Liberty  182,150  Deer — Bear — Squirrel
6. Leon-Wakulla (*)  Wakulla & Leon  67,000  Deer
7. Auville (*)  Jefferson, Taylor & Wakulla  110,000  Deer — Bear — Turkey — Squirrel — Ducks
8. Steinbachers (*)  Dixie & Lafayette  225,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
9. Oseola (*)  Baker & Columbia  92,000  Deer — Bear — Squirrel
10. Lake Burrall (*)  Columbia, Baker & Union  96,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel — Waterfowl
11. Gulf Hammock (*)  Levy  100,000  Quail — Deer — Turkey — Wild Hog
12. Camp Blanding (*)  Clay  56,000  Waterfowl — Deer — Wild Hog — Squirrel — Quail
13. Guana River (*)  St. Johns  10,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
14. Ocoee (*)  Marion, Putnam & Lake  203,800  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
15. Tomoka (**)  Flagler — Volusia  100,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
16. Farmosa (*)  Volusia & Brevard  34,000  Deer — Quail
17. Citrus (*)  Citrus  41,500  Deer — Quail — Squirrel
18. Cress (*)  Hernando & Sumter  11,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
19. Richloom (*)  Hernando, Sumter & Pasco  70,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
20. Aven Park (*)  Highlands & Polk  108,000  Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
21. Cecil M. Web (*)  Charlotte  57,000  Quail — Deer
22. Lee (*)  Lee  40,000  Waterfowl — Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
23. Okeechobee (*)  Okeechobee  14,000  Turkey — Quail — Squirrel
24. Fishwater Creek (*)  Glades  100,000  Quail — Deer — Turkey — Squirrel
25. J. W. Cobbet (*)  Palm Beach  92,000  Deer — Quail — Wild Hog
26. Devil's Garden (*)  Hendry  40,000  Waterfowl — Deer — Wild Hog
27. Everglades (*)  Palm Beach, Dade & Broward  724,000  Waterfowl — Deer — Wild Hog
Fastening a stringer of fish to a boat should be a simple chore but many catches are lost by sloppy knots, weak stringers, or butterfingers.

Book learning versus experience

In any field of endeavor you'll find insular herds of "practical" experts and holsters of various degrees of diplomas.

If you scour the written word as a means of acquiring fishing ability, go no further because this is a defense of the "book fisherman" and I don't want you to get sore.

Though grizzled veterans may laugh at articles on how to fish and may break up in glee at highly colored accounts of battles to the death with vicious fishes, let me present some facts in defense of fishing writers and their works.

When I was a bramble-scratched 8-year-old on a Kansas farm, I learned to baitcast from ancient copies of the old National Sportsman man magazine. I was doing it with a 40-cent reel and a catalin rod in a handmade case with female staples for guides but, by golly, I was baitcasting and no one in my acquaintance had even seen it done before. Although my form was unusual in that I whisked the thing around my head before letting fly, the bass would reach fairly distant bullethead in muddy stock ponds.

As that time 40 years ago most of the local landowners spoke sneeringly of "book fishermen" who fooled with planned crop rotation and worried about soil erosion and terracing. Consequently, I was a bit recalcitrant about my magazine-acquired skills, fearing I might be dubbed a book fisherman. It was a bit later that I became friends with Don Buck, a neighbor lad who had actually caught a bass on a plug.

Then, I've used selected outdoor writers as sources of about 80 percent of my outdoor knowledge. Since I hunt or fish about 200 days a year, this is a frank confession I can't learn all by "practical" experience.

Although a large percentage of the outdoor material written is bunk and gun adventure you soon learn to separate the fact from the window-dressing until it's very easy to find how information that is actually phony.

Here are some things to note about outdoor writing.

Certain authors are partial to certain methods and unknowingly overplay them. For example, a dedicated spin-fisherman may gradually lose sight of the fact that other sportsmen. The tendency is their ways, ignoring what goes on their knowledge is likely to for them to get crotchety and set in.

The same may be overplayed them. For example, a dedicated spin-fisherman may gradually lose sight of the fact that other outdoor writers for some years, a minor bit of information that proved one man's experiences are not duplicated by another's, even though both of them squander much of their lives fishing.

The time of year is very important in any fishing within the continental limits of the U.S. This is a fact sometimes overlooked by outdoor writers—to their shame. It is a fact some irresponsible resort owners would like to have the public overlook.

When you absorb quantities of how-to, a good deal is equally if not more important.

I blame the outdoor writers for personally although some of my friends are fond of it. I use a drag light enough that I can strip without releasing it. Depends on your own method. Release or no release, I like the real.

Plastic worms, deadly and much-used bass baits, have usually been most successful when humped slowly along the bottom.

Promulgations regarding the kind of weather in which fish are best caught are generally vague. Often proved wrong and rarely backed up by insufficient experience.

However, during the spring of 1962 I watched the results of plug casting on a stretch of grass flat. The fishing lasted from January through early April and the weather pattern was too consistent to be ignored.

Every large catch of bass and every large artificial-caught fish I've been able to catch was caught on an overcast day. Sunny days brought only small fish and half-hearted strikes. I used reports from four grass flat regulars who held the conclusion that cloudy days were by far the best for that kind of fishing.

Before you send me-penful, penful letters, remember that this was only one shallow grass flat and that all of my subjects fished with surface and near-surface lures. They did not hum up and spool out bait. Bottom fishing, of course, is pretty specialized business in grass.
Reloading shotshells and cartridges, when done right, can be safe—and easy.

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

A person who does any appreciable amount of powder burning, whether at legal gun range and unproven variety at a variety of inanimate targets, soon realizes that "store bought" ammunition can be quickly used up. The shooter also realizes that, in certain center fire cartridge and shotshell loadings particularly, regular shooting practice can be something of a drain on the bankroll. It is not surprising that serious, continually active shooters are taking up reloading of cartridges and shotshells.

Aside from financial savings, other advantages accrue. Within the limits of practical ballistics and common sense safety, a wide variety of cartridge and shotshell loadings can be developed right at home, with special interest to the competitive shooter.

Every gun will handle some particular load best; experimental reloading, within already established safe working limits, can determine the one that gives peak performance, even in the most eccentric of firearms.

The Lyman, Speer, Belding & Mull and other widely used basic instruction reloading manuals contain an impressive variety of test, proven performance, cartridge and shell loadings in all popular calibers and gauges.

Besides, reloading is fun. Shooters find there is a great deal of pleasure to be had from restoring fired cartridge cases and shotshells to usable, roaring life.

Whatever the personal motivation, there is widespread active interest in reloading. Everywhere I go the subject is discussed to me by shooters, and increasingly more often by those who have no particular need for renewed powder burning. The reason is simple: Reloading satisfies the hunter who finds there is widespread active interest in reloading the subject, in line with reader desire for helpful information, and the increased activity in that phase of the shooting game. I have similarly tried to call shoot­ er attention to brand names of reloading tools that give efficient, dependable performance, and have deliberately avoided mentioning those that are known troublemakers or products of disinterested manufacturers once tools reach consumer hands.

Substantiation of the growing popularity of reloading can be found in the obvious disappearance of once wasted empty cartridge and shell cases from firing lines of club range.

Where once trap and Skeet shooting clubs collected and burned empty shotgun shells in huge piles, now the clubs either reload the empties for re-sale to club members, or find ready market for them among various groups, including the local wildlife and conservation club.

Whatever its motivation, interest in reloading is widespread. There are many, many shooters interested in reloading who have never done any reloading. With proper accessory, the Texan Model M will reload the new steel base, plastic shells as easily as the long­used paper tube shells.

The Texan reloading tools were experienced among the first to use shotshell powder and shot load control bushings for untarnishable selection and use of control component parts. These bushings slip in a bar component and cannot be erroneously placed in the wrong recess, should the reloader suffer unintended mishaps when setting up for a reloading session.

Another commendable feature is the required for frequent adjustment during reloading operations. Once set up properly, the only major adjustment sequence required is to check space tolerance between the tool's rotating table and the crimp plunger head. This adjustment is controlled by a convenient top-turret nut that looks much like a wheel-nut on a 1920 automobile.

The Texan Model M, made for the reloading of center fire metallic cartridges, has the exclusive feature of a 7-station turret that takes sizing and seating dies for three different calibers, plus powder measure. Like any quality, well-engineered product, it is a joy to use.

In the reloading game, experience is the best teacher. However, initially applied knowledge, gained from reading or personal association with an experienced reloader, will help by-pass some of the more common difficulties.

In using the Texan Model T metallic cartridge reloading tool, for example, for truly trouble-free tool operation and subsequent bullet performance, the beginner reloader should stick to the use of uniformly made, ballistically balanced bullets, like Texan's own and those of Speer, Sierra and Hornady.

When reloading metallic cartridges, whatever the brand of tool used, lubrication of cases to be re­ loaded is absolutely necessary—yet just the right type and quantity of lubricant must be applied; otherwise, reloading dies will freeze or be over-lubricated. Too much lubricant builds up hydraulic pockets in the dies, since there is no place for the lubricant to disperse.

It is recommended to pour some of it on a clean, uninked rubber stamp pad. You want just enough lubricant on the pad so that when the empty cases to be reloaded are rolled on the pad they will pick up an almost invisible film of the lubricant. I have also used DuPont "Seven­ nine" silicone auto polish successfully, via the dip and drain method of lubricating the cleaned cartridge cases ready for reloading.

When primer seating depth affects gun chamber, headspace, it should be carefully checked and tool gauge correctly set before starting actual reloading operations.

Correct primer seating depth can be obtained by using reloading tool efficient­ ly, the reloader should know placement points and their functions. Illustrated at right is the Texan Model M.

To use a shotshell reloading tool efficiently, the reloader should know placement points and their functions. Illustrated at right is the Texan Model M.
A good raccoon hunting dog must be in good health, and be powerful if he is to survive close encounters with the adversary.

By JIM FLOYD

Coon hunters like company, but as a general rule, it is the company of other coon hunters. Now don't get the wrong impression. These individuals who hunt raccoons for the sport of it are not a clannish group, but on the other hand, they make no great effort to convert the balance of the human population into coon hunters. A bonafide coon hunter just does not go around inviting strangers to go hunting with him. They will, however, be more than happy to introduce you to the sport provided you do the initial inquiring.

Requirements for basic coon hunting equipment is a minimum. Of course, the most important item of any coon hunt is the dog or dogs. Other than that almost any clothing that is suitable for work is ideal for coon hunting. I was initiated to the order of night coon hunting on a hot summer night and made the mistake of wearing a short sleeved shirt and low cut shoes. My first mistake was the shirt, as on that particular night the Florida mosquitoes were busy individuals. If the mosquitoes were not enough, the heat of the day soon wore off and the chill of the North Florida night left me wishing for a long sleeved shirt of heavier material. The second mistake was the low shoes and I discovered my error early in the evening when entering a swamp soon after the dogs treed their first coon.

Most coon hunters will wear either rubber hip boots or rubber knee boots. One manufacturer of coon hunting equipment has produced a rubber jack boot that extends above the knee but not quite as high as a hip boot. You will need a flashlight of considerable power, (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

not only for thrumming through the woods and dodging gopher snakes, but to cast into the tree tops to locate the raccoon. A hunting horn created either from the horn of a steer or from a goat horn does add a romantic touch to a hunt; however, it is not a requisite as many hunters rely upon the horn of their vehicle to recall the hounds.

One little item that might really be sort of incidental to a successful coon hunt, but that fascinated me, is the instrument known as a "coon squaller". I became introduced to this gadget on my first hunt. The dogs had treed a raccoon, but the lights of the hunters failed to reveal its location. My host for the evening did, without warning or malice, place the squaller to his mouth and did blow into the thing. What erupted was one of the most hair raising sounds that has ever broken the night air. A coon squaller in appearance is similar to a duck call, but that is where the similarity ends as the sound it creates is quite different. The purpose of the squaller is to simulate a raccoon fight, or something of that nature, and it is designed to make a raccoon that is in hiding become inquisitive and venture a look see at what is going on. While I have not personally witnessed this scene, I am advised by coon hunters that a raccoon that is wise in the ways of the hunter will cover his eyes in order that they not reveal his location under the glare of the lights. This squaller has been proven successful and probably has brought to bag many raccoons that would not otherwise have been spotted.

There you have it—the basic equipment for a successful coon hunt. Clothing to suit the climate and time of the year. A pair of boots, the type depending upon the terrain in which you plan to hunt. A flash light and a powerful one at that, as some of the ring-tailed critters can climb trees as tall as any of the proverbial Georgia pines. A coon squaller may not be essential, but it might come in handy and surely could be lots of fun if you know how to use it. A horn for the hounds, and you will be all set to go, provided you have the heart to hunt.

I am not qualified to even begin to discuss the merits of the various breeds of coon hounds, but on the other hand, I don't find many coon hunters that can discuss all the merits of the various breeds. The coon hunters may know these merits, but they, like most dog men, are perhaps prejudice about one particular breed— their favorite. To be real basic, I guess you could classify any dog that will chase a coon up a tree and bark while in the process of the chase and at the treed coon as a qualified coon hound. I ask the coon hunters of my acquaintance to forgive me for the above statement, as a hunter's impression of his hounds include far more than this basic requirement. I requested several coon hunting friends of mine to outline their impression of his hounds in include far more than this basic requirement. I requested several coon hunting friends of mine to outline their impression of his hounds in include far more than this basic requirement. 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There are six recognized breeds of coon hounds; Black and Tan, Redbone, Bluetick, Plott, English Fox and Coonhound, and the Treeing Walker. While the Black and Tan is the only breed recognized by the American Kennel Club this is no way a discredit to the other breeds or to the coon-treeing ability of hundreds of strains of this kind. Of the recognized breeds, it is strictly a matter of individual preference. While some hunters will take an oath on one breed, others will have several representatives of the various breeds in their kennels. To sum up this question of which breed of hound is best we will utilize the same established standard for any breed of dog. The good ones of each breed are wonderful animals; poor ones of each are not worth feeding.

When a coon hunter is not sleeping, working, planning a hunt or actually hunting, here are other forms of organized activity in which the entire family as well as the hunter and his dog can participate. There are coon hound field trials, registered night hunts, and organized games such as coon on the log, and coon in the hole. Dog auctions and square dances are often associated with such activity. Then again this fringe side of coon hunting could be another story at another time.

The hunt ends when the raccoon is captured, and placed in a sack. Hunters often transport their catch to areas with low raccoon populations.

DECEMBER, 1962
THE CANADA GOOSE arrives in Florida usually about mid-October, and stays until about the first week in March. Its range is restricted mainly to north and western Florida with rare visits to southeast portions of the state. Also known as “Honker,” this great bird is our largest and most common goose, averaging 3 feet long, from tip of bill to tip of tail. Its wingspread stretches to over 5 feet, and its average weight is 8 1/2 pounds. The male is called a “gander,” the female is the “goose.”

When the goose wings south, where will he spend the winter? The winter goose population shifts away from Florida largely due to intensified establishment of new feeding and resting areas in the states to the north. Located at the southern limits of the goose range, Florida will probably never have an excessively high goose population. But with a proper habitat management program should be able to maintain a satisfactory population for hunting purposes.

WHO

The BLUE GOOSE is an infrequent visitor to Florida. The few individuals that come here are usually always in company with flocks of Canada Geese. Practically the entire population of this species winter in Louisiana and Texas. The head and neck of the adult is white, sometimes stained with rusty; its body is gray, with a more or less white belly; immatures have gray heads. Size, less than 3 feet long; wingspread 4 to 5 feet; weight about 5 pounds.

The SNOW GOOSE, like the Blue Goose, is rare in Florida and common in Louisiana and Texas during the winter. The few individuals that visit us usually are seen in company with the Canada or Blue Geese. The adult Snow Goose is pure white with black wing tips, which makes identification easy. The head and neck is often stained with rusty; immatures are grayish-white with black wing tips. Size, less than 3 feet long; wingspread less than 3 feet; weight average about 5 pounds.
If a deer herd is to remain stable, the annual increase of young stock must at least equal the total losses of adults, or if it is to increase, must exceed the adult die off. By knowing the proportion of the various age classes among the adults present, one may determine the average life span as well as past reproductive success. Once these population fluctuations are learned, more adequate regulations and management practices may be recommended.

Theoretically, when a legal spike buck law is in effect, the 1½ year age class should show up as the largest age class in the kill, with the 2½ year old age class next and so on down the line. When the 2½ year age class is greater than the 1½ age class, it is usually due to many of the yearling bucks lacking legal sized spikes, reproduction has declined, or a difference in the peak period of fawn drop, or a combination of these or other factors. A declining population usually shows a high proportion of old animals while a stable population shows a more even distribution of age classes, and an increasing population shows relatively large numbers of young individuals. The aging technique is taken from "Tooth Development and Wear As Criteria of Age in White-tailed Deer" by C. W. Severinghaus, published in the Journal of Wildlife Management, 1949a. 13 (2): 195-216.

DEER SKULL

INCISORS
PREMOLARS  MOLARS

CONDITION OF TEETH OF THE LOWER JAWBONE IS STUDIED TO DETERMINE AGE OF THE DEER

INCISORS
CORNER
LATERALS
PINCERS
LATERALS
CORNER

DEER SKULL

INCISORS
PREMOLARS  MOLARS

CONDITION OF TEETH OF THE LOWER JAWBONE IS STUDIED TO DETERMINE AGE OF THE DEER

INCISORS
CORNER
LATERALS
PINCERS
LATERALS
CORNER

DENTAL AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

Drawings viewed from cheek side of lower jawbone. Age class illustrations based on December kills.

FAWN

3-4 MONTHS OLD

First three premolars (milk teeth) fully erupted. First molar barely visible at gum line. At 4 months of age fawn would be dropped in August and have been conceived in January.

4-6 MONTHS OLD

First molar almost fully erupted, second molar not yet appearing above gum line. Animal dropped in June and conceived in November if six months old.

7-9 MONTHS OLD

First molar fully erupted, crest of second molar barely showing above gum line. Milk teeth showing wear. If animal 9 months old, would be born in March and conceived in August.

(Continued on next page)

INCISORS

3 CUSPS

1ST MOLAR BEGINNING TO Erupt

MILK PREMOLARS

3 CUSPS

1ST MOLAR ALMOST FULLY ERUPTEO

MILK PREMOLARS

3 CUSPS

2ND MOLAR PUSHING JUST ABOVE GUM LINE

MILK PREMOLARS
(Continued from preceding page)

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS
First three premolars (milk teeth) showing considerable wear nearly to gum line. First and second molars fully erupted with sharp crests. Third molar not fully erupted, last crest nearly hidden by gum line. Animal born in July, conceived end of December or January.

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS
First three premolars (milk teeth) shed and permanent premolars about ¾ erupted. Back crest of third molar still hidden by gum. Crests of all molars sharp pointed. Animal dropped in June and conceived in November.

1 YEAR 7 MONTHS AND OLDER
First three permanent premolars fully erupted—showing no wear. Back crest of third molar still not fully erupted above gum line. Very slight wear visible on first molar. Animal dropped in May and conceived in October. (It is possible that in some areas of the State a fairly sizable number of fawns may be dropped during late January or February and show up heavy in the December kill. If deer of this age class are placed in the 1½ year age class instead of the 1 year class as placed in the 2½ year age class instead of the 1½ like they should be, a distorted picture of fawning success may result.)

COMPARISON LATERAL VIEWS OF FIRST MOLAR FROM LOWER JAWBONE

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
DECEMBER, 1962
**Game Laws and Dates 1962–63**

**HUNTING SEASON**

**FLORIDA’S 1962–63 general hunting season for resident game birds and animals opened Saturday, November 17, in all districts of the state.**

Hunting will be allowed everyday in the First, Third, and Fourth Conservation Districts, except in the last year.

In the Northeast Florida Second District, eleven counties will be open this year to every-day hunting. Counties remaining under the "stagged-day" hunting system, with Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays being closed each week, are Levy, Dixie, Alachua, Gilchrist and Lafayette. Counties which were previously under the staggered-day hunting, but which will be under every-day hunting that year, are Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Hamilton, Madison, Nassau, Suwannee, Taylor and Union.

The Fifth District, Central Florida, will remain under the Staggered-day hunting season for a portion of Sumter County south of State Roads 476 and 48. The Ocala National Forest will be closed to hunting Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays during the period December 25 through January 1.

In sections of the state having staggered-day hunting, hunting will be allowed everyday in the First District, except first nine days, November 17 to November 25, and the period December 25 through January 1. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will be closed at all other times.

In the Second District, hunting will be allowed everyday in the Second District, except for the period December 25 through January 1. Hunting will be allowed Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of each week.

In the Third District, hunting will be allowed everyday in the Third District, except for the period December 25 through January 1. Hunting will be allowed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week.

In the Fourth District, hunting will be allowed everyday in the Fourth District, except for the period December 25 through January 1. Hunting will be allowed Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week.

In the Fifth District, hunting will be allowed everyday in the Fifth District, except for the period December 25 through January 1. Hunting will be allowed Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week.

**REGULATIONS FOR 1962-63 HUNTING SEASON — MIGRATORY GAME**

**WILD TURKEY**

Turkey of either sex legal game, during regular season, two per day, three per season.

**First District:** Opens November 17, closes January 6. Special season in DeSoto and Hardere counties to open November 17 through December 2, and December 22 through January 1. Pinellas County closed.

**Second District:** Opens November 17, closes January 6. Alachua, Bradford and that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18, and east of U.S. 441 closed at all times.

**Third District:** Opens November 17, closes January 13. Special season in Gilchrist County and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, November 17 through December 9.

**Fourth District:** Opens November 17, closes January 6. Monroe closed to Key Deer.

**Fifth District:** Opens November 17, closes January 6.

**BUCK — RABBIT — WILD HOG**

Black bear legal game during open deer season. Daily and seasonal bag limited to one. Cub bears protected at all times.

A hunting license is required for rabbits during regular hunting season.

Wild hogs are considered game animals in certain management areas during open season designated for each area.

**SQUIRREL**

Open statewide November 17, closes in First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts February 17, Closes Third District, Northwest Florida February 24. Daily bag limit of 10 gray squirrels and two fox squirrels, with no season bag limit.

**MOURNING DOVE**

**Florida Hunters Will Have a Three-phase Season for migratory dove hunting during the 1962-63 season.**

The first phase will be open for dove hunters October 6 through November 4, with Hardee, DeSoto and Glades Counties, and that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point, closed to dove hunting.

The second phase opens statewide November 22 to run through December 9. The third phase will be open statewide December 22 through January 12.

Shooting will be allowed from 12:00 noon until sunset of each open day, with daily bag limit for dove will be 12, with a possession limit of two days bag.

**WATERFOWL HUNTERS**

Must have a certain 1962-63 Federal migratory waterfowl hunting stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of $3.00, the stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

**DECEMBER, 1962**

**Special Area Regulations**

**WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS**

**Special Scup Bonus**

In addition to other bag and possession limits, Florida hunters in certain scup bonus areas will be allowed a bonus of two extra scup ducks in a day’s bag and four in possession. These areas are all open waters of Charlotte Harbor from the bridge on U.S. Highway 41 to a straight line running in an easterly direction from Boca Grande Pass through Boca Grande to the mainland.

All open areas of the 2,300 acre impoundment open to controlled hunting on the Guano River Wildlife Management Area, St. Johns County, Florida.

All open waters of the Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 520.

All open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne.

All open waters of Mosquito Lagoon (Indian River Lagoon) from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

The above “scup bonus areas” were established to encourage hunters to harvest more scup where the species has been under-harvested in the past. On the other hand, the Florida Fish and Game Commission has established a harvest reduction measure resulting from the low water conditions in South Florida during the past spring.

Complete summaries on all hunting season regulations, and Wildlife Management Areas, are available when purchased license, or by writing to Commission offices listed on page 23.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

All dates shown are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are open to hunting. Should any of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.

Row and arrow necessary for taking of game animals and game birds. Cross bows are not legal for taking game.

Ducks must be limited to 3-flock capacity (起码 capacity: cock, hen, and the brood).

Sol of natives gun prohibited. No open season on birds on our farms, homes, lawns, and grounds.

Protected are Eastern snowy, crow, and Canada geese, red wing, and buff, bobcat, raccoon, and skunks.
As a possible new gamefish for Florida's future fresh water angling, biologists are putting the...

TILAPIA ON TRIAL

BY ART HUTT

I F YOU WERE SEARCHING for a fish to add to Florida's water, a fish that had to fulfill specific requirements, where would you start?

This fish would have to withstand both our heat and our cold. It would have to be compatible with our native gamefish. If it could crowd out a pest like the shad, the fish would be a hero, especially if it, itself, were of some value. The ideal choice should have fish-appeal, contributing to the sportfishing in a manner that would make anglers want to catch it. Once caught, it should prove pleasing to the palate. And if this hypothetical specimen could do or be all these things and still perform a service of benefit to mankind, he'd be a perfect choice.

Tall orders, all. Viewed individually, the sought-after attributes are formidable enough. Considered collectively, fulfillment could be well-nigh impossible.

There is one little gamester that just might do it, however. Since August 1961, some 3000 (plus subsequent offspring) have been under minute investigation at the Pleasant Grove Fish Management Area east of Tampa. Pete Crittenden conducts the research, digging into all facets of the fish's personal like and behavior which may qualify—or eliminate—it from contention. His project comes under the heading of Fish Management Research, a program made possible through Dingell-Johnson federal aid money (see "For Better Fishing", FLORIDA WILDLIFE, September 1962).

The fish is the tilapia—with a broad "a" and the accent on the second syllable. The particular species under scrutiny is Tilapia nilotica, picked among others for its vegetarian habit and its ultimate size of 4 to 5 pounds. As yet, the poor fish has no accepted common name, but Crittenden suggests that "if a common name is needed, for want of something better, let's call it a Nile bream." Since these fish are abundant in the Nile River of Africa and since they are bream-like, the name appears to be a logical choice.

A handsome fish, the Nile bream has a long continuous dorsal fin which sweeps back nearly to its tail fin. Coloration, overall, is a silver blue-grey, with darker shading near its back. A dark bar runs through its lower jaw back onto its gills. The mouth is big, the eye is large. The lateral line is broken. Our tilapia possesses the feature grouping these fish together—it has a single nostril on each side of its head.

A family of some 600 species distributed throughout Africa and Central and South America. In general, cichlids are important food fishes, eaten extensively in the climates where they are native or have been introduced. The large-mouthed kurper, for example, is useful for stocking swamps and ponds in the tropics, its virtues being currently popularized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

In general, cichlids are versatile, but they can't take the cold weather. Running to the other extreme, one little cichlid makes its home in the hot soda springs of Africa's Lake Magadi in Kenya. Here it thrives in a permanent Saturday-night bath with water temperatures varying from 80 to 120 degrees.

In the United States, the Rio Grande cichlid and the velvet cichlid have extended their range from Mexico into Texas, but their numbers are directly proportional to the severity of the weather. A warm winter means many fish next summer; a cold winter, few fish.

Tilapia nilotica is from a slightly hardier stock but it is still not rugged. Experiments with them at Auburn University in Alabama show that the small fish (less than 6 inches) died when water temperatures went down to 48 degrees. Larger fish withstood temperatures at 38 degrees for short periods of time but froze out when the temperature remained at 55 degrees for a month.

(Continued on next page)
The carp was even described by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Fisheries as “harmless in relation to other fish.” Sportsmen and farmers happily distributed it throughout twenty-five states—where the carp was initially received is only matched by the violence with which it is now condemned.

While the carp is no serious threat to Florida, its case continually reminds researchers of the results of looking over biological reactions to other environments.

Regarding the tilapia and overcrowding, one interesting angle exists. Mel Huish, Federal Aid Coordinator in Florida, has suggested the possibility that the Nile bream may be able to take the place of the worthless gizzard shad that harm our fishing.

"Replacing the shad with an edible, sporting forage fish would be quite a feat," Huish reflects. "Who knows, it just may work out that way."

The tilapia isn’t as prolific as the adult female shad which can produce up to 100,000 eggs. A full-grown tilapia produces less than 2,000. Spawning is frequent—up to eight times a year, however.

The shad, on the other hand, doesn’t take such good care of its eggs or its young. Tilapias are mouth-brooders. The females actually carry and incubate the eggs in their mouth.

In the spawning preliminaries, the male clears a nest in shallow water much like the bluegill does. This is the male tilapia territory and he protects it feverishly by rushing, mouth open and fins-up, at all intruders.

When a female is coaxed into the nest to lay her eggs, the male immediately fertilizes them. In turn, the female takes the eggs in its mouth and carries them until they hatch, some twenty days later. Even after the eggs hatch, the fry swim in and out of the female’s mouth and gill-cavities. When danger threatens, they rush inside, at the “all clear,” they swim forth. This home life lasts for about three days, when the minute tilapia show an increasing degree of reluctance to return. Then they are on their own.

During the mouth-incubating, mama tilapia goes hungry as the mouthful of eggs interferes with eating. The female exercises a great deal of restraint, as eggs for breakfast or fresh meat for supper are immediately available. It wins, fin-down, in this matter of will power, for on those few occasions when papa tilapia is obliged to help with the brooding, the main fish can’t resist a little taste now and then.

Tilapia nilotica is a fast grower, lengthening out as much as nine inches in a year. Compared to a Florida bass, this growth isn’t unusual except for the fact that the tilapia is a deep-bodied individual. When a foot long, the fish is a real chunk. Some of the fish Crittenden stocked last year grew from 3 to 12½ inches in twelve months. Weights went from a few ounces up to 1½ pounds.

The small tilapia are sport enough, but imagine what a kink a five-pounder could put in a bamboo pole or spinning rod. They fight like bluegills, using their flat, broad sides to advantage. For bait, they prefer worms. After they bounce your bobber a couple of times, they take off in a smooth run. Just about like a crappie grabbing your minnow, in fact.

Whether or not the fish will take an artificial hasn’t been thoroughly tested as yet although past experiences elsewhere suggest that a natural bait makes the better lure. Tilapia fishing will never be a cinch, though. They are shy and easily spooked, flushing at the slightest provocation. Fishing for them will always be a challenge.

To compare their rate of biting, 100 tilapias and 100 bluegills were placed in a pond in the management area, and the public invited to fish. The Jan. Schlitz Brewing Co. tagged all the fish to stimulate interest in the project. At this writing, the catch-rate has been nearly identical, with the slightest of margins going to the bluegills.

The Nile bream, and the rest of his tribe, is considered prime eating throughout the areas in which they are native. Taste tests of fish taken from the pits indicate they are among the most flavorful of the panfish with which they have been compared. A point in their favor is that they scale easily, their scales being as thin as the mouthful of eggs interferes with eating. For this habit, the removal of algae and “pond scum” from the water, the tilapia is highly praised.

Crittenden has watched them rise like a dark cloud to feed near the surface, then sink slowly back into the depths again.

In the pits at Pleasant Grove, tilapias are being stocked in various ratios and combinations with other fish. There is strong evidence that they won’t adversely affect gamefish populations, or become too numerous as the bass, although numbers in check.

So, there may be a future ahead for the Nile Bream in Florida waters. Possibly the fish will be of most benefit under controlled conditions in ponds where it can be cultivated and harvested. Or maybe it will be the new candidate for marginal waters where other useful fish can’t thrive.

But a big hope, at the moment, is that the Nile bream may take the place of the shad. Successful as the shad is a fish with a worthwhile species would be a cause for celebration.

Let’s hope the tilapia makes the grade!
Amphicyon longiramus

Restoration of Florida's great Miocene bear.

Even the old-timers cannot brag about Florida's greatest bear—a mighty beast that roamed this state with all the bulk and habits of the Kodiak bear.

**FLORIDA’S GREAT MIOCENE BEAR**

By STANLEY J. OLSEN
Florida Geological Survey

Florida has its share of huge and bizarre fossil animals. Many of the Pleistocene mammals are well known to the average reader due to the newspaper publicity that is given to them when their remains are uncovered during dragline excavations, or when they are encountered underwater by scuba divers. Not as well known is the comparatively rare bear-dog Amphicyon longiramus. This powerful carnivore, with the bulk and habits of a Kodiak bear, stood 4 or 5 feet high at the shoulders but was a more agile animal than the Florida black bear. Teeth and skeletal scraps of this form are known from several localities of Miocene Age in Florida, but only one of these 20-million-year-old quarries has yielded up anything like a complete skeleton. From the Thomas Farm fossil dig in Gilchrist County, Florida, a skull, jaws, and most of the post-cranial skeleton have been collected. These bones were not recovered during one visit to the site but are the result of controlled scientific excavations carried on over the past three decades by parties from Harvard University, Florida Geological Survey, and the owner of the site—the University of Florida.

Amphicyon must have had little competition to interfere with his predatory habits, judging by the faunal list of his Miocene contemporaries. Quarry excavations have indicated that there was a plentiful supply of food in the way of numerous three-toed horses, camels, pecans, rhino, and smaller mammals that abounded in north-central Florida. Packs of hunting dogs, similar to the wild dogs of Africa today, were present and probably as little concerned to Amphicyon as are the jackals to the African lion. They would no doubt have to content themselves with the carrion that remained after the bear-dog had eaten his fill.

By his dentition, and the structure of his skull and skeleton, we know he is an ancestral bear. However, he has many dog or wolf-like features about him. The head is long and pointed as compared with today's bear-faced bears. His tail is long and puma-like, and his legs more graceful and better adapted for running than are those of the bears of today. We can only surmise as to the pelage or pelt of this animal, or to its color, as only the teeth and bones are known of Amphicyon.

Judging by the number of skeletal fragments that have been recovered, he was never an abundant animal; but then, neither is the black bear when it is compared with the many Pleistocene mammals that are recovered in association with this well-known animal's remains. The black bear has not changed noticeably from the time he occupied those areas which were the haunts of the mastodon and mammoth. Certainly, Florida's great Miocene bear, had no natural enemies to concern him, being truly king of beasts of his time. Our knowledge of contemporary animals suggests a ready supply of easily obtainable food for him. Perhaps a disease unknown to us today struck many of these early forms and caused their extinction. Climatic changes were not great enough to cause any serious threat to such a well-adapted beast as Amphicyon. Man would not make his appearance in Florida for some 20 million years, so his influence was not felt as it is claimed for the later Pleistocene mammals. Maybe someday we will be able to answer the question of extinction of these early forms but at the present time we just do not know.

The fossil animals that were recovered along with the Amphicyon remains at Midway in Gadsden County, Florida, were from a fuller earth that was being actively worked in the 1930's. Along with the terrestrial or land-living animal such as Amphicyon, the three-toed horse Parahippus, and the camel Oxydacetus, were the remains of marine forms such as rays, sharks, and dugongs. All of these animals point to an estuarine or deltaic situation, perhaps near a large stream mouth emptying into a seacoast bay where the bodies of large land mammals would be carried out from the coast during a flash flood to settle in shallow water. Here their bones would be mingled with those of the vertebrate fauna which were natural inhabitants of the shallow coastal waters. Other floods would add silt and sand to cover their bodies until the heat and pressures of countless thousands of years would harden and fossilize these bones as we see them today.

At the Thomas Farm the means of interment was different. Evidence from this quarry indicates a sinkhole or shallow cavern, perhaps at times stream fed, where the bones of land mammals were deposited by this water action only to be covered over with later waterborne silt. No marine or brackish water residents have been recovered from this newly famous Florida fossil quarry. The bulk of the animals are landforms. Regardless of why Amphicyon became extinct, or how his remains became buried, it is certain that Florida will never have a mightier or more fearsome carnivore than this early Miocene bear-dog.
AN ARTICLE ABOUT SNAKES generally falls within one of two categories:

Either it is a real hair-raiser designed to keep you awake nights or it is aimed at convincing you all snakes are your equally little buddies and nice to have around the house.

To shake you up a little, consider some of the wildest possibilities of snake danger.

For example, a snake can strike half his length or a little better. An automobile window is about three feet from the ground. Seven-foot rattlers are not unheard of so if you take this possibility too seriously, you'll be keeping your windows closed.

But then, every car on the street is a potential killer and a lot more likely to get you. The average outdoorsman has a middle ground feeling about snakes. He doesn't run screaming for help at the first sight of a rattler but neither does he care to have even a non-poisonous snake draped around his neck. He isn't a snake lover and by some standards he may be a sissy about snakes.

His policy is that he will generally leave the snakes alone if they'll leave him alone. He won't go hunting if they won't come hunting him.

He probably knows a little about snake first aid and probably has a snake-bite kit around when he's in a position to be bitten. Just how likely are you to encounter a poisonous snake?

Well, one quail hunter in the central part of the state has been bitten by a rattler in the past six years without so much as seeing a poisonous snake. Many old-timers follow deer and hog through the swamps barefoot and dogs in the mound where a hunter or fisherman is less likely to be moving fast and carelessly.

The coral snake, deadliest of all, is small, lethargic, slow to strike and must actually chew his victim to inject his venom. If left alone he's unlikely to harm anyone.

The Pygmy or "Ground" Rattler is of small size and less venomous. The information in this article was secured mainly through a series of interviews with Ross Allen and his staff at Ross Allen's Reptile Institute, Silver Springs. Most of the information is completely factual. In a few cases, opinions must be expressed.

Some newcomers to Florida have heard of the "big snakes" and hesitate to venture afield because of them. Just how likely are you to encounter a poisonous snake?

Well, one quail hunter in the central part of the state has hunted hard for the past six years without so much as seeing a poisonous snake. Many old-timers follow deer and hog through the swamps barefoot every year.

But the snakes are there and you can be bitten. Let's not kid ourselves. Absolute protection against snake bite is almost impossible. About as easy to achieve as complete traffic safety or complete protection from lightning or tornado.

Even if you wore snakeproof boots, if conditions were exactly right, if the snake was big enough and if the terrain happened to be ideal, it would be possible for you to be injured. The chances of such conditions are so remote they do not even approach the likelihood of your being killed by a falling tree or breaking your neck in a bathtub.

There are boots and leggins that are snakeproof. He can stick out his tongue, coil any way he wants to, pick his spot, choose his range and bang away all he wants and he will not go through them. Snakeproof boots, pants or leggins are recommended by Ross Allen and his staff.

Now as to how far a snake can actually strike—Allen says he can go about half his length and more if striking wildly. By "wildly," he means a disconcerted snake swinging from the box office and generally with poor aim.

The snake men agree there is a "power zone." If the target is right in his face, the snake doesn't have room to get up steam. If it is at the extreme reach of his strike, he has lost most of his punch and penetration. A 6-foot snake, they figure, would hit his hardest at about two feet.

A snake can strike about as high as he can wide but he usually doesn't. Ross Allen confidently states that the usual target on a standing man is the ankle. He has been struck innumerable times and if he doesn't know, nobody does.

In his native surroundings, in good health and at the proper temperature, a diamondback can be extremely accurate. If he draws a careful bead, he could smack a button two or three feet away. Snake men walking among rattlers will point out how certain snakes accurately hit boot buckles or other shiny objects. The really unfriendly snakes have a disconcerting way of striking in on boot tops, a practice snake handlers would like to discourage. However, this is unlikely in the case of a surprised snake in the field. Most of the top-tappers will have been crouching in a snake pen long enough to contemplate boot design.

(Continued on next page)

Do snakeproof boots and leggins offer complete protection from snakes?

You have asked about the chances of being killed by a falling tree or breaking your neck in a bathtub.

Our most dangerous snake is the big diamondback shown at left. This is not necessarily because he is meaner, but simply because he is a lot bigger and carries more venom.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

PHOTO BY CHARLES WATERMAN

PHOTO BY JIM READ

DECEMBER, 1962
There are other snakes that don't want to strike anything or anybody. They want to be alone.

All of these factors must be considered when you start figuring your chances of being bitten. In cold weather, snakes become sluggish. When they dropped below freezing at Silver Springs, the snakes would still strike but not very hard. How hard does a "warm" snake actually strike? Well, you may have seen one break a balloon during an exhibition. Allen says it's the sharpness of the fang rather than the power of the strike that does the damage. For example, a snake cannot break an ordinary light bulb. However, you can easily push a fang through a piece of leather. Given a clean shot, you can penetrate human flesh for about a quarter of an inch. The Fangs are tough and do not break easily.

Best known of the snake protective devices is the Gokey snakeproof boot. It is knee-high and made of bull hide leather. The big Florida rattler, recognized as the toughest customer among U.S. snakes, can't strike through it anywhere - period. The boot costs $30 and it is a little heavy for all-day hiking. There are other snake boots of lighter weight - proof against any strike except under rarely found ideal conditions.

Most snake men stick to the Gokeys for their day-to-day snake-walking. But some of them use lighter boots when they go hunting. Of course, Gokey's lighter boots too -not guaranteeing them to frustrate all snakes under test conditions.

I have decided not to name the other boots simply because there are some "marginal" numbers among them - boots that would turn a snake 999 times out of 1,000 but might not be really snakeproof. The manufacturers are honest about them.

There are several kinds of snakeproof leggings on the market. They come to the knee or slightly above front and are cut to the bend of the knee in back for the most part. A few come higher. As far as I know, all of them, without exception will stop any snake native to the United States.

In collecting a number of samples for this article I found a couple that simply did not look snakeproof and I asked the Ross Allen staff to test these for me. They took them into the snake house and goaded their biggest rattlers into swatting them. It's best not to give a snake a chance to test your footwear and simple precautions will generally take care of that.

Of course, the experienced snake country traveler is always subconscious looking for snakes. It is best to proceed slowly in areas where your footing is not readily visible. Most dangerous is the terrain where you might encounter a snake some distance from the ground. Rotting, hollow stumps should be approached with caution. It is wise to step on a fallen log rather than ever

(Continued from preceding page)
For The Sportsman

THIS CHRISTMAS I'D LIKE

by EDMUND McLaurin

Camping out calls for a variety of equipment. Determined gift givers are available in any price range.

FIREARMS AND ACCESSORIES

General Purpose: 22 caliber Rifles- BROWNING autoloading Remington "Nylon 66" autoloading; C. Higgin (Sears, Roebuck catalog No. 31, autoloading. (The listed autoloader is a well balanced, accurate 22, but the action of some individual rifles may need smoothing.)

Marelin Model 89a lever-action and Winchester Model 61 slide-actions are highly recommended for gift purposes.

Smallbore Target Rifles- Winchester Model 52 bolt-action, in both heavy weight and standard barrels. Remington Model 40X, with heavy weight barrel.

Big Game Rifles- Remington's Model 742 autoloading, Remington Model 760 slide-action. Savage Model 99 lever-action; Wm. Chester Model 54 lever-action; Marlin Model 39a lever-action; Winchester Model 70 bolt-action; Remington Model 700 bolt-action; Weatherby Model M bolt-action.

Shotguns- Winlock Model 37; Winchester Model 12; Remington Model 11; Marlin "guidemaster"; all pump-actions. Browning "Light- ing" over-and-under double; Fin Model BSB side-by-side double barrel; Heckler "Sportsman-50" autoloading; Winchester Model 76 autoloading; Savage Model 24-DL over-and-under combination; 22 caliber rifles and 20 gauge shotguns. You can't go wrong on any of these suggested combinations.

Hammond- Colt "Woodward" Match Target 22; Colt "Woodward" Sport Model 22; Remington Model 1 and 555 Standard Model; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; "Black Sheep" 24 caliber revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & Wilhelm "single Six" 22 cal.; revolver; Smith & Wesson Model 38 Double Action revolver; "Black Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Army "$4.98 Special" 22 cal.; revolver; Sturm, Ruger & William...
When a dog is added to the father-son combination, we have the makings for a perfect triangle.
GENERAL HUNTING SEASON INFORMATION

ALL HUNTERS must possess valid Florida hunting licenses, except when exempted by age. DUCK STAMPS also required.

PURCHASE OF HUNTING LICENSE OR PERMIT—cannot depart the state without taking any game or fish from such license or permit.

SEASON—All seasons are open for all species of deer until 7:45 a.m. 10 days after list below. Antlers must be tagged on certain species.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKING GAME—Shooting is not to be done within 30 feet of any road, street, public walk, or park, except as provided for in this section.

DO NOT SELL OR BUY—Selling or purchasing of game is prohibited. Except for pre-paid game produced by a certain game farm and properly identified and handled as provided by the Grower and Water Fish Commission.

TRANSPORTATION—Game may be transported only at personal risk and only in containers separate from use.

DO NOT DISTURB—No person shall, while hunting or fishing, obstruct the view of any individual, or disturb any individual.

BOATS FOR WATERFOWL—Migratory game birds may be taken from any boat, whether in motion or at rest, but such vessel may not exceed 15 miles per hour unless otherwise authorized by the Department of Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

CLAWS—For hunting gators, it is unlawful to take or possess more than 5 in. antlers except as provided for in the Grower and Water Fish Commission.

FIELD TESTS and TELLS

clipped holders to their feathers do not touch. To accomplish this arrangement place first arrow so its point is located in the forward pilot of the leather, rubber-tipped end, and press straight into arrow slip. See the second arrow point on opposite side of the cup, third arrow opposite on an arrangement that grabs the lock of each arrow point. By alternating arrows in this manner, the feathers will be kept apart and the broadheads pointed square.

Quick, easy arrows are made by placing thumb under the top arrow at a pilot and tearing the ends of a rubber strip with the same point. Arrows can be flown by any Poasting position.

few items of personal apparel have more value to the sportsman than a pair of good gloves.

In cold weather, gloves and warm protection are necessary for comfort. Better gloves are provided for the service they give, gloves are relatively cheap.

The sportsman knows the type and style of glove he wants; however, finding just the right pair is often a problem. The majority of sporting goods stores usually have a glove stock that, at best, offers non-

FWFT&T RECOMMENDS that hunters, tanners, camp, and boat residents use a drop cord or letter to Blue Ribbon Division, good luck glove Company, carbon throughout the year. A good hunting quiver must possess various qualities. It must have a sufficient number of arrows for a day's hunt, store them properly, withdraw them easily, and permit their instant withdrawal when the archer reaches for his ammunition.

The design should be such that the stored arrows will be held at an angle that will not permit possible catching of their restricted ends on brushes when the bowhunter is attempting to execute a silent move. Movement of quiver against leg or back must also be at a minimum, that there may not be any give-away motion or noise. FWFT&T believes the Slager Stalker quiver, made by King Spor line, national known archery tackle manufacturers, meets the needs of bow-hunters admirably.

The quiver is open face, shallow pouch design, intended for wear between knee and waist, a belt loop and leg holing harness. The Slager Stalker holds eight arrows in a three-channel shape arrangement, each securely held on a shap by a spring, and with broadheads extended to prevent overlap, protected by a low side leather front. The open face, fun shape arrangement of hollow arrows permits supply of empty quiver to a good hunting shaft. Leather straps and buckles allow the quiver to be adjusted to fit any type of bow. The open face, fun shape arrangement of hollow arrows permits supply of empty quiver to a good hunting shaft. Leather straps and buckles allow the quiver to be adjusted to fit any type of bow. The open face, fun shape arrangement of hollow arrows permits supply of empty quiver to a good hunting shaft. Leather straps and buckles allow the quiver to be adjusted to fit any type of bow. The open face, fun shape arrangement of hollow arrows permits supply of empty quiver to a good hunting shaft. Leather straps and buckles allow the quiver to be adjusted to fit any type of bow.

For the service they give, gloves are relatively cheap.

The sportsman knows the type and style of glove he wants; however, finding just the right pair is often a problem. The majority of sporting goods stores usually have a glove stock that, at best, offers non-

Five items of personal apparel have more value to the sportsman than a pair of good gloves.

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KIP DAVIS

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1962
Camping Code of Ethics.

Camp schedule being planned.

It's that time again when the year draws to an end and Christmas with its magic splendor touches us. The air becomes filled with the tingling sounds of bells and hidden smiles are revealed once again. Joyful sounds are more predominant and the laughter comes easier for this season so designated.

With all its, we cheer our greetings for a wonderful Christmas—filled with peace and contentment. And, too, the Conservation Education Extension Section, the citizens of Florida Adult Advisory Council for the Junior Conservation Program of the Game Commission, the League of Conservation Voters, the League Board of Directors, the Club Advisors and officers, and the members of the Youth Conservation Corps, and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission wish you all a wonderous Christmas.

Every citizen should know about Florida's Water Resources. If you can get a copy, it would be well worth your while.

Code of Ethics

Before wrapping up this column, I'd like to cite the Code of Ethics for Directors. It was created by the American Camping Association, Inc. and parents, I am certain, will appreciate its context.

1. I will submit all the statements about my camp and other camps, both written and spoken, to the test of truth. I will be careful in my use of superlatives, realizing that, in nearly all instances, modesty as well as honesty would dictate less extravagant claims.

2. Realizing that fairness is a basic law of good behavior, I will submit all my practices in securing and dealing with campers and staff to the test of fairness to all concerned.

3. Summer camps could not long endure without good will and confidence. I will, therefore, strive to conduct my camp in such a way as to build good will and confidence, not only for my camp, but also for the camping movement.

4. Realizing that integrity and justice are principles that underlie all valid business transactions and all mutually helpful human relations, I will strive to conduct my camp in such a way that my campers, staff and employees will benefit equally and justly from their association with my camp.

This is all for this time. Merry Christmas.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

DECEMBER, 1962

WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

DOGS — HUNTING

(Continued from page 37)

Field Trial Dates Announced

Organized bird dog field trials to be conducted on the Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Areas are as follows:

December 1-2, Piney Woods Field Trial Club.

January 19, Charlotte County Sportsmen's Club and Fort Myers Rod and Gun Club (Combined Trial).

February 15-16-17, Everglades Field Trial Association.


The 57,000 acre Clvice C. Webb Wildlife Management Area is located in Charlotte County and contains an area of 8,640 acres that has been established as field trial grounds. These grounds are available to any organization that wishes to conduct bird dog field trials, after first submitting written permission from the Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

A Christmas Gift

If you should happen to fall into the category of wife, mother, or girl friend of a gun dog man, and you are at your wits end trying to select an appropriate Christmas gift, you can hardly go wrong by gift wrapping a copy of David D. Elliot's "Training Gun Dogs to Retrieve," and placing it under the tree.

Dave Elliot long recognized as the dean of retriever trainers, has managed to embrace between the front and back covers of a book, far more than the mechanics of training a gun dog in the art of retrieving the game which the hunter has shot. This book is just what the title infers and places emphasis on the gun dog rather than field trial dogs.

Chapter one and five will be of special interest to the up-and-coming dog man, as they cover the Wiebing and Training of a Dog Trainer and the Requirements of a Trainer.

Most chapters deal with training rules that range from gun-shyness and hard mouth to methods of force training a dog to retrieve.

Gun dog lovers will appreciate the illustrations by Ernest H. Hart, as well as the down to earth discussion and philosophy of dogs and their owner-handlers brought to the paper.

If you fail to find this book at your bookstore, you may obtain a copy from Henry Holt and Company, Inc. 353 Madison Ave., New York 17, N.Y. A price tag of $2.95 makes this book almost a direct steal.

CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from page 4)

Elliot lists some of his favorite deer hunting spots in a recent issue of the Barometer Fishing. He lists as tops is the Ocala National Forest and the Salt Springs area is named in particular.

Club Public Relations

A check with various news media indicates that many conservation organizations lose much of their effectiveness through tardy or inefficient reporting of their activities. It was pointed out in news editorials that the conservation story is almost as important to the average club as the activities themselves. In the public is especially important in instances where local news media lack the personnel to effectively cover club activities.

Weed Blanket

An Iowa fishery biologist, Jim Mayhew, has been traveling through parts of Black Polye-ethylene plastic placed over vegetation beds. He has found that by cutting off sunlight most species can be attained in 18 to 30 days. According to the Sports Fishing Institute, the system may be helpful in swimming bags and intensively used small ponds.

Barometer Fishing

In comparison of angler catches of mullet and bottom fishes in the Atlantic Ocean off Sandy Hook, New York, it was concluded that wind direction and velocity, cloud cover or time of day had no significant correlation with catches by hobby fishermen. It was concluded that the best catches usually came when the barometer was down—the exact opposite of the usual fresh water fishermen report.

Bald Eagle Sanctuary

Fifty-four landholders, representing more than a half million acres of random lands in the Prairie region of south central Flor­ida have cooperated in the establishment of a huge bald eagle sanctuary.

They have entered into an agreement with the Florida Audubon Society to maintain their properties in such a manner that bald eagles will be safeguarded in that area for the future.

New Books Reviewed

This month two books have come to our attention that should be included in the library of retriever owners.

"Retriever Trial Handbook" by Edie Heller. This little gem is a must for anyone interested in retriever field trials, whether it be an old pro or a beginning amateur. The book is loaded with advice, field trial rules that will save the beginner questions and end debates between more experienced campers.

"Dog's HUNTING" published by the National Amateur Retriever Club includes the activity of tens of amateur Retriever Trials. This 200 page hard bound book includes the performances of each retriever run in every amateur stake and complete coverage of the National Retriever Trials. If you are seriously interested in Retriever field trials, then this accumulation of information should be on your shelf. Priced at five dollars, the book can be obtained by ordering from J. W. MacAssey, Smoky Hill Road, Suite 2, Denver 30, Colorado.
**Muzzle Flashes**

(Continued from page 11)

be checked by examining a seated primer under an applied straight edge--held against the light. There must not be any light-leak line when the test straight edge is placed across the base of the primed cartridge.

Even some experienced reloaders have difficulty in determining correct bullet seating depth (so that each bullet will be properly seated in its case and also be a good fit in the rifle chamber). Bob Clarke, ballistics engineer, showed me a trick that takes care of this problem. It is simplicity itself.

Take a dummy (empty, unfired) cartridge case and insert bullet into its case mouth and neck just far enough to hold it in place. Then feed the cartridge into the rifle and close its bolt or breech block. This simple step will automatically seat the bullet to correct depth. You then proceed to load your reloading tool's bullet-seating depth gauge to correspond to that of the master sample. It is a good idea to make this test for each rifle for which ammunition is reloaded, so that reloaded cartridges will deliver bullet points most close to the rifle’s chamber, ready to take the rifling when fired.

A good powder measure is a mandatory piece of equipment. Bob Clarke says, “To measure properly, the powder measure must own up to the user’s expectations.” The user should be able to know of any particular substance a snake won’t crawl over though they don’t progress well over smooth surfaces. It won’t take much stock in the ability of people to smell snakes. Some snake experts believe “snake smell” is more likely to be the odor of musky, decaying vegetation--something likely to be present in good snake country.

Contrary to popular opinion, snakes don’t travel in pairs, Allen says, although terrain favorable to one snake will be favorable to another. Snakes are known to congregate in cold weather.

Campers in snake country prefer to have flowers in their tents. Allen has signed a permanent snake-proof fence if you don’t want them around the house. He doesn’t have such a fence set up but the blueprints look impressive and they certainly appear snake-proof.

Most Florida hunters worry a lot more about their dogs than about themselves, where snakes are concerned. A fast ranging bird dog or foxhound moving upwind can bring from unseen snakes but we have them so we might as well live with them as safely as possible.

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 recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

APPLICANT FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Edtor, Florida Wildlife

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the listed data and species:

**SPECIES**

- Largemouth Bass
- Chain Pickerel
- Bluegill (Bream)
- Red Breast

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 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 baits, in the presence of at least one witness.

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

**APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION**

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**CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK**

THE EDITOR, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION, TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE
BOBWHITE QUAIL—Florida's most popular game bird. The general hunting season for quail opens statewide at one-half hour before
sunrise November 17, 1962. See hunting regulations for closing dates in various districts. Commission Photo By Wallace Hughes