Florida Wildlife Tracks

HINT TOE NAIL SOMETIMES VISIBLE IN DEEP TRACKS

LIVES IN SUCH PLACES AS DENSE HAMMARDROPS, OPEN PINEY WOODS, EDGES OF FORESTS, CLEARINGS IN FORESTS, DOVER AREAS IN SWAMPS AND PRAIRIES WITH PALMETTO SCRUB COVERS. LOOK FOR TRACKS IN SAND, SOFT DIRT AND MUD IN PATHS, ROADS, DITCHES, BARE SPOTS AND SHORES OF LAKES AND STREAMS.

MARKS MADE BY REMAINING WING TIPS

tracks of strutting gobbler

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Florida Wildlife Tracks

HINT TOE TOE

ABOUT 6"x

ABOUT 4"x

SIMILAR TO WILD TURKEY TRACK

INHABITS OPEN COUNTRY WITH PONDS, MARSHES, MOST COMMON ON THE KISSEMMEE PRAIRIE AND THE GRASSLANDS AND PINE PLATE OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA

LOOK FOR TRACKS IN SAND, DIRT AND MUD AROUND PONDS AND IN BARE SPOTS, PATHS AND ROADS IN PRAIRIE COUNTRY

Florida Wildlife Tracks

TOP OF FOOT RUGGY

3½ 71 2

GOBBLER LARGER THAN HEN

Lives in such places as dense hammardrops, open piney woods, edges of forests, clearings in forests, dover areas in swamps and prairies with palmetto scrub covers. Look for tracks in sand, soft dirt and mud in paths, roads, ditches, bare spots and shores of lakes and streams.

About 6"x

About 4"x

Similar to wild turkey track

Inhabits open country with ponds, marshes, most common on the kissemee prairie and the grasslands and pine plate of central and southern Florida.

Look for tracks in sand, dirt and mud around ponds and in bare spots, paths and roads in prairie country.

Florida Wildlife Tracks

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

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

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Spring-Time Turkeys

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Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Tallahassee, Florida

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

MARCH, 1963
The two points concerning the private ownership of firearms need to be established right now. One, no responsible person—whether a citizen or out of the firearms industry, sportsman or not—wants firearms to be freely used by criminals or other maladjusted members of our society. Two, by the same token, no responsible person should desire or attempt to limit the free use of sporting firearms by other responsible members of that same society.

Considering these two statements, certain factors in gun ownership should be recognized. A gun never killed anyone; robbed a bank, threatened or molested a defenseless individual. It is an instrument of destruction. To outlaw inanimate objects sometimes used in the commission of crime never has deterred the criminal. Witness the ineffectiveness of "anti-gun" laws where they exist; their only effect is to disarm the honest citizen and leave him at the mercy of the criminal who pays no attention to the law in question.

It is nothing short of ridiculous to assume that the criminal intent on armed robbery will register before the deterrent penalty. Crime is penalized by the deterrent penalty of crime. Society is misleading the criminal himself who rob a bank, threatened or molested a defenseless individual. It is an instrument of destruction. To outlaw inanimate objects sometimes used in the commission of crime never has deterred the criminal. Witness the ineffectiveness of "anti-gun" laws where they exist; their only effect is to disarm the honest citizen and leave him at the mercy of the criminal who pays no attention to the law in question.

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MUZZLE FLASHERS

Some questions and answers concerning guns, shooting and hunting

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

O N E O F T H E M O S T E NJOYED and interesting of the few pleasures associated with the editorial chores and obligations of a Gun Editor is the volume and variety of mail from readers. Many shooters write regularly, and their friendly, newsy letters are like hand-claps across the miles.

Like those emotionally perturbed souls who write Ann Landers, shooters have their problems and pet peeves, too. They are also constantly seeking technical information and tips that will improve both their equipment and performance, as the following letters and replies indicate.

Question: I enjoy your articles in FLORIDA WILDLIFE, but must take exception to your recent statement that an autoload­ ing shotgun is not suitable for use in formal trapshooting. Was this an over-sight in the preparation of material?

(A.O.S.—Hollywood)

Answer: Anyone who writes about guns has to stick pretty close to facts that apply to the majority of shooters and, of course, conditions.

Many trapshooting clubs do permit use of autoloaders, but you won't see the big-time shooters using them in serious competition, because of the bad habit of autoloaders toss­ing empty cases to the annoyance of a shooter alongside. In the same vein, reloadable shotshells are not used at Van­ dals and certain other big shoots, although popular among local clubs.

Let's consider that the average shooter who takes up formal trap­ shooting approaches the sport in seriousness. If a beginner is ad­ vised or influenced to buy a gun that may later have restricted application, he isn't going to feel too kindly about either his ad­ viser or his wasted money. For that reason, a gun editor must think in terms of (1) a shooter being able to afford only one trap­ gun, and (2) a model possessing a stainless steel barrel finished in black-blue—if you want to see how stainless steel barrels can be darkened to match other gun parts.

As for shooting qualities, stainless steel is harder but has only slightly longer barrel accuracy life when repeatedly punished by the hot, erosive gases developed by modern center fire rim­ ammunition.

Question: I believe that I'd like a rifle with a stainless steel barrel. What are the advantages and disadvantages and probable cost?

(H.S.F.—Williston)

Answer: The primary ad­ vantage of a stainless steel barrel lies in its rust resisting qualities.

Type 316 steel—a high chromium­ nickel steel—is the most common of stainless steel rifle barrel material. A blank from which a rifle barrel is made costs about six dollars more than the average alloy steel blank, and in finished form averages about 30% more in price.

Stainless steel is hard to blue, but Marlin and other gun makers have mastered the process. The most satisfactory and pleasing of the ways to give a blue-black finish to the material is by the Black Chrome method. Home application is not recommended, even where feasible. Leave finish­ ing of a stainless steel rifle barrel to the gun makers!

Examine a Marlin Model 455 bolt­action big game rifle—a model possessing a stainless steel barrel finished in black-blue—if you want to see how stainless steel barrels can be darkened to match other gun parts.

For those deer hunting trips, an adjustable rear peep sight can be fitted to the shotgun's receiver and the gun sighted-in to place shotgun slugs to desired point of impact, or buckshot loads of best patterning size. (Usually it is No. 1 Buck.)

Question: If you don't want to do the job yourself, Simmons Gun Special­ izes, Inc., 504 East 18th Street, Kansas City 8, Missouri, can do an expert job in re-threading or straightening barrels are gunsmithing services charged for on time-involved or special plus re-blue­ ing if necessary. Minimum charge runs about $8.00.

Question: If you could afford only one gun, what would it be? I am thinking in terms of an all-around gun that will give me the most practical use.

Answer: A good grade shot­ gun—preferably a 12 or 16 gauge pump or autoload­ er giver a single, fast­ aligning sighting plane, combined with sustained firepower when needed. Either pump or auto­ loader gives a single, fast­aligning sighting plane, combined with sustained firepower when needed. Either pump or auto­ loader gives a single, fast­ aligning sighting plane, combined with sustained firepower when needed. Either pump or auto­ loader gives a single, fast­aligning sighting plane, combined with sustained firepower when needed. Either pump or auto­ loader gives a single, fast­aligning sighting plane, combined with sustained firepower when needed.

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Question: What are the advantages of (1) a shooter marked with the initials A.H. or (2) a shotgun used by A. H. Kimble invented the choke system of shot pattern control for big shoots, although deer hunts are seldom a problem, especially since most rural stores and filling stations are open year round. Any tips on locating lost dogs?

(M.L.S.—Brooksville)

Answer: First, check the pub­ lic service dog pens if maintained in the area hunted, to see if some considerate hunter has not already brought your dog where he can have food and water and be convenient in mind by an­ other owner. Also give Florida Wildlife Officers and local resident hunters a description of your lost dog.

Keep in mind that many deer hunting dogs back-track after a race is over, with the idea of re­ joining their owners. If it is dark and they haven't found your dog, leave a personal message on the ground new where you last saw the dog. When you (Continued on page 30)
The first of the year I learned that the tilapia, an experimental fish the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has been working with, survived December's violent cold spell.

Introducing a new species of fish, animals or hard playing with poison as Art Hutt pointed out in a fine Florida Wildlife article on the tilapia last December.

Also known as the Nile bream, the tilapia has been under observation for some time although the fishermen people are waiting with holding widespread introduction until they know the whole story.

Primarily a tropical fish, it's unknown whether the water temperature drop the tilapia can take and for how long a time. Anyways they were still with us (over near Tampa) after the citrus leaves fell in December.

The tilapia is primarily a vegetarian and there is hope it might fill some of our unloved gizmos, and there is hope it might in the whole story. Our specific fisheries people are playing with the tilapia last December.

It's a ticklish business and there's encouragement in the fact that it was successfully transplanted to the San Francisco area, mainly because everyone there was using cut bait and derrick-type tactics—but up in Oregon they were using lighter stuff and they're doing it more now in California. If stripers take hold strongly in Florida, I hope we can do the same.

Some of Florida's finest anglers are ditch walkers and fishermen come from all over the U.S. to help.

Water Temperature

Water temperature is probably the fishing factor most often ignored by fishermen—who are inclined to go by air temperature instead.

In hot weather many bass exploit their reputations by methodically locating the coolest part of a lake and filling the stringer. In cold weather, they seek the warm spots just as assiduously.

A dozen times during my career I have promised myself that I was going to start checking water temperatures regularly. A dozen times I have given up in boredom after the fishing got good or too poor to bother with.

I am of the opinion that "Our World Underwater," a recently published book by Bill Stephens of Homestead is the layman's best text on scuba diving.

Most fishermen don't have underwater ambitions. Some anglers have a permanent prejudice against the bubbles-makers, generally justified by the result of an unhappy contact with a finite-footed delinquent.

When the scuba diving boom was new, skindiver-angler-fish found itself in the rock-throwning stage. I think that's all past now with gettable skindivers and settable skin-diving regulations.

Although I never expect to fish on their own grounds myself, I am grateful for a common-sense account of what diving is all about and Bill Stephens has provided it. I guess I am a little ashamed of how much of the author's material is brand new to me but I certainly recommend (Continued on page 21)
Successful in the field trials conducted by the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club, this dog demonstrated its abilities in a new record for field trials in Florida.

The two and one-half day trial was held January 18-19-20, sanctioned by the American Kennel Club and conducted under their rules and standing recommendations. The trial ground located on the spacious farms of the Yelda Dairy at Tallahassee, set a stage for field trial conditions that would equal or surpass any in the nation.

The entry included some of the nation’s best retrievers, field trial champions, amateur field trial champions, Florida champions, as well as dogs from Canada. While the entry predominated in labradors, there were golden retrievers and a scattering of Chesapeake Bay retrievers, entered in the five stakes.

If required to pick a top dog from these entered, I would have to say that Florida’s own amateur field trial champion, Maillard of Devil’s Garden, owned and handled by Dick Johnson of Miami, would receive such honors on the basis of his second place in the Open All-age and his win in the Amateur All-age.

First Test—The first test was run in a field and consisted of two birds that were thrown one in front of the other to make the test an over and under. The first bird was a dead pheasant, thrown to land in a field of standing corn about seventy-five yards in front of the dog. The second bird, a pheasant was shot to fall in standing corn about thirty yards in front.

The far fall was difficult for the dogs to mark due to the trees surrounding the back of the corn field. As both falls were marked falls, the dogs were required to retrieve both birds without assistance from the handlers. On this test two dogs broke on the near bird, and some dogs did require signals from their handlers in locating the far bird. Twenty dogs returned for the second test with the two breaking dogs being eliminated.

Second Test—The second test consisted of a water double.

COON HOUND BENCH SHOW AND NIGHT HUNT

The Northwest Florida Coon Hunters Association conducted a bench show and night hunt January 4-5 at Port St. Joe. The show accommodated 117 entries into two categories, one for grade hounds and the other for registered hounds. The bench show selected the best male and female hounds in both grades and registered classes.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1963
SPRINT
FISHING
FOR SHAD

By ART HUTT

In a typical TV western, there are always the good guys and the bad guys. And there's a similar situation regarding shad in Florida.

On the villainous side are the gizzard shad and the threadfin shad, both of them rough and unpopular customers able to take over an entire lake to the detriment of the native species and to the sport-fishing. These undesirables live out their life cycle in fresh-water.

The "good guys" include the American shad (Alosa sapidissima), Alabama shad (Alosa alabamensis), and the hickory shad (Alosa mediocris), all sporting specimens valued for their roe and their flesh. These fish, along with the common sturgeon—all salt-water fish which enter fresh-water, spawn—are under investigation by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in a project sponsored by Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Funds. James M. Barkuloo is the project leader.

Between the shad and the sturgeon, the primitive one is enjoying the least limelight since there is no extensive sport-fishing method developed for this fish as yet. D-J Funds are used to advance those fish which can be taken by hook and line, so until some enthusiasm and techniques are developed for the sturgeon's capture, the project leader is casting only a casual eye on this fish.

The common sturgeon, Acipenser oxyrhynchus, does make a spring spawning run into the rivers of western Florida in some numbers; however, ranging through the drainage systems of the Suwannee, Yellow, Econfina, Ochlockonee, and the Apalachicola. If there is a hotspot, it would be at the tailrace of the Jim Woodruff Dam.

Other than an average weight of 72 to 150 pounds (sometimes up to 300), you can recognize the sturgeon if you ever get one on the end of your line by its elongated snout, rows of bony plates along its body, and a tail in which the upper extension is longer than the lower. Unhappily for all concerned, it takes a sturgeon about twenty years to reach sexual maturity. Its bottom-feeding habit and ventral, tube-like mouth make it a difficult customer to hook legally. Not so with the shad, though. In the St. Johns, sport-fishing for shad started back in 1942 and is now a popular and highly-developed art. Through the publicity of a Central Florida newspaper, shad fishing is "big-business" with this current season's activity expected to pour close to a million dollars into the state's economy.

The bulk of the shad in the St. Johns are the American shad (also called white shad), with about a 2 or 3% hickory shad population thrown in for good measure.

The American shad is blue or blue-green on its back and upper sides shading into a silvery color below. There's a dark spot above the gill cover, and commonly a suggestion of others in a row behind it. The bottom edge of the shad tapers to a sharp edge. Northern specimens grow bigger—up to 21 pounds—but the St. Johns sport-caught variety don't get much, if at all, above the 5½-pound mark for the simple reason that most of these fish die after spawning while the fish native north of North Carolina live—and continue to grow—4-5 feet again.

The shad enter the St. Johns at Mayport, and those that evade the commercial nets there and at Jacksonville, Palatka, and Velaka, continue upstream (south) some 160 miles to the spawning grounds, with about 85% of them spawning between the Osteen Bridge and Lake Harney—a stretch of the St. Johns directly east of Sanford. It takes them about 7-8 days to travel this distance. Once in the spawning area, they loaf along covering about 1½ miles per day until the actual spawning.

The female selects a shallow bar to lay her eggs—from 116,000 to 660,000—and the male performs his fertilizing function. These eggs slowly settle to the bottom to be bounced along by the current until they hatch some 6-8 days later. The young spend the summer in the river, nibbling on insect larvae, minute plant growth, and as the fish grow bigger, on small fish and crustaceans.

By fall, they're about 5-inches (continued next page)
Shad, for example, are sensitive to dredging and have been pushed upriver to their last natural spawning grounds from Sanford south. A 12-foot-deep channel from Jacks­ville to Sanford has practically eliminated shad fishing in this stretch, and most notably in the Blue Springs area. And the shad doesn’t respond to hatchery help. In the time interval between 1935 and 1956, millions of eggs were hatched and the fry released—without any evidence that this supply increased the population in the slightest. Crowe’s energies are currently directed against the proposed “missile canal” linking Orlando and Cape Canaveral, the route of the proposed canal to follow the St. Johns right through the shad spawning area. Crowe suggests that the canal go overland to bypass this particular area and to avoid the ruination of the shad fishing industry, which, sport­fishing alone considered, brings about $1,000,000 into the state each year. Crowe admits the over­land route would cost about $1,000,000 more, but the figure is relat­ively insignificant compared to the income derived from shad through the years.

Crowe, by the way, bases his figures on the national average spent by sport fisherman multi­plied by the fisherman days spent fishing for shad (30,000 man­days) in the area involved in the dredging. The current problem may be resolved by the time this article is printed. It is included, however, to demonstrate that the preserva­tion of a resource, even though worth much money to the state—

S. B. “Jim” Crowe, a trans­planted Tarheel who owns and operates Crowe’s Camp five miles east of Sanford, has had much to do with the promotion and the protection of this fish. It’s a favor­ite subject with him—especially since the low water of 1954-1955 when he realized that the bass fishing in the St. Johns could be a here­today, gone­tomorrow prop­osition in his stretch of the river. His camp last year accounted for 44% of the central Florida newspaper, magazine, books, reports. Of this number, one was a 5½-pounder, and about 18 weighed over 5 pounds. Crowe estimates he has seen over 250,000 sport-caught shad since 1948. Of this number, one

The best places to find shad on Florida’s West Coast are in the Apalachicola River Drain­age, especially at the tailrace of the Jim Woodruff Dam, and below the dam at the Dead Lakes and in the drainage of the Chipola River and Chippola Cut-off ½ mile south of the Dead Lakes Dam. With the exception of the Panhandle, Bark­ullo has netted shad “sufficient” to support a competitive fishery. Shad are an ideal tourist fish—that they

The “bad­gays” of the Shad family in Florida include the Giant Shad, a large, and the Three­dina Shad, below. Shad are migratory fish. They are not edible, and often over-populate lakes, to the detri­ment of sport fishing.

Shad, for example, are sensitive to dredging and have been pushed upriver to their last natural spawning grounds from Sanford south. A 12-foot-deep channel from Jack­sville to Sanford has practically eliminated shad fishing in this stretch, and most notably in the Blue Springs area. And the shad doesn’t respond to hatchery help. In the time interval between 1935 and 1956, millions of eggs were hatched and the fry released—without any evidence that this supply increased the population in the slightest. Crowe’s energies are currently directed against the proposed “missile canal” linking Orlando and Cape Canaveral, the route of the proposed canal to follow the St. Johns right through the shad spawning area. Crowe suggests that the canal go overland to bypass this particular area and to avoid the ruination of the shad fishing industry, which, sport-fishing alone considered, brings about $1,000,000 into the state each year. Crowe admits the over­land route would cost about $1,000,000 more, but the figure is relat­ively insignificant compared to the income derived from shad through the years.

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FLORIDA OSPREY

A familiar sight to folks who go fishing or boating on any of Florida's many fresh water lakes—or beach-combing, sunbathing or fishing along the coasts, is the OSPREY (Fig. 1), commonly known as "Fish Hawk." The diet of this large member of the hawk and eagle family of birds consists entirely of fish, both fresh and salt water varieties. Slow-moving fish that swim close to the surface are the kind nearly always taken.

It is quite a sight to watch the Osprey fishing—hovering on rapidly beating wings at a height of 25 to 100 feet over water, scanning the water below for a possible catch. Opportunity presented, it folds its wings and dives quickly into the water, feet first, to seize its finny prey. The force of its drop often carries it below the surface. Then, with vigorous action, it rises into the air again, shakes the water from its plumage, positions the fish head forward, and flies off to its nest or a nearby perch.

The Osprey does not always catch a fish the first dive. It may take many tries before a fish is taken. It will also take the "easy way" by picking up dead fish thrown from boats or found lying along the shore. Studies of its food habits reveal that no harm is done to important food and game fishes.

The large, bulky nest of the Osprey (Fig. 3) resembles that of the Bald Eagle, and many folks mistakenly call them "eagle nests." Ospreys usually nest in dead trees, eagles in live ones. Its nest may be located over water or along shorelines, and at any height—lowdown, like atop the mangrove clump (Fig. 6) in the Everglades, or high up in a dead tree (Fig. 7) like in northwest Florida's Lake Talquin.

Long-winged, the Osprey has a wingspread of 4½ to 6 feet, and in flight shows a characteristic "crook" to its wings (Fig. 4). Its white underparts identify it from the dark-breasted eagle. Its eggs (Fig. 5) number 2 or 3, rarely 4. They vary in color from white to buffy, marked sparingly or heavily with dark brown. Incubation time is 38 days. Nearly full grown young Ospreys (Fig. 2) resemble their parents, except for distinct light-edges to the dark feathers of their wings and back.
SPRING-TIME TURKEYS

By LOVETT WILLIAMS
Game Management Division

Turkey simply by description of the land and timber itself. This is due to the abundance of wild turkey in various parts of the state not limited so much by the woodland quality, as by the quality of local timber management.

Wild turkey survive in a variety of situations, but thrive only where they receive some protection from man and his extensive activities. Large swamps and difficult terrain have offered some natural protection over the years, but conditions are such now that turkeys are more apt to find protection and inhabit the upland areas.

The greatest portion of better turkey hunting lands are now posted. Thus the first hurdle for the would-be gobbler hunter this spring — and becoming increasingly the most difficult—is to find a suitable place to hunt. Several Wildlife Management Areas and the National Forests offer good prospects for spring-time hunting, and careful local inquiry will be the best bet to seek out better turkey areas.

Once access to a known turkey area is gained, a few rules concerning the birds’ habits and preferences will be helpful. For practical purposes you may assume that wild turkey use the same range in fall and spring.

The “gobbling” of older gobblers during the springtime make them easy to locate.

March in Florida. The height of gobbling and mating activity varies with the advance of spring and there is a latitudinal difference in Florida, but that difference is not significant in the portion of the State which will be open this spring. In northern Florida they continue to gobble well into April.

Perhaps nine-tenths of the gobbling is done during the first two hours of morning. They usually gobble before leaving the roosting tree in the morning and continue for awhile on the ground while being spied by the hens.

A dead give-away of the roosting location is the habit of some gobblers to gobble a time or two upon going to roost.

Hunting tips for the special spring gobbler shooting season

SPRING-GOBLER HUNTING—a relatively unknown sport in Florida—has been enjoyed by hunters throughout the rest of the south for many years. This spring northeastern Florida joins the northwest region for the special March 30, through April 14, 1963, spring gobbler hunting season.

For many not acquainted with this phase of spring hunting, including the veteran fall turkey hunter who hasn’t tried this particular brand of sport, a few tips are outlined.

Turkey Woods

One cannot recognize woodlands which are inhabited by wild turkeys by old fields and open areas the year-round, but old gobblers especially like open areas during the strutting season. They usually avoid low tangles of briars and brush in favor of the more open woods and trails. These habits are of minor importance in the spring; however, when wild turkey are so easily located by their energetic gobbling.

CALLING TECHNIQUES

During most of the fall and winter seasons turkeys seldom come to even the most perfectly executed yelping (or even other real turkeys) except when they are separated from their flocks. Old gobblers are next to impossible to call up in the fall under any circumstances. Spring calling is another matter; the flocks need not be scattered for successful spring calling and old gobblers will readily investigate the call of a hen in his vicinity.

The turkey’s gobbling serves two functions, to summon his harem of hens for mating, and to advertise his presence and himself as the possessor of a territory with its complement of hens.

Except in spring the adult gobbler takes no interest in associating with turkeys other than a few old bachelors like himself, and pays no attention to the yelping of turkeys or turkey hunters. In the spring, he becomes more social minded, as evidenced by the function of his gobbling, and will then answer the calls of other turkeys by gobbling and often investigates turkey noises in his domain.

Most turkey hunters already know how to call spring gobblers, without fully realizing it. The most often imitated turkey sound is the plain four or five syllable yelp of the adult hen. Though expert fall turkey calling requires a large vocabulary from whistling to squaking, the spring gobble hunter can get by very nicely with only the simple short hen yelp heard in the barn yard.

Turkey Habits

Turkeys do most of their gobbling in early morning during the springtime make them easy to locate.

The “gobbling” of older gobblers during the springtime make them easy to locate.

The plains four or five yelp of the adult hen is all it takes to attract a spring-time gobbler.

Turkeys are bewilderingly co-
centric in their gobbling. Some select silent gobblers until they get the right break. There are days when all the toms in the woods seem to gobble all day long. Other days none can be heard. Every turkey hunter has his pet theory on when and how much gobblers gobble, and no doubt you will have yours after a spring of hunting.

Gobblers are relatively easy to locate in their roosting trees in spring because of their noisy habits. Gobbling. The old tom and in predawn darkness are difficult to distinguish from gobblers.

The best way the hunter and elements of all winter are nesting during the spring gobbler season and should not be shot, even at the risk your gobbler will escape before you can identify his beard. Even the youngest gobbler has a prominent beard in April. Every hunter worth his pickerel has let a big gobbler or old buck pass rather than chance shooting an illegal hen or doe.

Listen for gobbling in turkey woods at daybreak and near sun-down, and thus locate where he will roost. Slip in as near his tree as you dare and call him to your blind.

**Roosting Habits**

Both hens and gobblers select similar types of roosting places throughout the year. Gobblers have a greater tendency to select pines than the younger toms. Though the actual site may change from day to day, turkeys often roost in the same vicinity for weeks. More often than not, during the fall, a flock of young turkeys will roost over a pond or slough.

Old gobblers use more imagination in selecting their roosting sites and will frequently specialize during gobbling time, roost where they are least expected.

**Flocking Habits**

As has already been mentioned, adult gobblers do not consort with hens except during the breeding season. At times, they will flock with feeding hens, but usually the hen will not leave the roost with the old gobbler. He is left pretty much to himself during the rest of the day except for the sometimes company of one or more appreciative young gobblers.

The yearling tom, with beard a blunt four inches, is said to take no part in the company of the old gobblers until sometimes gobble and strut, but associate with hens during the spring more or less as a result of their following the old toms around.

Very early in the spring, before the special hunting season opens, gobblers are frequently found in small groups. Usually—but not always—the gobbler bands have broken up by March and the breeding toms do not associate with the young gobblers until the mating season is over.

If the young toms in the neighborhood are not running with an old gobbler or two, they usually form a flock of their own and have nothing to do with hens.

In summary, there are basically three social units in the spring turkey population: flocks of hens; not only when the gobblers are absent; mixed flocks of hens and adult gobblers, sometimes with the company of one or more young toms while following the adult gobblers; and flocks made up of young gobblers only.

The most widely employed autumn technique for turkey hunting in Florida is "roosting" a flock and either sneaking under timber. In this case, hunting technique for turkey hunting—being fall and the turkeys not in Florida is "roosting" a them at dusk, or returning next morning under the cloak of darkness.

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The social trait of primary concern to the spring hunter is the fact that gobblers of all ages will often answer when a hunter investigates the yelping of other turkeys. Thus they can be called up without first being scanted.

**Hunting Blinds**

The use of a specially built blind depends upon the hunter's approach to turkey hunting. The hunter who is determined not to bust but call the gobbler to him may as well build a blind and let the old gobbler be held of his chances of being spotted by his prey.

On the other hand, some hunters prefer to call the gobblers while hunting and use whatever is available to hide in. By far, the greatest value of the blind is held by the nervous hunter who will not be still. By carefully surrounding himself with debris, logs, and limbs, he will be able to slip most unobserved, and open his thermos in the concealment of his blind.

Where palmetto fronds are available, they make very good blinds, used in conjunction with a few logs and other debris. One of the best blinds is a dead tree broken up around his thernos in the concealment of his blind.

In short, a blind is only something to hide in, but watch for certain top with some of the branches swinging room. Be sure you can operate: 1) leave gun swinging room, 2) be sure you can get out in a hurry.

The hunter who can stay still and can spot the turkey before the turkey sees him hardly needs to be a marksmen. This is the finishing touch that gobblers of all ages will be answered and investigate the yelping of other turkeys. Thus they can be called up without first being scanted.

The two important principles of turkey shooting are related to each other by a basic mathematical law. Parachute for this illustration can be stated that the more pellets you can put in the air, the better your chances of one of two or three of them hitting where you want them. This is the same reason that prompts the turkey hunter to use his 12 gauge in lieu of his 410 in the first place. More pellets per shell.

Reduced to practical hunting terms, this means that the hunter has the best chance of killing his bird when he uses the smallest (thus the most pellets per shell) shot size available, consistent with the pellets' mission of penetration. The mission of penetration is no great task even for the smallest shot since the most vulnerable organs for instant kills are in the turkey's head and neck.

Every experienced turkey hunter I know agrees and uses shot no larger than number 5/0. Most use 6's and many use 71/2's. The use of a specially built blind depends upon the hunter's approach to turkey hunting. The point of aim is always the head and upper neck, with the shot gun the largest gauge on hand.

The rifle is not a popular weapon for wild turkey in Florida, but it can be very effective in the hands of a good hunter. It is not recommended for new turkey hunters.

Unless the head is the target, the .22 ringfire is too small for turkeys; most deer rifles are too large. The 22 hornet is good and the .22 ringfire is nearly perfect. The rule for the rule for the new hunter is that you can't shoot too high—the higher the better. The clearest kill with the rifle is achieved with a shot through the back.

It is not likely with the hunting the stamina it does, that any hunter will take every one he shoots at. The easy-going, confident, expert turkey hunter will cripple very few, and those he does cripple, he'll usually find. Never pull the trigger until you're sure of a kill. Never shoot a turkey whose legs are broken as near as he will come. Never give up the search when you think you've hit him.

After you shoot a turkey, if he manages to take wing, carefully note his exact course and keep him in sight until your turkey has approached within shooting distance. You can get out in a hurry.

The hunter who can stay still and can spot the turkey before the turkey sees him hardly needs a blind at all. But the novice should hide himself carefully.

One can be in no more helpless position than to be sitting so that the gobbling is on your extreme left side. A right-handed bunter can shoot too high—the higher the better. The clearest kill with the rifle is achieved with a shot through the back.

When a shot-at turkey takes wing, watch for dangled legs. A turkey cannot run with a broken leg and one with a broken leg cannot land in trees or run on the ground. One crippled is out there for you to find. If he is hide still as near as he will come. Never give up the search when you think you've hit him.

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Looking over the Yacht Basin at Fort Myers.

FLORIDA BOATING ADVENTURE

By ELGIN WHITE

PART 2

Fort Myers. Sanibel Island.
Naples. Marco Island. Everglades City.
Ten Thousand Islands to Flamingo

Ed Hansen is not only a fine dock master . . . he’s an excellent weather prophet. Sure enough, as he had predicted the evening before, the weather moved in and the next day we saw nothing but rain. Careful Charlie took advantage of the opportunity to have the props replaced.

In a way, it was a blessing in disguise, as most Florida summer rains are. In the first place, the steady precipitation caused the weather to stay on a very comfortable, cool side. And secondly, in between the showers, we got a chance to look around Fort Myers.

Rain or shine, while you’re in this city, you should take the extra day or so to look around. It’s a beautiful spot, typically tropical with long lines of graceful palm trees, and a city with enough size (around 25,000) to offer all the latest conveniences, from super markets to super service stations.

In addition, take the time to visit Thomas A. Edison’s winter home in Fort Myers. It is a visit into history and many of the master inventor’s greatest contributions are on exhibit. You would be interested to note, too, that Edison’s home was one of the first prefabricated buildings in America. It was brought to Fort Myers in sections by schooner in 1886.

The following day ol’ sol shone through and we got under way again. Sarita gave us ample evidence that she is not only a handy first mate, she is a real artist with an alcohol stove. She whipped up a magnificent breakfast while we moved at a snail’s pace into the Caloosahatchee.

On the way out towards the Gulf of Mexico, we saw one of Florida’s most attractive lures. As we passed red marker 106 we noticed on the starboard bank the beautiful new homes and boat basins marking Cape Coral, one of several planned community developments that are attracting many new residents to the Sunshine State.

I’d like to make a point here. When obtaining charts for this cruise, be certain you obtain the very latest ones. The chart Charlie had of this area (1255) had not been corrected and the markers have all been changed in the past year. Just be certain you have the latest charts. We were getting a little buggy reading these markers hind part forward.

Johnny slowed us down a bit to get some color shots made, and then he suggested we run up by Sanibel Island before heading south to Everglades City.

“That’s one of the most ‘tropical’ of all our tropical settings,” he said.

Sanibel is noted for being a shell collector’s paradise. Some of the most exotic shells in the entire world are found along Sanibel’s shores, and tourists flock to the South Sea looking island for shell pickin’, fishing, and just plain relaxing in tropical luxury.

After we enjoyed the lushness of Sanibel Island, we headed south. We set a course of 102 degrees from red flashing range number two leading out of San Carlos Bay. This course took us on a 20-mile run through the Gulf of Mexico to Gordon’s Pass, the entrance into Naples.

Because of a low pressure area that had moved north, the Gulf was still in an angry mood, and we found the waves kicking up pretty well. Charlie’s boat was solid, though, and we powered on through, moving fairly close into shore as we neared Naples.

We passed the new 1560-foot Naples Beach fishing pier, and were given waves of welcome by the anglers aboard. This is one of the largest fishing piers in the world, and fishermen are high in their praise of the structure.

The white range at Gordon’s pass (No. 1) led us into the channel going into Naples. We kept a close watch on the chart (1254) as the narrow leading south into the Ten Thousand Islands were completely surrounded by mangrove islands.

When we reached red marker 71, we turned south. This route was the actual beginning of that vast wilderness country. The Ten Thousand Islands (don’t try to (continued on next page)
continued from preceding page)

count 'em, there are probably more than that) are small, mangrove and palm rooted plots of land that burst through the Gulf waters in jagged shapes. Some of the islands are quite high, with white, sandy beaches.

The channel was well marked through this maze of greenery as we moved slowly towards Marco. We took an easterly turn at red marker #1 that guided us into the wilds of the 'Glades and from Whitewater Bay into Coot Bay. If your draft is more than three feet, be extremely careful leaving the canal and entering Coot Bay (check charts). The whole area, as a matter of fact, is quite shallow, but can be traversed. When we reached the last marker in Coot Bay, we had to navigate with a twenty mule team. He is loaded with interesting stories and history before you reach the dock. Ted Smallwood’s dock is the only place in con­

ative Florida waters that have become an a­

tendant at the dock made us feel like a Presidential on a whistle stop tour.

The facilities at Flamingo, from the modern, 150-boat marina to the museum, restaurant, and motel accommodations, are outstanding. This facility has only been in operation a little over two years, and though a frisky lady named Hurricane Donna paid a striking visit here last September, there is no sign of her except for the stripped trees and greenery that lined the canal on our approach.

Flamingo is becoming an extremely popular resort for boat­

ers, and also for fishermen. The area leads into vast Florida Bay, and from there to the Florida Keys and beyond. Because of its proximity to this wilderness boating wonderland, there is every possibility that Flamingo will become one of the nation’s most popular boat basins. It will if a lot of yachtmen get the urge to make the trip we just made. Though we did it in four days, to really see and enjoy the country, you should take at least a week. Do some stopping overnight in the wilderness itself. Sleep aboard or camp out. This is fabulous, wild, native country. You can’t only enjoy cruising these waters, but if you take the time to fish the area, you will have tales to tell the grandchildren that you wouldn’t more than dream about now.

This is one of the most exciting and interesting boat cruises we have ever made. The route is well charted, facilities are spaced just right, and it is truly an adventure of exploiting America’s last frontier, the enigmatic and marvelous Florida Everglades.

you can go. Smallwood’s dock is on the right.

After a very pleasant overnight stay in Everglades City, we pulled out early the next morning for the final leg of our journey. This would take us back into the Gulf of Mexico for a 24-mile run to the entrance of Little Shark River —right in the heart of Everglades wilderness.

We left Indian Key light (entrance to channel into Everglades) and set a true reading of 148 degrees. We could have moved right along the shoreline but it could get sticky at low tide. Even as far out as three-four miles, there are sand and oyster bars that could cause some trouble. So, we stayed on our course, which never placed us more than five miles off shore.

If Charlie ever wanted to give up dentistry, he could be a navigator. His reading of 148 landed us right on white range Number 1 leading into Little Shark River. We made good time, because this particular day the Gulf was as smooth as silk, which she is more often than not.

From Little Shark River, the channel was well marked into Whitewater Bay. This is an immense spread of water, completely dotted with the mangrove islands which make up this country. But, again, you must stay close in channel. A wander here or there will land you high and dry.

The route was well marked, though mid-way through White­

water it is a little difficult to pick up the markers without field glasses. They blend into the low­

ly shrub scenery. There is a small canal leading from Whitewater Bay into Coot Bay. If your draft is more than three feet, be extremely careful leaving the canal and entering Coot Bay (check charts). The whole area, as a matter of fact, is quite shallow, but can be traversed.

We arrived at Ted Smallwood’s dock to turn around. This facility 1-

Equipment into the entrance of Little Shark River and set a true reading of 148 degrees. We could have moved right along the shoreline but it could get sticky at low tide. Even as far out as three-four miles, there are sand and oyster bars that could cause some trouble. So, we stayed on our course, which never placed us more than five miles off shore.

Downtown Everglades consists of a drug store, filling station, and the popular Rod and Gun Club. This place was also closed for the summer, with a scheduled re-opening set for October 25.

Most of the commercial life of Everglades City revolves around fishing. Charter boats, party boats, and individual guides are available to take real fishing buffs or starboard and we’d have had an argument with an oyster bar. Charlie had had enough of that part of the country, you should— at least three days, to really see and enjoy the 

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(continued from preceding page)

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The channel was well marked through this maze of greenery as we moved slowly towards Marco. We took an easterly turn at red marker #1 that guided us into the port.

Marco Island was a gas stop for us, and Charlie again went through his routine. While we were waiting, Johnny, Sarita, and I went ashore to get a look at the Island. This place is quite similar to Sanibel. Marco and Sanibel are probably the only places in con­

imturned—United States that have a true South Sea Island look. If you weren’t absolutely positive you were in Florida, you would almost swear you were dreaming and were actually in the South Seas. The stop at Marco is a good one, as the old dock and supply store is quite picturesque and quaint. Marco Inn is closed during the summer months, opening in the fall. This is an excellent vacation spot, and Bob Whittaker will prove a most amiable host.

We moved on from Marco, keeping a strict mid-channel course through the well marked Islands. A little wandering to port or starboard and we’d have had an argument with an oyster bar. Charlie had had enough of that in Lake Okeechobee, and was especially careful. And when Charlie Miller is especially care­

ful, you just can’t get any more careful!

We arrived at Ted Smallwood’s dock in Everglades City late that afternoon. Everglades City is the “last outpost,” so to speak, of civilization before you reach the bridge. That’s as far as

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1963

25
THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS

By ERNEST SWIFT
National Wildlife Federation

Any attempt to project the next hundred years requires an analysis of the past and present. Except for occasional warning cries last in the tumult of falling trees, forest fires, the booming guns of commercial hunters and a million plows, little could be called "conservation" was known or practiced during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Like a child learning, but that a stove is hot, the people of this nation first had to burn themselves. Not until the past few decades has "conservation" become synonymous with "management," "restoration," and "preservation."

To foresee what the next hundred years will bring is a virtual impossibility. Will wars consume our resources like a bear eating honey? Will man be able to use resources for constructive or destructive purposes? Will the United Nations succeed in social and political endeavors? But life must be premised on the positive and optimistic assumptions that we will survive atomic and biological weapons, and that the United Nations will go forward to accomplish the objectives it has set.

The next hundred years would be inadequate time to cut through to population increases and their demands. Despite credible advances, we still see soil erosion much too prevalent to keep a good supply of water, with underground sources dwindling; streams are still polluted with silt, industrial and municipal wastes; forests have been cut and overcut. As oil and ore deposits give out in one place, new explorations give false hopes of an eternal supply of a nonrenewable resource at some other point of the globe. For fish we are now systematically tapping the great seas as the final source of supply. Is this a hopeless picture? If it is not, the important question is, where do we as individuals fit into the future conservation and rehabilitation?

In the history of man, unexpected inventions or a renaissance of the spirit have changed the trend of events beyond expectations. The use of atomic energy poses great possibilities which would reduce dam construction and might even develop processes to create a substitute for ore. A pessimist, however, could easily call attention to failures and paint a gloomy picture in meeting the problems of the day. At that point we must consider the greatest "if" in the future of conservation—the reaction of man to his environment and to his neighbors. It has been wisely said that conservation is no longer a pleasant hobby, but a matter of life and death. But, whose life is involved here? How long before we realize that it is our life and not someone else's in China or Europe? Waste is not a problem for us. We do not only take up our own lives but surely will be visited.

The Second Annual Camporee will be held at the Youth Camp, March 22, 23, & 24. Last year 71 persons attended the session and believe me the weather was something cool! We hope this year March will usher in plenty of sun. The League and Game Commission extends an invitation to all clubs and their advisors to come and enjoy their get-together. Don't forget the dates. What we would really like to see is every club represented. There will be appetizing meals and good conversation about conservation of course.

Deane Mather Club

Gene Gallant was in the other day, he's the senior advisor to the Deane Mather Club and one of the first appointees to the Adult Advisory Council. He tells me that the club is being reorganized. So many of its members are growing up. Age level for members will be 14-16. He also told me that the Wildfleather Summer Manual that he will be writing will be finished within the next month or two. This should be a must for anyone interested in camping and survival. We'll let you know more about this manual as it develops.

WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

Campers facts and schedules for March.

News from clubs around the state.

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

A TRIP THROUGH THE Ocala Na-

tional Forest or to our Ever-

glades National Park is a breath-

able experience. Boating en-

thusiasts should take to our inland waters, for some exceptional areas and parks should be more frequently visited. For every recreational need there is a place to find it in Florida. Let us keep Florida beau-

tiful and keep it green.

This we try to do in the op-

eration of the Game Commission's Youth Camp at Lake Eaton. We like to think our young campers feel a little closer to Nature and understand in some part her peculiarities.

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Earlier in this month another important meeting will be held. It is the American Camping Association Regional Conference, to be held at Longing at the Methodist Youth Camp. The Florida section of the ACA will be hosts to the Region 4 conference held March 6, 7, & 8. This one will be the "big" one. The program offers many interesting speakers and workshops. For those of you in camping—you can't miss it. Look forward to seeing all of you.

Our Twelfth Annual Encampment is well on its way and will be here before we realize it. We started in January advising our contacts that applications for summer encampment are now being accepted. If you are a specialist at waterfront, nature, firearms, canoeing, and others, please write to our Ocala office.

Election Results

Received a report the other day from the South Dade Optimist Junior Conservation Club listing their newly elected officers. President, G. Chase Edwards, III; vice-president, Tom Kelly, secretary, Pat Anderson; board of directors, Terry Pecora and Joe Kelly.

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Exchanges Award

Mrs. W. S. Miller, organizer and leader of the first girls conserva-

tion club in Central Florida, was honored by the Bartow Exchange Club at its annual banquet with its first annual Golden Deeds Award.

Mrs. Miller has received a number of statewide awards for con-

servation, forestry, and beautifi-

cation work and has won particu-

lar recognition by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Flor-

ida Federation of Women's Clubs, Florida Wildlife Federation through its Kelly Awards, Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and Florida Youth Conservation Club League.

Congratulations from all of us!

Leesburg Election Results

Named officers of the Leesburg Junior Wildlife Conservation Club are as follows. Bisignano, vice-president; Charles Jamison: secretary; Brady Ellison; and director, Bruce Sanford. The club meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (continued on page 29).
STATE-WIDE TAGGED FISH DERBY

Fish in Florida waters will be sporting valuable money tags again in 1963, it was announced with the drawing of the first Schlitz $500,000 Florida Fishing Derby—the third of the popular recreation-and-research event.

Conducted with the cooperation of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida State Board of Conservation, the derby is sponsored and financed by the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company. For fishermen the derby means added fun and lucrative awards; for scientists, it means increased data concerning fishing that will be used in the study of fish populations.

"Schlitz is delighted to cooperate once again with Florida fish and conservation officials in presenting the 1963 Florida Fishing Derby," Robert A. Uhlein, Jr., company president, said.

"The popularity of this annual event among Florida residents and tourists alike has exceeded our expectations. We sincerely hope the third fishing derby in 1963 will be even more successful and the research benefits to the state even more fruitful," said Uhlein.

The 1963 derby, with awards again ranging from $25 to $10,000, will follow the pattern of the previous two derbies.

However, certain innovations will be introduced in 1963 to provide greater incentives to fishermen and thus increase enriched data for fish researchers.

For instance, all uncaught "old" fish from the 1961 and 1962 derbies which are brought in during the 1963 derby will be paid at least $25. Further, a substantial number of these "old" fish will be designated for Special Conservation Awards of $500 and $1,000. Previously, "old" fish were worth only $50 except for a number of special awards. It is hoped that this special feature many fish which have been at liberty long will be brought in for the benefit of fish research studies.

For another thing, the dates of the derbies in the different geographical zones have been changed to take advantage of periods of greatest fishing pressure and to coincide with the maximum possible with tourist seasons in different areas, and the time periods have been extended.

The derby will run for four months in each of the four zones instead of just three months per zone as in previous derbies.

Opening date of the derby was February 1, 1963 (Zones 1 and 2). Specific zone dates and tag designations for those zones are as follows:

ZONE 1—Southeast Florida: February, March, April, May. Fresh water tags carry prefix F, and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 31, and tag number.

ZONE 2—Southwest Florida: (running concurrently with Zone 1): February, March, April, May. Fresh water tags carry prefix F, and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 32, and tag number.

ZONE 3—Central Florida: April, May, June, July. Fresh water tags carry prefix G, and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 33, and tag number.

ZONE 4—Northeast Florida: May, June, July, August. Fresh water tags carry prefix H, and tag number. Salt water tags carry prefix number 34, and tag number.

Approximately 10,000 tagged fish will be released throughout the state. Exact sites of release are not disclosed, but fish tagging teams concentrate on popular fishing areas in each zone, both fresh and salt water.

Values of the 1963 fish will be $25, $50, $100, $1,000 and $10,000. There will be one $10,000 fish released in each zone.

State officials concerned with fish research and conservation expressed gratification that the derby will be repeated in 1963.

John W. Woods, Chief, Fisheries Division, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said the Schlitz Derby "offers the opportunity for more intensive re-evaluation and research, to make it possible to accelerate special projects in fish management areas and to push work on experimental species such as snook (Nile Perch), a fast-growing imported fish with which the Commission has already done much work.

Robert M. Ingle, Director of Research of the Florida State Board of Conservation (salt water zones), also said that the continuation of the Schmitz program, we can push ahead with work that we have already inaugurated and touch some of the other ones that we have planned that tagging of fish of the "near" offshore reefs (which are accessible to small-boat owners) will be included.

Dr. K. J. Brown, chief of the Study of offshore migratory fish, such as the bonita, is also plans. D. J. Miller, sales manager of the Schlitz Fish Division with headquarters at the company’s Tampa brewery, pointed out that tagged fish caught must be brought to a Schlitz wholesaler, who will check the tag number with Schlitz Tampa headquarters to determine its cash value and who will write a certifying note on the tagged fish to the two state agencies for their research programs.

All Florida fishing regulations must be complied with during the derby. Both Florida residents and visitors are eligible.

"Pre-caught" fish and all tagged fish caught before the opening of the derby in any zone should be turned in immediately to Schlitz wholesalers. Fisherman emphasized that the drawing of tag numbers determines the values of tags, payment for these "pre-caught" fish will be made just as if they were caught during the official four-month period of the derby in the zone.

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Large numbers of pre-caught fish were reported in the 1962 derby.

All told, in the 1962 derby some 2,000 Schlitz tagged fish were snagged for total catches totaling $54,000. Two of the $10,000 fish caught in 1962—one (a bass) by Ned English of Tampa and one (salt water drum) by John Beaman of Daytona—were worth $10,000 each.

Camp Crafts Program

We are very pleased to announce that our Youth Conservation Camp this year will also offer a craft program in nature crafts. Entry will be placed on cre­ativity. Instructors will stimu­late interest in the use of natural supplieS. Recognition will be given to all projects completed by the camper. More about this in a later issue of the magazine.

Random Thoughts

Got a pleasant surprise or two in the Radiation Alert card from Madison Clark, USAF, one of the original mem­bers of the new Optimist Club in Miami (1962). Charlene Musgrove, a past member of the Optimist Club in the Bay County now lives in West Palm Beach. Letter from Ruth McIlveen, an invitation to partici­pate in a panel discussion on con­servation practices in Panama City. George Whilfield dropped in to thank Mr. Wood for his training assignment. Earl Delfay is now the nay's stationed in the Great Lakes area. Terry Mun­heme is being shipped to Doarn.

Camp Procedures and Applications

Letters for 1963 camp bro­chures for 1963. Some revisions will be included. It should be off the press by the end of this month. Our new 1963 applications will also be available. Revisions have also been made in the application for reservation. Health forms for campers will remain the same.

Positions for Teachers

We are most interested in teach­ers with specializations. If you like the outdoors and camping with all of its exciting experiences, here is an opportunity to write to Conservation Education Extension Section, 2520 East Sil­ver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Fla.

Conservation Directory

So many times do we receive inquiries about organizations and official offices to write for information and literature. We suggest that the Conservation Director of your National Wildlife Federation be included in your library. Cost of the directory is very nominal. Write to the Director, N.W.F., 1216 1st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
**NEXT HUNDRED YEARS (continued from page 26)**

on our children and their chil­
dren. Will the social and eco­

gical conscience become a de­

finitive force for the good of man­
kind during the next hundred

years?

Even though our founding fathers planned well, democracies have a tendency to live from day to day. A democracy can only survive through its ability to make a discipline itself. Without self-discipline, there can be no self-government. The interest of the individ­
ual in his government is the only guarantee that he can and will continue to govern himself.

It can be said that every day and every action is a cross­
roads in itself. We can drift and evade and sink into oblivion, or we can face up to our problems. Success depends upon intelligent and dynamic action without realistic planning will not succeed.

The safeguarding of natural re­

sources and their manage­
ment is no longer a community affair. Success lies in local, state, national, and international coop­
eration. But when problems of this large, the question again can be righted: Just where does the individual fit in?

When each of us begins to real­
ize that all of nature belongs to everyone alive today and also to the coming generations, then we can hope for a public renaissance of the spirit which will sustain us on our activities in a new form—a social awareness by everyone which will attract those who are wasteful.

This simply means that all of us must begin to realize that not only the air we breathe, the water in the lakes, and the wildlife of the fields and forests belong to everyone, but that in its truest sense, everyone has a real stake in our soil, total water resources, minerals, and forests regardless of who owns or controls them at the moment. This does not mean that any "private rights" must be taken away and given to the public for temporary use, but it does mean that methods must be found and practiced that will make people, and especially the youth of the nation, aware of the importance of these problems in relation to their future well-being.

Even as the last hundred years saw public attempts at preserva­tion turn to a wider concept of conservation, so also I believe a new trend toward social restoration must arise to embody means and a paying proposition.

This brings us to the crux of most anti-conservation activities today—the need and desire for economic gain at the present moment. Somehow we must find a way to make it a part of our social position for temporary owners to use good conservation practices a necessity and a paying proposition.

Fishing

(continued from page 9)

The book, which contains all of the delights of skin diving but frankly discusses the dangers. He goes all the way from buried tremendous storms to how to make good conservation practices, a necessity and a paying proposition, but it not a complete

Lately I have been toying with the idea of removing the wood fore-end and lining it with felt, or perhaps heavy-duty, glass, smooth polyethylene, bonded to the wood by oil-proof contact cement.

**WARM WATER WADING**

Some time back I weighed the demise of the "jungle boots," green canvas jobs left over from World War II and perfect gear for warm-water wading. You can't find them at the surplus stores any more, but they were better than ordinary tennis shoes because they were good and high and kept the pebbles and shells away from your feet.

I have found them "built" for the air force that are a pretty good substitute for the old jungle boots. They're held on by both laces and zippers but will more bulky than the jungle boots.

Perhaps their worst fault is that water, especially salt water, will be hard on the heavy-duty zippers that close them in front. The zippers will take a little extra care.

If you want some you can get them from H. A. Parramore Surplus Company, Mount Pleasant, Florida. They'll cost less than a dollar.

**FISHING**

Artificial For Bass

Plastic worms as usually fished are so nearly like bait that the artificial lure versus bait competition really should be turned into a 3-way race—bait versus plastic worms versus other artificial lures.

Many of the bass anglers who use the "other fellow," but by self-discipline born of an intelligent understanding of the limitations of our natural resources by each and every individual.

**HUMIDITY HIGH—WIND LOW—IF YOU MUST BURN, LET THIS BE SO!**

Plastic worms have turned the score toward artificials in numerous big-bass contests. I note that in Winter Haven's recent "national" bass contest, surface lures were way down the list in entries. The biggest of Florida bass just don't generally go for top-water stuff much as I like to fish for them that way.

I have long testified that the color of top-water bass bugs is relatively unimportant. Yellow, black and white in various combinations are the favorites everywhere I've ever fished. I cannot say that I have found a bass preference for any single bug color.

However, in Florida I find that the odds on favorite is the "bum­
blebee," a yellow and black striped bug. It has now reached the stage of popularity that it's an old standard and others don't have a fair trial. Probably lots of fly fishermen simply decide "they aren't taking bugs" if the bumblebee fails. Well, maybe they aren't.

**SETS AND TWISTS**

When a rod bends and doesn't straighten out again, it has turned into a "set." The old bamboo used to do it invariably under hard use, but the new bamboo will generally do it slightly and even glass has been known to curve a little. It takes a few thousand casts and a few hundred fish. Generaly a set doesn't hurt anything. Don't confuse it with "fatigue," which occurs when a rod begins to lose its starch. "Fatu­
gue" is simply a suffering of the action and you probably won't ever use a stick enough to cause that. It happens more with woods than with glass.

I remember a quote about an old high-bamboo that "owed its set with dignity."

Many custom rod makers are careful to place the guides on a rod in such a way as to bend it as much as nature can "spline" it and I don't know much about such things but the idea is to make the rod whip true and not more erratically at the tip.

If you want to cut things fine, they figure that a "twist" in the rod's action might throw the lure or line a little to one side.

Now when you pick up your favorite and find it is not any more a little southwest there's nothing to worry about—unless the "bend" is in a ferrule. In that case it's possible the ferrule is loose not wide enough and the rod, a state of affairs that will eventually lead to trouble.

Put even a high grade glass rod in a shallow bend and store it that way for a long time at a high temperature and you just might have a quite a hook in it. I did that one time, had to buy a new automobile, for the rod was bent and getting it in there in a couple of days. That was seven years ago and there's still a little hook.

Class, I think that's all we need to know about sets. **FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

MARCH, 1963
FISHING FOR SHAD (continued from page 15) thought, by some to be a separate species, by others to be a variety of the American shad. Except for the most minute of details, the English Cockler Spaniel, "look-alikes," and "act-alikes." And, for that matter, "bit-alikes," hitting trolled lures the same as the American shad.

One difference lies in the size. However, the "Bama shad run smaller, up to three pounds for a big female, while, for example, a 4-b.

Dogs - Hunting
(continued from page 11)
doubled marks falling with shackled ducks and pigeons. During the one day trial a classic English Cockler Spaniel came close to stealing the day and surely won the hearts of all who observed her enthusiasm and desire to retrieve. Greatford Pinch, with a kennel name of Penny, is owned by a grand lady, Miss Frances Grimm, and competed under the capable handling of Jack Lauder.

Letters
I am very interested in hunting coon in Florida and would like answers to the following questions:

1. What kind of dogs are used?
2. Could a Wiernamer be trained for coon hunting?
3. Can raccoons be eaten and how would you prepare one?

F & Miami, Florida

Any of several breeds of tree hunters may be used for coon hunting; it is important that the dog used for coon hunting be a tree bound and I would refer you to the December 1962 issue of Florida Wildlife and the story, Midnight Music, for a listing of these recognized breeds and the basic requirements of a good coon hunter.

It is possible that a Wiernamer could be trained for coon hunting.

Result-Florida Georgia Field Trial Association-Referee Trials

Working class-
1st Ben Tulluck Bear Lab
2nd Polly Bred Lab
3rd Stew Bred Lab

Working class-Dove
1st Greatford Pinch Lab
2nd Polly Bred Lab

Working class-English Springer
1st Herrn Colby Lab
2nd Stew Bred Lab
3rd Ben Tulluck Bred Lab

Open class-
1st Bill Lab
2nd Bob Lab
3rd Stew Bred Lab

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
March, 1963

A recipe for Shad Roe Souffle' from the State Department of Conservation suggests rolling the roe in cracker meal and then fry-

ing in 1/4-mixed salad oil and butter until brown. Make a sauce by melting 3 tablespoons of but-

ter and blending in 3 tablespoons of flour. Add 1/4-teaspoon salt and cook, stirring until thickened. Add 3 beaten egg yolks to the hot mixture. Fold in one cup shad and serve cool slightly. Beat 3 egg whites until stiff, fold into roe mixture. Pour into 1/4-quart custard cup. Bake in moderate oven at 325 degrees F. about one hour or until browned.

Smoked shad, too, is a recent—
and tasty—innovation and can be purchased at some of the camps in the Northeast.

Crowe, a Civil War buff, ran across a little known bit of his to which the gastronomic appeal of the shad is a major role in a decisive battle.

It seems the Confederate troops were encamped at Five-Points, an important junction which afforded a main line of travel to Richmond. Not suspecting a Federal advance upon their position, and invited to a shad bake by General Rossiter, General George Pickett and Fitz (son of Robert E.) left their troops to in-

dulge in the shad. The Federal troops moved in to capture 3,344 Confederate troops and worse yet, a strategic position was lost. The subordinate had done the best they could, but without the military skill of Pickett's the battle was over in less than two hours. And because of a shad dinner!

There is much that is still un-

known to shad researchers about the shad. And, while they appreciate the fact that an extensive sport fishery has developed for them, one side of the bones do not inter-

tegrate, then mixing with eggs and seasonings, and rolling into patties for frying. Shadburgers can be served plain, with lemon wedges, or in buns.

Firearms Ownership (continued from page 5)

A teacher, coach, counselor or other responsible adult should exercise care in preventing firearms from being used as a weapon. All deaths by accident—regard-

less of cause—are tragic. Many could be prevented. But how? By the abolition of the objects that were the agents of death in the hands of man I think not.

No one has ever suggested that household materials or medications containing poisons be outlawed. No one has crusaded to outlaw kitchen knives or tire irons. Certainly, no one has suggested the automobile should be con-

signed to oblivion because of accidental deaths and injuries.

Education, research, supervision and preventive safeguards are the answer to safety problems con-

cerning household objects that hold a perilous danger for any member of the family. If the famil-

ly is properly educated regarding both the positive and negative aspects of firearms and that house-

hold's firearms are kept under proper supervision, the accidental ratio would drop to nil.

V. General Activity

Sporting firearms—and there are literally tens of millions of them in the United States—hold a huge potential for recreation, pleasure, sport and applied skill. They hold a very small potential for danger relative to their use, numbers, and in comparison to other sports. Hunting has always been an important factor in many good "father-son" relationships. We have learned an increased interest in trap and skeet—and, indeed, all participant outdoor sports—

shooting is becoming a family recreational activity. Ex-

ample: the number of women hunters increased over 100 per cent between 1950 and 1960, 1,000,000 women will take to the hunting fields in 1963. The national press could do much to further the cause of safe gun handling, the reduction of accident rate, the healthy promotion of a historic American sport. Sensationalism—often based upon twisted and misquoted facts—for sensationalism's sake ultimately is a disservice to the community as a whole.

Basic American Freedom

In closing, I would like to point out Article Two of the Bill of Rights of the United States of America states, "... the right of the people to bear arms shall not be infringed." These are not idle words. They were not half-heartedly inscribed as some sort of ill-conceived afterthoughts on the part of the Founding Fathers.

Since the Bill of Rights guarantees such basic rights as freedom of speech, worship and press as well as the right to bear arms, it is strikingly peculiar that certain segments of our national press appear intent on abridging any of these freedoms. One would think that members of the Fourth Es-

tate—considering their long battle to preserve their freedom from government control—would realize that any re-
stinction imposed on any of the articles of the Bill of Rights is a two-edged sword that also might be applied to others.

Our liberties are interdepen-
ut upon each other and perhaps one liberty—for example, freedom of the press—cannot long survive free from jealousy, without the healthy growth of all the other liberties outlined in our Bill of Rights.

History indicates that the Bill of Rights was the outgrowth of a separate entity from the Constitution to underline the vast importance of the individual rights of man in our Republic. We would have to think of any of us—regardless of our personal prejudices concerning hunting, the shooting sports and firearms, no one should throw away any of these personal liberties so dearly won and preserved by our fellow citizens in the last 198 years.
has announced his intent to reintroduce legislation which would tackle the teenage unemployment problem, at least in part, through a Youth Conservation Corps. He predicts enactment of his Youth Employment Opportunities Act, which contains the Corps, during the First Session.

Highways—Sen. Lee Metcalf (Mont.) and others are expected to press for legislation which would require that consideration be given to fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation values in the construction of highways with Federal funds.

The President's budget message also will be awaited with unusual interest. Many Federal resource programs have shared in money made available through the Public Works Acceleration Act. However, some people fear the use of these funds may be reflected in lower regular budgets. If this happens, disruption of planned programs will occur.

**Conservation Award**

The 1962 Outdoorsman of the Year Award was presented to Nash Buckingham, the “grand old man of American conservation,” during the Fourth Annual Winchester-Western Seminar on Firearms and Ammunition Development, Altion, Ill.

Mr. Buckingham, a resident of Memphis, Tenn., who has spent most of his 82 years at the forefront of the nation’s major conservation battles, was honored at a special banquet on Jan. 18 at the Lockhaven Country Club attended by some of the country’s leading conservationists, game management specialists and outdoor writers.

Colonel Forrest V. Durand, director of the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission and Dru Pippin, Commissioner, Missouri Conservation Commission, were among those honoring Mr. Buckingham.

The Outdoorsman of the Year is selected by a national poll of some 4,000 outdoor writers and conservationists and the award is donated by the Winchester-Western Division, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. Former recipients include General Curtis LeMay, the late Dr. Logan Bennett, Walter Alton and Robert Taylor.

In making the 1962 award, John M. Olin, chairman of the Executive Committee, Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, stated that Mr. Buckingham’s entire life has been an example for the nation’s conservationists and sportsmen. He said Olin was particularly pleased with this year’s award because Mr. Buckingham had been the company’s first Director of Game Restoration back in 1925. Mr. Buckingham held this position with the old Western Cartridge Company for three years.

An outstanding contributor of articles and stories on outdoor subjects to national magazines, Nash Buckingham was one of the founders of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and has received their coveted “Jade of Chiefs” award. In 1928, he helped found the American Waterfowlers, a foundation devoted to the study of waterfowl conditions in this country and Canada, subsequently absorbed by More Game Birds in America, and later to become Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. Buckingham, a lifelong hunter and conservationist, was the first individual to receive the Field & Stream trophy for “outstanding service to conservation” in 194—.

At that time the magazine noted Nash Buckingham was “one of America’s greatest shots, one of its foremost field trial fuas.”

A graduate of Harvard, Mr. Buckingham was later an all-around athlete at the University of Tennessee where he took his degree in law. He earned varsity letters in baseball and football. His athletic background was put to good use when he became a sports writer for the Memphis Commercial Appeal.
of spec led perch blocl cropp, el fishermen gathered for angling action along north shore of Lake Okeechobee, a few miles southwest of Okeechobee City – Photo By Tom Wayne

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