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A study by biologists-scientists indicated that bass see colors about like man would while looking through a pair of yellowish tinted glasses. All fish can not be judged to have the same color vision as bass. Some may see no color at all but only degrees of brightness from light to dark.

In This Issue

Hunters Must Police Themselves

Ernest Swift 5

The Snake Bird

Wallace Hughes 13

Hot Weather Fishing

Charles Waterman 14

Grand Opening Fishing

Jim Floyd 18

Florida's Lost Volcano

Wilfred T. Neill 22

Departments

Conservation Scene

Fishing

4

8

Muzzle Flashes

Dogs — Hunting

6

10

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CONSERVATION SCENE

Active conservationists recognized for their long service towards the preservation of natural resources

The National Wildlife Federation's new honorary president is no stranger to honours, having been the recipient of the prestigious Environmental Award, four Cotton Awards, four Environmental Conservation Achievement Awards, and honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale and Southern California University.

Study of Research Submarine

Jules Verne surely didn't know what he was starting when he wrote about hunting undersea creatures from a submarine. However, the Department of the Interior now proposes a study that could lead to the construction of a nuclear-powered research submarine, or mesoscope, to explore the deep frontier of the ocean.

Such a mesoscope, which literally means "middle boat," could carry out studies on marine fishing and mineral resources, disposal of atomic wastes, national defense, and weather predictions. Biological, physical, and chemical oceanography are prime investigative areas for a research mesoscope, he said.

According to Marling J. Ankeny, Director of the Bureau of Mines, the submarine's mineral missions would include investigations of marine mineral resources such as coal, petroleum, and metal. It would probe the bottom of the sea by obtaining cores drilled from the ocean floor. It would be able to hover over a spot and remain stable while doing the deep drilling, and could greatly reduce mineral exploration costs by eliminating the need for permanent drilling rigs at depths now beyond the reach of commercial equipment.

Director Donald L. McKernan of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries noted that a mesoscope could obtain records of temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, light, and the vagaries of ocean currents by operating to depths of 1,000 feet. Techniques presently available for underwater observations are largely limited to SCUBA diving, underwater photography and television, underwater viewing ports in surface craft and bathyscaphes which are unable to make vertical movement.

On the other hand, a mesoscope with its lateral movement could scoop up various types of underwater bottom and coastal areas, observe fish with instruments and, by using lights, study many of the strange undersea creatures now known only from museum specimens. Viewing ports would allow direct observations of bottom fish and shrimp on the Continental Shelf and on the fishing "banks."

The undersea craft could carry out several missions dealing with the reactions of fish to fishing gear. The effects of fishing vessel noise on the fish could be determined and the reactions of these fish to fishing nets and other gear could be studied.

The all-weather capability of a submerged craft would permit its use at all latitudes during stormy seasons.

The mesoscope, as visualized by Interior scientists, would require a submerged speed of 20 knots in order to track and study large fish, such as sharks and tuna. The vessel would have to be capable of staying submerged as long as six weeks to allow uninterrupted studies of biological and oceanographic changes. The length of the research submarine would have to be less than 200 feet for maneuverability. Nuclear power may be necessary to meet these requirements.

This mesoscope is part of the National Oceanographic program being planned and coordinated by the Inter-agency Committee for Oceanography of the Federal Council for Science and Technology.

The Department of the Interior has asked Congress for funds to carry out a feasibility study on the mesoscope. Hull and power plant design, construction features, type of undersea collecting gear, and crew training problems would be included in such a study.

We must have better eyes in the

THE COVER

The exotic Anhinga—commonly called Water Turkey, or Snake Bird—appears to be in perpetual post when drying its wings after a

From a Painting by Weisbbach

Hopkins

Hunters Must Begin to

POLICE THEMSELVES

"Gun-toting" gangsters and the owners of sporting firearms are rapidly being thrown into the same pot. Each year more legislation to restrict the possession of firearms finds its way into the bill factories of Congress and the state legislatures.

The F.B.I., together with state and municipal enforcement agencies, has been vigorously advocating for some years the registering of all firearms, whether for sale or owned by individuals. The contention of these agencies is that it would reduce robbery, murder and general lawlessness.

On the other side there are several million sportsmen who go afield each fall and are equally determined that their right to possess arms is a constitutional guarantee and should not be abridged. There is also the National Rifle Association, with strong backing from the armed services, which has led the fight for sportsmen and rifle teams to own arms without being suspected of wrong-doing.

Shooting, other than hunting, for competition has been a popular sport since the days of the flintlock, and it is an American tradition, that if counts for anything. Thousands follow this recreation. The N.R.A. obtains rifles and ammunition for its members at reduced prices. They have local firing ranges; they compete among themselves and the best in national and international meets. There are thousands, men and women, who shoot clay pigeons, skeet and trap. It is also mighty big business, and, of course, has the blessing of the arms and ammunition companies.

But over and beyond these many participants in gunnery, there are millions of citizens with no interest in hunting or shooting as a form of recreation. Their views take off in all directions of the compass. Some are opposed to guns because of some incident, factual or otherwise, that developed a built-in repugnance to firearms. Such attitudes are often impressed on young children.

The National Wildlife Federation has supported the National Rifle Association on its stand against unwarranted restrictions on sporting arms, and still do. However, keeping revetment gun laws off the statute books and developing a rear guard against new groups do not besiter themselves and develop a better public understanding.

Each fall there is much to-do regarding gun accidents as a result of hunting. It is legitimate news, but some reporting is biased by including all heart attacks afield as hunting "casualties."

One state reported 951 traffic deaths in 1962, and 31,189 personal injuries were recorded there in 1961. For 1962 the same state reported that firearms were involved in seven fatal hunting accidents, 161 nonfatal hunting accidents, five fatal nonhunting accidents, and 33 nonfatal nonhunting accidents. Heart attacks while hunting claimed 12 victims.

Automobile accidents have become so commonplace that gun

(Continued on page 32)
Inexpensive additions or alterations can enhance the appearance of standard gun models considerably

By EDMUND McLARIN

Although a handsome exterior appearance is no guarantee of barrel accuracy and dependable field performance, a highly decorated or otherwise distinctive gun is preferred by most shooters, given a choice. Owning such a gun may have contributory psychological effect. The owner realizes he has a fine gun, tries to keep it in good condition and uses it with care and confidence in its performance. These factors help a shooter, beyond doubt.

The basic desire of an individual to own the best gun he can afford is why firearms manufacturers make their more popular models in different grades. So far as fundamental design and mechanical operation are concerned, the more ornate listings are no different from the standard grade models. The difference is in decoration and added accessories.

In price, there is usually a big difference between list prices of guns of standard grade and such trade grades as "Premier," "Diana," "Midas" and "Grand American." As examples, either a Remington 58 autoloading shotgun or a slide-action Model 760 big game rifle in "Premier" grade will cost the prospective buyer around $7,760 compared to relatively modest list prices of $139.95 and $119.35 for the same models in standard grades. Similarly, an already expensive "Grand American" grade will cost the prospective buyer around $7,800 compared to relatively modest list prices of $139.95 and $119.35 for the same models in standard grades. The difference is in decoration and added accessories.

Plain, polished buffalo horn or sunburst design pistol-grip caps are easy to install and add ornamentation. Fore-end caps of buffalo horn or polished Tenite can also be had. Installation of a neatly fitted Pachmayr or Mershon "White Line" recoil pad will have eye pleasing effect and reduce felt recoil.

A matted front sight ramp on a hunting rifle streamlines appearance and helps the aiming eye quickly pick up and align the front sight. On most models, installation is easy. Addition of sling swivels and gusling also improve appearance and usefulness. Any machine shop can put a knurled, matted pattern on bolt handles, and there is a simple tool with which to Damascene bolts and breechlocks.

Engraved floor plates can be installed in the actions of F.N., Mauser 98 and Springfield big game rifles. Made in shooter's choice of anodized black or silver or gold plated finishes, the floor plates feature an engraved antelope head for the F.N. and Mauser 98 models, and a running deer pattern for the Springfield model.

One manufacturer of telescopic sights is now offering factory engraved scope tubes and mounts. Their availability enables owners of already richly engraved Browning, Weatherby and high grade Remingtons and Winchesters to inexpensively install harmonizing finish telescopic sighting equipment without paying a premium for custom work. Most of these accessories can be obtained from either Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan, or on order from Bob Brownell, Montezuma, Iowa, if you cannot find them in local sporting goods stores.

Merely refinishing a scratched and dented gunstock will improve the appearance of a firearm considerably. When refinishing, you may also give the gunstock a little decoration.

Begin the refinishing or decorating of the stock by removing the gun's action, butt plate, sling swivels and all stock and fore-end attachments located within the areas to be worked.

Scrape off the old finish with a putty knife that has been altered with a file to give a flat, blunted edge face. When held at a slight angle to the work, this homemade tool gives two opposite cutting edges of optional choice. Use an old tooth brush and varnish remover for the checkered areas. Remove all the old finish.

Small dents in gunstocks can be taken out by the hot steam method. Apply water-saturated wads of Kleenex or toilet tissue over each dent and touch wettings and steamings may be required before the wood fibres expand to normal.

Where there are gouges from which wood has been removed, these imperfections can be enlarged, undercut and packed tightly with a plastic wood mixture made from matching powdered sawdust mixed with plastic cement. After hardening, the repaired spots should be sanded and hand rubbed until practically invisible as patches.

The stock is now ready to be refinished, or embellished with ornamentation before being re-finished.

White or colored Plexiglas inlays can be purchased readymade or cut from a 1/8 inch sheet of opaque material. Black diamonds look good on light colored stocks and white ones on reddish colored stocks.

Dot pattern inlays are especially attractive—if you have the patience it takes to precisely locate each dot, unhurriedly drill perfectly round holes and set inlays uniformly. Using assorted diameters of ivory color plastic rod, diamond patterns, swirls and other decorative schemes can be formed from grouped dots. This type of stock and fore-end inlay decoration is recommended for first attempt as it does not require as much working skill as solid diamond shape inlays.

Purchase plastic rod in desired diameters, and slice slightly overlength dots therethrough, much as one slices bread. Before slicing with a sharp knife, the dots should be rough cut by first making encircling cuts with a razor blade. Large diameter rod should be cut with a fine-toothed coping saw.

Also, before cutting the dots from the parent stock, each dot should be given a bottom taper by undercutting it at the point scribed for severance. This gives each dot a tapered end and a large end.
“You should be able to catch a pretty good string of fish but the drought got the big ones,” S. C. Fry of Clewiston told me.

He was talking about the L1 canal (pronounced “L-one”), one of the best known of the South Florida fresh water fishing spots, and his promise of a “pretty good string of fish” was an understatement.

At Fry’s hardware store I bought two small bream bugs and collected a pennel head that would get me to the canal. The directions looked complicated but my wife and I followed them without a bobble to four covered picnic tables and a ramp beside a deep canal, located just a few miles south of Lake Okeechobee.

We slid the Orlando Clipper into the canal and while Debie was sorting some equipment I cast one of the little yellow bugs against a patch of floating moss. A bream charged it but I missed him.

“Looky!” I yelled at Debie. “I got a strike on the first cast.”

“All outdoor writers always get a strike on the first cast, Honey,” she said sweetly. “Had you forgotten?”

The Johnson 28 whisked us up to a bend in the canal and while Debie was sorting some equipment I cast one of the little yellow bugs against a patch of floating moss. A bream charged it but I missed him.

“One more!” I yelled. “That was the first cast.”

We were catching bream while a noisy blackbird viewed our little popping bugs and seemed to be wondering why he hadn’t seen that kind of insect around there before.

The point is that we had gone the full scale from 100-pound tarpon, through 3-foot kings down to 6-ounce bream in that order and one was just as much fun as the other.

By dusk we were back in a Clewiston restaurant, trying to work up enthusiasm for a 200-mile drive back to Deland, Mr. Rice, the hardware man, saw our boat out front and stopped to see if we’d caught some fish.

Rice, who has fished the canal for a long time, is worried about the quantity of rough fish and the lack of large bass.

He feels that the big mudfish and gars are only a minor nuisance during times of plentiful water but that they are responsible for a lot of bass loss when water occasionally gets down to the mudhole stage.

He points out that, in addition to competing with the gamefish for scarce oxygen and food at low water, the big mudfish can actually catch bass under such circumstances.

“When mudfish and bass are crowded into such close quarters, I believe a mudfish can chew up big bass and eventually kill them,” Rice says. “We actually have 20-pound mudfish in that canal. I’ve caught them containing freshly-killed bream as big as my hand.”

I believe that many of the scars found on large bass are put there by mudfish but, like Rice, I never felt they were much of a hazard except at very low water.

The problem, of course, is the reduction of rough fish without harming the gamefish population. Although expensive, overall poisoning of such waters is not a particularly complicated expedient, that means a complete loss of fishing until a comeback can be accomplished and there is no assurance that the roughnests won’t get a good start again.

Fishing Kings

Most of our readers are interested mainly in light tackle fishing and kingfishing is generally done with a 20-ounce bug and two’s I’ve never had a session with the kings I’d recommend it.

Last spring I went out from Naples with Ed Towell and some Ed is one of the owners of the Sport Spot where they sell boats, outboard motors and a lot of other things that fishermen use. The Spot is located at the city dock.

Ed was skipping a twin-screw inboard and although we had small outboards before we found our way out there in the Gulf I’d just as soon have lots of boat under me if I’m going to spend much time offshore.

The kingfishing run which usually appears in early spring along the southern Gulf Coast and works its way all the way up the Gulf attracts a lot of attention and its progress is no secret. Neither is the return trip which takes place in the fall.

I’m not talking about the occasional kings picked up on fishing trips for other quarry. I’m not talking about the occasional kings picked up on fishing trips for other quarry. I mean the real honest-to-goodness “run” which often turns into a sort of sea-going social event. The day Ed took me fishing there were 30 other boats in a milling pod over the kings.

The fish weren’t showing any surface activity but they weren’t hard to find. Ed slowed the cruiser to trolling speed, rigged a rod, dropped a spoon over the kings and handed the rig to one of the other guys. The recipient of the rod immediately sat down hard in a fishing chair and started a wrestling a king which had evidently been under the boat waiting for the spoon.

In a short session our crew boated 19 kings and Spanish mackerel, even though Ed explained that this particular school of kings was scattered by commercial set nets. We were only two or three miles from the mouth of Naples inlet and the shoreline was plainly visible.

When king mackerel are running good you need a mate or at least a “glove man” to handle the boat and unhooking duties. Without a fishbox you’ll have a mess on your hands. The “glove man” grabs the long wire leader as the fish comes to the stern. Swings the fish over the side and drops him into the fish box while the fishermen urge him to “hurry up and get that spoon back in the water.”

A good mackerel man is soon covered with the plentiful kingfish slime and sometimes he can get a little too busy.

I recall when I played mackerel man for some Orlando guys who were fishing at Dry Tortugas. They were catching kings and Spanish mackerel pretty fast and had a contest going. We didn’t have a fish box and in half an hour I was up to my knees in fish.

It seemed that I was up to my neck but I guess that is an exaggeration. As I feverishly unhooked fish the competitors roared at me to show more speed and I was thankful when the fish quit hitting.

The moral to that story is simply that in case of a fishing contest there should be some special arrangement about fish unhooking.

If there is a hazard to the Gulf’s plentiful kingfish it rests in too-efficient commercial fishing methods.

Commercial setters now operate with the aid of airplane spotters who locate the schools of fish and drop buoys or direct boats to them by radio. The spotters sometimes stand by and actually supervise the netting operations for highest efficiency. Kingfish have been bringing something like a dollar a pound with a percentage going to the spotting pilot.

As a gamefish the king is terrific when on light tackle. Medium spinning gear will give you a real brawl. However, the spin-fisherman can’t operate along with others using heavy tackle. His fish would require a long fight and would tie up the whole boatload of anglers. A light-tackle expedition for kingfish should be just that. If you want to go (Continued on page 29)
Assuming that you already own a retriever, I will not go into the merits of the various breeds but say that this series of articles is designed primarily to help you train a dog that will in turn help reduce the crippling loss of Florida’s game bird population.

Training a retriever is a little bit like assembling a jig saw puzzle in that it requires a certain amount of intelligence, considerable patience, and a dogged determination. To train a retriever it is necessary that you be smarter than your dog, that you exercise patience, and that you demonstrate determination by constant repetition of training.

Just as the first pieces of a puzzle are easy, so is the basic training of a retriever. Without the initial pieces, you will never complete the puzzle. Without obedience, you will never have a finished retriever. As time progresses, it may become difficult to determine if your puzzle is making any progress. Slow up, take a look, and study the situation. You will find the pieces beginning to fit and a design taking shape. In retriever training, there will come a time when your training seems to go awry and you reach the point where you decide your dog is a chukle-headed idiot. Slow up, take a look, and study the situation. Chances are you will find that you were going too fast for your puppy.

Obedience training is one of the more important phases of retriever training. While almost any retriever will fetch a dead bird, simply because it is hereditary; this is not the dog we are striving for. We want a dog that exhibits good manners: a dog that retrieves with style and eagerness; a dog that hunts not only because he loves it, but hunts to please his master rather than himself. We want a dog that will guarantee that each and every crippled bird is delivered to the hand of the hunter.

You have probably known dogs that run out of control and make a general nuisance of themselves during a shoot. Such dogs are a reflection on their owner. Apparently some owners believe that training a dog in basic obedience will curb its natural hunting ability. I can only say “hogwash.” More often it is a case of an owner who did not take time to train the dog.

If after reading this series of articles you feel that training your dog will be work rather than fun, I would advise you to forget about training and go buy a trained retriever. While this may be one way to obtain a trained dog, I don't think you will receive the satisfaction that comes with training your own.

 Retrievers, perhaps more than any other sporting breed, reflect their owner-trainer association. Each time your dog leaves your side to retrieve a bird there will be a little bit of you that goes with the dog.

You and your dog will spend many pleasant hours in learning the commands of basic obedience, but more important it will provide an opportunity to get acquainted. You will learn to understand your dog and he will learn to obey you. His obedience and your understanding will both be useful in the years that lie ahead.

Sit: Lesson number one is basic and consists of nothing more than having your pup sit upon command. First, take your dog into the yard, away from any possible interference. Place the choke collar around his neck and allow him a few minutes to romp, play and burn up a bit of excess energy.

Call the pup to you and say the word Sit. Your dog will probably think the old man has blown his cork, therefore, you will have to show him what you mean. By repeating the command and pushing down on his hips, the pup will go into a sitting position. If there is some reluctance, you can attach your leash to the choke collar and by pulling up on the collar and pushing down on the hips, the largest of dogs will be forced into a sitting position.

Be sure that you place a note of authority in your voice and let the pup know that this is business. I said authority and not harshness. Go through the sitting procedure three or four times and then quit for the day. Tomorrow go through the same procedure, followed by other days until the pup anticipates the hip pressure and sits upon command. You may find that after a few sessions a tap of the finger or slight rap from your leash is all that will be needed to have the pup sit when you command it. Before you know it your pup will be putting his rear on the ground as soon as he hears you say sit. Once this happens it is a good time to introduce him to the whistle.

The dog whistle serves one purpose, that of telling your dog what to do. Of course, you might have a leathery set of lungs but the sound of the whistle will carry further and not disturb shooting companions or wildlife nearly as much as excessive shouting.

Once your dog is sitting upon command, you can precede the command Sit with a single blast of the whistle. It shouldn’t take long for the pup to associate a single blast of the whistle with the command Sit. Of course, this doesn’t have to be a real loud blast if the pup is at your side, a single foot will serve the purpose once he has become acquainted with the meaning of the signal. In retriever training, a single blast of the whistle always means Sit. Other whistle signals mean other things, so at this stage of the game you stay away from them.

Keep these training sessions short and sweet. The time to stop training is when the pup is ready for more. Don’t crowd the lessons, make sure he has mastered one command before trying another.

To: Basic lesson number two is nothing more than a continuation of the first lesson. With the command Stay the dog is required to sit and remain in such a position until told that he may move, regardless of distractions.

Bring your pup into a sitting position, issue the command Stay and then step away from him. Chances are he will immediately follow you. Return him to the original position and repeat the performance, this time continuing to repeat the command Stay. Continue this training lesson until such time that the pup associates the command Stay with the fact that he is not to move from the position Sit until you release him. Each time he moves without your command, return him to his original position of Sit.

As your pup becomes acquainted with this command, you should increase the distance and the time you require him to remain in the Sit position. Remember the time element in the jig saw puzzle and don’t get impatient when your pup does not immediately respond. (Continued on next page)
the collar.

In act, you will immediately pick up this command. It's a bit more difficult and demanding, therefore, will require more time. Keep the sessions short and sweet, be positive but not harsh.

COME: This third lesson should start by saying that it is a dog's natural inclination to come when his master calls, simply because he wants to be by his side. However, this is not obedience and we are looking for a dog that will come when commanded, even though there are other distractions.

To acquaint your pup with the command Come, you can utilize the command Stay. Have your dog Sit and Stay, move off fifty yards and shout the command Come, clap your hands or whatever else will bring the dog to your side. This is good, the pup is learning that the word Come means that he is granted permission to be by your side. Continue this simple lesson until you are confident that the pup associates the word Come with the fact that he is supposed to come to you.

We now arrive at the point where we must impress the pup that the word Come not only means that he is allowed to come, but that he Must come. This part of the lesson will be more difficult and take a bit more time.

Place the pup in a Sit position, command him to Stay, attach one end of your check cord to the choke collar and move off for the length of the cord. With a positive command of Come, issue a sharp jerk on the check cord. Do NOT by any means use the check cord as a hand line to pull the dog to you, use instead a series of sharp jerks and snaps. When the dog arrives at your side be sure to praise him.

If your dog has properly learned the command Come from earlier practice without the check cord, you will not encounter any difficulty in this phase. In fact, you will probably find your dog so eager to be at your side that he will be on the move before your hand completes the movement that would snap the collar. This is good, it indicates that your dog associates the word Come with the fact that if he is slow in responding to the command he will be subjected to the snapping of the collar.

Up to this point we have made progress, however, in every instance the dog has wanted to come, and we need to impress upon him that he MUST COME at all times. Wait and this training opportunity will present itself. It may be that your dog is playing with the neighbors children. When this happens, command your dog to Come. If he ignores the command, go immediately, attach the check cord and repeat the training procedure of Come. If necessary, trick the dog into a position where he might be tempted to disobey you, but be sure you are in a situation where you can place him on the check cord.

The training whistle enters the picture for the second time during this phase of training. The whistle hereafter was used to indicate that the dog should sit with one blast. The proper signal for Come is a series of blasts. One for Sit, two or more for Come. Some handlers have perfected the recall (Continued on page 26)

COMMAND HEEL—A dog walking at heel is walking alongside. In training he should be snapped into position with leash and choke collar.

THE SNAKE BIRD

By WALLACE HUGHES

The Anhinga, or "Snake Bird," in typical posture—wings outspread to dry in the sun. Its wing feathers are often too wet to flight after an underwater swim. A friendly Anhinga above, dries out on the dock at Wakulla Springs. Another "sun's" stop a bush, left, is typical Cypress swamp habitat.

THE "Snake Bird" or Anhinga is the kind of bird that causes a lot of wondering. Its nickname "Snake Bird," derived from the snake-like formation of its head and neck, sort of hints at some kind of mysterious relationship to the reptiles. Its other common name "Water Turkey" refers to the resemblance of its long-feathered, fan-shaped tail to that of the Wild Turkey. Of course, the Anhinga is a close relative of neither. It belongs to a family all its own called "Darters," kin of the Cormorants.

This green-black water bird measures about three feet long, and has a wingspread up to four feet. It is strictly a fresh water species, inhabiting swamps, sloughs, lakes, springs and sluggish streams throughout Florida. It is most often seen perched on a log, stump, bush or low tree with its wings outstretched to dry or "sunbath." When alarmed it drops quickly into the water where it is adept at swimming under water, on the surface, or with just its head out. Its main food is fish which it is capable of pursuing and catching under water.

Although rather clumsy on foot, it is a master of the air often soaring in circles so high as to almost disappear from sight.
Warm evenings with large thunderheads is a good time for big fish angling

HOT WEATHER FISHING

By CHARLES WATERMAN

There are a lot of reasons for not fishing when it's hot. Each summer Florida fishermen take these reasons to the nearest air conditioner and study them carefully.

Flesh being as weak as it is, about the only way to learn anything new about hot weather bass fishing is to go yourself or interview someone who can't get away any other time.

About this time every summer any outdoor publication worth its salt contains at least one article on how to catch fish in hot weather. Most of my hot weather rules have been weakened by so many exceptions I approach the task somewhat tremulously.

As on many occasions when I drifted near DeLeon Springs.

Ten years ago my wife and I finished an unproductive day fishing the City Ponce de Leon run near Delray Springs. It was hot and sticky and we had about given it up as a bad job with the sun already below the horizon. A butt-end and whispered past and we were fumbling through our darkened tackle box when there was a distinct clump from near the stern of the skiff. Des paired, picked up her fly rod and found she had a good bass. No telling how long it had been lying under her forgotten bass bug floating just behind the boat. By still-fishing a hair bass bug for minute-long periods we collected two more good ones and went home in the dark.

For that matter, I know several surface fishermen, men who never move the lure except to reel it in or pick it up with the fly rod as the case may be. Their theory is that "accidental" movements of the surface bait will be enough to attract fish. It works many times in calm, warm, clear water.

Probably the most sensible method of slow fishing a surface lure is to let it lie still or with barely noticeable motion for a good, long time and then twitch it before taking it in. If you make the fuss at first you may scare away a finicky bass and after the thing has been there for a while you'll do no harm with a little noise—and may go a leaden into striking.

Although light spinning tackle isn't very satisfactory for fast-worked, noisy plugs, it's almost ideal for slowly fished baits of small size and the "still-fished" plug is aided by fine monofilament line.

If you can talk yourself into trying to imitate a small creature barely able to struggle a little you'll accomplish more than if you try to win a nose-making contest.

Warm weather calls for the rubber-legged bug (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

and the hair bug. The gentle, crawling movements of the legs or hair add a lot to a slowly-worked bug, whereas they're hardly noticed in a fast-moving...

... all the legs or hair add a lot to a slowly-worked wings that stuck straight out from a balsa body and any rive tried I don't recommend it because it cast like a string mop and landed upside down about 30

bait.

I Years ago a friend of mine used to make what he described am a really good bet for hot weather. It means deeper water, of course, but if steep enough it may also mean a little shade. As a kid I knew where to find the best shade the fish just as well as a high object shades...

those lazy warm summer evenings.

slowly-moving, and picking up when there's brisk current. I've had some of the best river fishing in really hot weather. One reason is that heavy summer rains in Florida frequently cause good current.

School fishing is much less popular than it used to be, even six or seven years ago. I believe this is due to some dry periods that made school fishing poor and turned the addicts to other endeavors.

School bass fishing, jump fishing, bar bass fishing or whatever you want to call it is "freak" fishing in the estimation of many anglers.

Chuck Shillings used to say: "I hate to catch a school bass because the stoop isn't suited to be charged around like that.

It's a simple case of our Florida bass acquiring schooling habits usually attributed to salt water basses. In some of our rivers it's salt water minnows they chase.

In some of our lakes they school on fresh water species of bait and where there is no measurable current, I don't know where those bass learned to school but it sure loses up a good theory about bass borrowing the stunt from salt water acquaintances. This isn't a school bass story but they mustn't be ignored when you're thinking of summer time.

There's an obvious disadvantage to the dawn fishing trip. You may lose most of a night's sleep getting to the scene of operations and then after the early morning activity is over you look forward to a full day of blistering sun before the evening session can start.

One of the most frequent errors of the faint-hearted is leaving the water too early in the evening. It's usually a result of leaving the dock too soon. After flailing around for most of a hot day it's hard for a fisherman to believe things will really pick up with the approach of dusk and he often heads for home just as he should be beginning his trip.

Summer night fishing is usually confined to night owls who don't mind lots of sleep, inconn convenient bus and hard work. Most night fishing expeditions end too soon. The fisherman has a go at the evening fishing, then decides to stay for some night casting. By midnight he's ready to give up or sleep in the boat.

Actually it's been my experience that there's a frequent flurry during the early part of the night following the usual evening feeding period and that flurry is what sends most fishermen to the showers.

There's a lot of argument whether moonlight or darkness is best. I've seen them both, and I've never seen them start at moonrise. Don't be afraid to stick with it. There a.m. is a sort of never-never hour for most of us but some bass have been caught around that time. Your table feeding period, work at the height of the day or the other extreme.

Fishing strange waters at night is rough duty. (Continued on page 30)
Bay County's 5,000 acre Deer Point Lake, approximately 10 miles northeast of Panama City.

OPENING AT DEER POINT LAKE

Florida's newest fabulous fishing spot yielded an estimated five tons of fresh water fish to 2,200 fishermen on March 30, the opening date for Deer Point Lake in Bay County. Creel census indicated that during the first twelve hours, 18,700 fish were weighed by personnel of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The 5000 acre Deer Point Lake, located north of Panama City, was created when the County Commission of Bay County constructed a dam across a portion of North Bay, which resulted in a salt water bay being turned into a fresh water lake. The primary intent of the impoundment was to supply a source of fresh water for industrial and community purposes. The new lake in addition to supplying fresh water has also provided an unlimited source of fresh water fishing and outdoor recreation for the residents and visitors to the Bay County area.

The lake is capable of supplying at least 500 million gallons of fresh water daily.

The successful opening of Deer Point Lake is indicative of a properly planned and carefully executed fisheries program. Commission biologists started planning a management program for Deer Point Lake in 1956, six years prior to the construction of the dam. In every instance where a lake is placed under fisheries management program, the ultimate results are better fishing for the benefit of both the fisherman and the local interest.

Flounder anglers found fishing thrill opening day with many heavy limit stringers reported.

Photo Story
By JIM FLOYD

The dam-created lake is capable of supplying at least 500 million gallons of fresh water daily. To provide fishing access there is a public boat launching ramp, built by the Game Commission, plus several private ramps at fish camps on State Roads 77-A, 147, and U.S. 231.

More than 18,500 fish were weighed for the records by Fisheries Division personnel during the first 12 hours opening day.

JUNE, 1963
A partial statistical breakdown of fish caught during the opening weekend of five newly stocked phosphate pits in the Pleasant Grove Fish Management Area is as follows:

- Total catch: approximately 2,100 pounds of fish
- Largest fish: tilapia, weighing 25 pounds and measuring 15 inches in length
- Most fish caught: bluegills

The opening day proved to be somewhat disappointing due to cool and blustery weather. However, the tilapia fishing rating fell to poor, but all phases of angling showed continuous improvement with the warmer May weather.

The Pleasant Grove Management Area is an example of once-abandoned water that the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has now restored to excellent fishing. These pits were reclaimed under a total fisheries management program for maximum production of fish and fishing opportunities. Total management means that the pits, the water, the aquatic vegetation and organisms, and the fish populations will be managed and manipulated to produce the best possible fishing for the general public.

The five newly opened pits bring the total open to fishing at Pleasant Grove to nine, with 21 other pits now under various management stages, scheduled for opening in the near future.

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FLORIDA'S LOST VOLCANO

it was actually steam, from boiling springs. C. L. Norton, in the earliest edition of his "Handbook of Florida," claimed that the waters of the Wacissa were warmer than other tributaries of the Apalachee, and that they probably arose from a boiling spring. But on some nights a fiery glow was seen above the Wacissa, and this circumstance bolstered the "volcano" theory as opposed to the "hot springs" one. According to yet a third view, not only the steam of boiling springs, but also the smoke of burning marsh gas, emanated from the Wacissa.

The story of the volcano began to spread, and many newspapers send correspondents to Tallahassee to see the mysterious smoke. There were favorite spots from which to view the swirling column: the cupola of the Tallahassee courthouse, and a high hill on the outskirts of the town. The correspondents went away amazed, and penned many stories about the "Wacissa Smoke." Barton Jones, writing for Lippincott's Magazine in 1882, dubbed the cloud the "Wakulla Volcano," after the settlement nearest the Wacissa Swamp. He also presented some woodcut drawings, probably the only accurate illustrations of the smoke as it appeared from Tallahassee. Maurice Thompson, a well-known author of his day, in 1881 published a novel called "A Tallahassee Girl." Its plot revolved around the unexplained smoke, and this work, while fiction, provided much information about the cloud, and about life in old Tallahassee. Thompson wrote, "The smoke is there. It has been noted and commented on for nearly fifty years." He had seen it personally, and described it as "a slim, mysterious dark column of smoke spiraling straight up into the sky." But neither Thompson nor his fictional hero explained the origin of the cloud that arose from the Wacissa.

As a result of Thompson's book, and of the various newspaper and magazine articles, the "Wacissa Volcano" became famous throughout the country. By now you may be wondering why someone did not solve the problem by investigating the smoke. But it should be remembered that, around the early part of the last century, travel in the Florida swamps was difficult, and could be very dangerous. Many a Tallahassee resident, who saw the Wacissa Smoke, had also seen raiding parties of Seminole Indians, and had no intention of being anywhere near them.

Wacissa Swamp, or the "Wacissa Smoke," had also been observed by many people, even by a few residents of Tallahassee. But most of them ignored the phenomenon, or at least did not publicize it. Even in those years it was not too hard to believe in the Old Man of the Swamp, the Devil stirring his Tar Kiln. From the very first, the Wacissa was blanketied not only with smoke but also with aura of superstition. Even for those hardy individuals who dared to venture into the swamp, malaria or snakebite, the dense foliage, bad weather, and even the swamps provided formidable barriers.

(Continued on next page)
in 1891. C. L. Norton tried to reach the smoke, but he was still about six miles away, and he could make out no details. When he descended, he found that his party, frightened and discouraged, had abandoned him. He was determined to reach the smoke alone; but at every step the underbrush grew thicker, the mud deeper, and finally he turned back, defeated by the swamp. The great pine stood until 1938; and of all its length, it is shallow. In stead of following one deep channel, the water spreads out over 100 feet or more of weed-choked shallows. Local fishermen, putting in on the headwaters of the Wacissa, often find it necessary to pole their bateau across the "bennets" and water-hammocks.

As years went by, the swamp became more accessible. Roads and bridges were built, the forests were timbered; large tracts were drained, and cattle grazed in the Wacissa. The late Clarence Simpson, of the Florida Geological Survey, made several trips into the Wacissa area. They brought to light the mysterious outpourings. The peace of Apalachee, living in the Tallahassee area, were practically exterminated in the winter of 1703-04 by Colonel James Moore, who fell upon them with a band of English soldiers and a thousand Creek Indian warriors. The few surviving Apalachee fled, or were deported. Thus, the Indian who once lived near the mouth of the Wacissa, or old Indian encampment, in the form of flint chips, flint knives and arrow points, and scraps of broken pottery. Most of the pottery is of Indian manufacture, but some is of Spanish origin. The latter must have been obtained from the Spanish by trade or raid. The pottery fragments, both Indian and Spanish, are of kinds used by the Apalachee, who preceded the Seminole in northern Florida.

The peaceful Apalachee, living mostly near Spanish missions in the Tallahassee area, were practically exterminated in the winter of 1703-04 by Colonel James Moore, who fell upon them with a band of English soldiers and a thousand Creek Indian warriors.

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DOGS: HUNTING
(Continued from page 12)

or come whiste to a perfect trill or almost a musical tone.

HEEL: At the very start it is fair to warn you that this will be a long lesson but a very important one. A dog walking at heel means that he is walking at the handlers heels, not ahead or behind but alongside the handler's leg. This is a command that must be learned perfectly, and perfection can only be obtained through training and patience.

To start this lesson, place your dog in the Sit position and attach the choke collar and leash. Place yourself in the proper position with the dog’s head alongside your leg. Give the command “Come” and start walking away. The command Come will tell your dog that he is to come to you and the command Heel will soon let him know its proper position.

If your dog does not immediately join you in your walk, give the leash a sharp snap and again repeat the command Come-Heel. If the dog has a tendency to lag behind, snap him into position with the leash and command Heel. If he strays ahead, snap him back into position, again with the command Heel.

You might employ a hickey switch and on occasions when the dog lags behind or shows indications of wanting to walk in front of you, utilize the switch to swing in front of his nose. One or two raps across the nose and he will soon learn that to precede his master might result in a stinging sensation that is not at all pleasant. Llagging behind on the other hand could result in a snapping of the choke collar. It will not take too long for your dog to learn to walk quite properly at heel while on the leash. It’s when we remove the leash in these early training sessions that the bugger has a tendency to want to show that he is an American citizen and therefore independent.

When you reach the stage where your dog is heel ing quite properly, it is time to try it without the leash. Place the collar and leash in your pocket and walk the dog at Heel past some distractions that might make him leave your side. If it doesn’t go well, and it probably won’t, return him immediately to the leash and collar, revert to basic Heel training, and practice, practice, practice.

Once the goal of this session has been obtained, neither rain, snow, puppy cats or other dogs will make your retriever leave your side until commanded to do so.

COMMAND: FETCH - Place the dog in sitting position, command him to STAY, and toss the dummy 10 or 15 feet in front of the dog. As soon as the dummy hits the ground, command the dog to FETCH.

FETCH: I have used the word Fetch simply because most hunters recognize it as a command to retrieve. Actually, it is seldom used, especially among field trial retrievers. You may select any word you desire so long as you stick to it. Many handlers use the dog’s name, others may declare, back, or words they may have selected from the Chinese dictionary.

Up to this point, training has been restricted to the commands that will be of value in both hunting and the show rings. Without basic obedience, you cannot expect to have a finished retriever.

So now we arrive at the phase of training that both you and your dog have been waiting for. Remember, at this stage of the game, let’s keep it light, simple and fun and don’t forget that each lesson should include some obedience training. Always end each session on a happy note and quit when your dog is ready for more.

Take your dog, whistle, collar and training dummy into the yard, and again, away from distractions. Show the dummy to the dog, tease him with it, toss it around in the air, get him really excited about it. Then, tell him to Fetch.

You don’t give the dog an opportunity to play with the dummy, but impress him that this is fun and that he should bring it to you so that you have the throw to your command. Should your dog show any indication of not returning immediately, you might try running away yourself. Your purpose here is to have him clamp his hands, blow the whistle and shout Come.

This kind of activity on your part may take a little leg work but it will surely bring you to your side. As soon as he is alongside, reach down and take the dummy, then go through the procedure again.

When you do, DON’T CHASE YOUR DOG, as he will think this is part of the game. You must impress him that the real purpose of the game is to return the dummy to you.

(Continued next month)

MUFFLE FLASHES
(Continued from page 7)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
JUNE, 1963
FISHING

(Continued from page 9)

light for kings you might pick a calm day and use a drift, but I've dumbed it down now. I've generally strike best in a chop.

Although most sport fishermen take kings by trolling, casting works fine if a fairly stationary school of fish is located.

Kings do very little jumping when hooked although they frequently jump in taking a lure, coming down out the bait from behind. They also leap fantastic heights and while only kingfish know about—when no place near a fishing lure.

Usually associated with offshore waters of considerable depth they occasionally come right up to fishing piers and new and then appear in the mouths of tidal rivers. I saw one jump a yard a way up in a mangrove pass but I didn't report the event until I learned someone had caught some there. I figured no one would believe me.

Dart Casting

Clint Dowling of my hometown, DeLand, has worked out a casting game that interests me.

The thing may never catch on but I wish someone had worked it out. The idea is simple, no person would believe me.

Competitive casting doesn't make much of a ripple in Florida any more. Skish has had its fling but you don't see very many people throwing at targets now and Dowling's gadget might be of more-interest than routine accuracy events, especially for young folks.

Clint built an easel and mounted a dart board on it. The board is marked off into various values for each ring like a rifle or pistol target. He put an element of chance into the game by marking special bonus areas as with the pinball games so popular in public places. For example, you might miss the center of the bull's eye but hit a small ring near the target's edge. Your score could be reduced by hitting a tree in an upper corner of the board. It's simply a casting dart game.

Instead of pitching the usual casting weight you cast a regular pointed dart with plastic "feathers." The darts are the same as those thrown by hand in the dart game but made there. Dowling has been casting these darts ever since he general knowledge of his own community. As real local experts I'll choose the fellows with steady jobs who have to fish only when they can get away—week-ends, vacations, holidays.

These guys savor their fishing time so much that they make the very most of it. They'll generally have up-to-the-minute information on fishing conditions and the most practical equipment available. A fellow with plenty of time will figure that if he doesn't hide today he'll try tomorrow. Most of these working fishermen will figure if he doesn't get 'em today he'll have to wait for a week or so and he's a hard luck to skunk.

Now when it comes to general all-around fishing ability on everything from swordfish to pinfish, I'd say the professional authority—fishing writer or tackle firm representative. He usually wouldn't stand a chance against a local expert but he generally has the all-around knowledge that would enable him to "get by" anywhere. If a local expert told him that the fish were out at old Piney Point, that the fish were taking Heddon-Bend Spook Oaken and that evening was the best time, the local expert might stand back in awe. What about the professional biologists and fish management people? Aren't they the best sports anglers of all? Yes, potentially they are. They have the best background and the basic knowledge that should make them as nearly infallible as a fisherman can be but their work gives them a somewhat different relationship to the fish.

For example, a fish management expert takes a seine and examines the population of a lake. After he writes his report some of the mystery is gone from that lake and after he is inspected a fisherman's knowledge is not particularly intriguing by the prospect of catching him again the hard way.

To him it's like fishing for trout in a tank at a sportman's show. It is kind of nice not to be an expert anyway.

very little about salmon fishing in Iceland.

What about the retired fellow who has time for all the fishing he wants? W.W. generally he does more talking than fishing. Unless he was a really rabid angler before retirement he generally fishes too casually to be a top expert. Then, too, his fishing usually turns to one small pool or game and he doesn't even have an overall knowledge of his own community.

As real local experts I'll choose the fellows with steady jobs who have to fish only when they can get away—week-ends, vacations, holidays.

These guys savor their fishing time so much that they make the very most of it. They'll generally have up-to-the-minute information on fishing conditions and the most practical equipment available. A fellow with plenty of time will figure that if he doesn't hide today he'll try tomorrow. Most of these working fishermen will figure if he doesn't get 'em today he'll have to wait for a week or so and he's a hard luck to skunk.

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FLORIDA - NEW YORK SPEED RUN

A 18-foot outboard runabout funded by New York's East River Thursday, January 19, 1960 to become the first outboard to complete a timed run of 1,518 miles from Miami.

Miamian Howard Weiler, 34, and Ed Joyce, 49, of Port Laud­erdale, have been working on the project for many months, powered by two Johnson V-75 horsepower out­board motors. Running only daw­nglight hours the trip was made in 44 hours and 27 min­utes, an average speed of over 34 miles per hour. The craft had a top speed of 45 miles per hour. The outboard each day were accredited by dock masters at Gulf marinas, official checkpoints along the route. They used Gulf marine pre-mix exclusively.

The run was threatened repeatedly by nature. At Comjock, Md., in the fall the boat's motor resorted to hiring a tug to break ice up to 3 inches thick along a 30 mile stretch of the Choptank River. Massed ice in Chesapeake Bay forced the pair to take the "outside" (Atlantic) route all the way from Norfolk, Va., to New York, about 350 miles. The Intracoastal waterway had carried the racers to Norfolk.

Seas whipped up by stiff north­east winds made the outboarders spend one full day in Chincoteague, Va., where they had to crack ice again to reach a moor­ing spot. Later, off Ocean City, Md. a partially submerged log darkened the lake making the engines, causing a 3 hour wait for parts which took 10 minutes to install.

Weiler and Joyce planned the run during such a seemingly time of the year to coincide with the New York boat show. Weiler is a director of the Miami Yacht Club and Joyce is a director of the Miami, which produces a number of products used by marine manu­facturers. Joyce is general man­ager of Lauderdale Marine, Inc.
Night fishing should be confined to familiar areas unless a guide is handy. Casting at obstacles or shorelines in darkness is extremely difficult but, fortunately, feeding fish have a way of moving out into the open under cover of darkness.

Night casting for bass doesn’t exactly require specialized tackle but you have to consider some of its problems. For more experienced men I’d say the closed-face “span-cast” reel is almost ideal. It doesn’t backlash so precision casting isn’t necessary. If used as a thumb model, the closed face reel doesn’t allow for delicate “feathering” of the cast but, at night, delicate feathering is something you sure as heck don’t need.

The open spinning reel has been recommended for night fishing but, for me it’s too loose. I like the actual casting that I have trouble; it’s in getting the line fouled up while fumbling around in the dark—and since you DO have a “snazzle” with spinning line you’re in trouble.

I generally use a plain baitcasting reel at night. I just use a little extra “backlash control” by tightening the spool so it won’t overrun too badly if what I think is a “false cast” turns out to be a cypress stump. I use fairly heavy lines and like to fish on top but bass will take deep runners at night too.

The all-black lure is a favorite for Florida night fishing. The Arbogast Jitterbug in solid black is used more than any lure among my fishing friends. Retrieved slowly on the surface it sugrles seductively. A big bass can scare you silly when he blasts one.

The theory in all-black lures is that they show up plainly against the somewhat lighter sky. I am not quite convinced but it does offer extra visibility for striking purposes at night but I use the black plugs because it ruins your night vision and you don’t know what is going on in the water ten feet away.

Admittedly, some fish are attracted by light—or seem to be. Many bridges and roads usually one of tall trees. I find that small bait fish are attracted to a lowered lantern and then, in turn, attract gamfish. I can’t tell plenty of light around the crappie barges in the Midwest. Florida fishing piers have plenty of light.

However, I believe that a light beam bright enough to be seen from a boat in bass territory may be a fish-scaring. I also think born noise may cause more difficulty at night. My theory is that the fish are used to hearing boat-haunting in the daytime but will notice it more after the day shift goes off.

There’s no doubt that some sort of lakes produce lots of fish after dark although the daytime hours are no good.

The avid night fisherman is a special breed. I don’t go very often.

Early morning and late evening fishing poses one problem not frequently encountered at other times. It’s the dead calm.

Placing a small, gently-moving lure I prefer. Just a little surface ruffle to help scramble the victim’s vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. A floating plug attached to 18-pound test can be retrieved, the plug is attractive because it ruins your night vision. 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and children were hurt in auto accidents last year.

"As it stands, last year's record is truly tragic," a Travelers spokesman commented. "But what makes it even more disturbing is that it comes on the heels of what we had hoped was a downward trend beginning in 1961."

Excessive speed again led the way as the primary cause of accidents. Nearly 13,000 people were killed and more than 1,145,000 were injured as a direct result of speeding violations. Other major causes of accidents included driving on the wrong side of the road and reckless driving.

Forestry Group liaison

Ernest F. Swift of Rice Lake, Wis., one of the nation's foremost resource administrators, has been appointed by National Wildlife Federation Executive Director Thomas L. Kimball to provide liaison between the Federation and the nation's forestry associations, according to a Federation announcement.

Mr. Swift, who rose from conservation warden to department director within the Wisconsin Conservation Department (1926-1954) and also served the nation's conservationists as assistant director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1954-1956) and executive director of the National Wildlife Federation (1955-1960), has been Federation conservation adviser since 1955.

"He is uniquely qualified to provide close coordination between the National Wildlife Federation and such groups as the American Forest and Paper Association, the Society of American Foresters, American Forest Products Industries, the American Pulp and Paper Association, the National Lumber Manufacturers Association," Kimball said. Swift has worked as a wood products worker and as a forester, has served as chairman of the forest-wildlife management committee of the Society of American Foresters, of which he is an honorary member, and served for many years on the American Forestry Association's awards committee.

Last November Mr. Swift was the recipient of an annual award by the American Forest Products Industries for distinguished service to forestry and the forest industries.

Other awards he has received include the first Haskell Noyes Conservation Warden Award, the Conservation Award, and the Wildlife Society's Aldo Leopold Medal.

Pesticide Problems Continue

It looks as though the pesticides-versus-wildlife situation may get worse before it gets better. Although evidence continues to accumulate proving that chemical poisons are outstandingly unfit for human consumption, important numbers of wild fish, birds, and mammals, some individuals and industries apparently are doing their best to discourage the adoption of needed controls.

Federal biologists recently pointed to traces of the pesticides aldrin and dieldrin as the killers of many as 2000 wild ducks annually and for small industrial lakes near Denver, adding that many thousands of ducks carried sub-lethal doses of the poisons to their nesting grounds, where their reproduction may be impaired.

Word from California indicates that there are agricultural areas there carry large amounts of DDT and smaller amounts of dieldrin, and that chlorinated hydrocarbons readily find the pheasant hen to the egg. State workers there are attempting to determine what proportion of annual pheasant losses can be attributed to insecticides.

Meanwhile, the National Film Board of Canada has withdrawn distribution of its outstanding color motion picture, "Deadly Dilemma," which presented an effective case for the use of bio, logical controls in combination with a minimum of chemical control, and Federation's biologists who have specialized in pesticides research have been "dis-invited" to give a number of talks, indicating that a concerted effort is afoot to silence the anti-chemical people. Other pesticide news:

In a paper reprinted from the Michigan Audubon Society's Jan.-June 1963 magazine, magnificently titled "The Seventh Spring Die-off of Robins at East Lansing, Michigan," George J. Wallace reports that the spring loss of robins following the springing of the gulls on the Michigan State University campus has been virtually complete in a 185-acre study area every spring since 1953. Comments Wallace:

"The finding of so many dead and dying birds obviously resulting from exposure to chemical poisons, locally and throughout the United States, raises some pertinent ethical and legal questions. Does it not make a mockery of our bird protection laws? It is again a law for a boy to shoot a robin with an air gun, but any city, county, state or Federal agency can order a program that will destroy thousands..."

Federation Executive Director Thomas L. Kimball told the Federal workers that the National Wildlife Federation is endeavoring to obtain "hard evidence" of fish and wildlife damage by pesticides.

"We have asked all of the state game and fish agency directors for cooperation along these lines," said Kimball, noting that quite a number of the state agency directors expressed enthusiasm and a great personal interest in the 1963 Wildlife Week theme, "Chemical Pesticides Are Poison—Handle With Care."

The Chairman of the Committee on Ecological Effects of Chemical Control of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said in Rome last month that "When confronted on its long term effectiveness pesticides may increase the problems rather than reduce them. With this in mind, careful consideration should be given to other solutions of the problem such as other cultural methods. Biological control seems, though not so spectacular and not so effective immediately, may eventually be a more economic and effective way of improving the production of food."

The most recent draft of Report III, Research Needs, of the Pest Control and Wildlife Relationship's series being assembled by the Committee on Pest Control and Wildlife Relationships of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, is an outstanding compilation of pertinent information and strikes a welcome note of objectivity and responsibility.

A booklet entitled "Insect Control and Its Implications, With Special Reference to Gypsy Moth and Mosquito Control," published by the Farmington River Watershed Association of Avon, Conn., and the Conservation and Research Foundation, provides an example of how a community can arrive at a truly public decision regarding whether or not to spray.

A hawk soaring high in the air has such unusual sight that it can detect a mouse moving through the grass.

The beak of an unhatched bird is covered with a horny exccrescence which allows it to chip the hard surface of the shell. This falls off shortly after the young bird emerges.

Fish are largely carnivorous. Most of them have sharp-pointed teeth in the mouth with which to seize their prey and hold it while it is being swallowed whole.
and hunting accidents make bitter headlines. However, these comparisons are lost to the non-hunting public; and at the same time they read of robberies at gun point, of murder and of the ease with which gangsters obtain firearms.

Within my own experience there is no question that there is a greater percentage of men and boys in the woods today who are ignorant of gun-safety than 50 years ago. The gun has long since lost its daily utility and historical significance as household equipment. Today when a man walks out of his house he does not reach up over the door and take down a loaded 30-30, and boys are no longer sent out with guns to supply the table with fresh meat.

Preaching gun safety in the backwoods was equal to memorizing the commandments against sin. Boys learned early by resting an old "Betsy" over a stump or fence rail. And some got their fences tanned when careless or when they missed a shot. Ammunition cost money, and money did not come easy.

Such training has long been forgotten. Today's boys do not learn proper gun safety, because their fathers are not schooled in it even today. Most of it is too mild, and legislators have been lackadaisical in passing laws.

Laws pertaining to gun safety, the age of licensees, and intoxication while hunting vary greatly from state to state. Some states still allow loaded guns to be carried in automobiles, others strictly prohibit loaded guns, whether a shell is in the chamber or the magazine. From a safety standpoint, no loaded gun should ever be carried in a vehicle by hunters. Practically all conservation departments have greatly improved their gun safety programs, realizing that severe laws may eventually circumscribe the sport of hunting, sleet and trap shooting, and rifle teams.

The time has arrived when hardened standards of training for would-be Daniel Boones must take precedent over the number of licenses sold or a wished-for game harvest. Human life will have to come before money and biology.

In many states, boys are considered sufficiently grown up at the age of 16 to be on their own with a gun. Instead of placing their loaded guns around camp, they are responsible for the worst type of publicity that can be imagined, and their misuse of firearms is the best argument for those who want gun restrictions, even though their activities have nothing to do with bank holdups and homicide.

Much as I dislike more laws, the only way to overcome the accident onus will be by mandatory gun safety training before a hunting license is issued. The standards should be tough; eyesight, mental attitudes, and physical fitness should be tested. Hunting eventually must be restricted only to those who have passed a rigid test and are physically and emotionally competent to go afield. This in itself would improve hunting ethics and the pleasure of those who are qualified.

The state conservation departments have been urging legislation toward this end. Most of it is too mild, and legislators have been lackadaisical in passing laws.

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The father-image has a powerful influence on youth; like father, like son. When gun safety programs are instituted for young hunters and new licensees, the father should be required to attend and take a refresher course in gun handling and conservation laws in general. If the father does not attend, then the boy would get no license whatever or not he passed the tests.

Fussing and fretting is not going to correct this situation. Every year restrictive gun laws will be introduced, and when finally passed may not be to the liking of many.

Sportsmen should start policing themselves and not be classified with gangsters. Although the sportsmen and gun enthusiasts sometimes disagree among themselves, this is one issue they had better take seriously. Regardless of all the noise that may ensue, no person should go afield with firearms unless he is a master-craftsman of the out-of-doors, knows gun safety rules, and is mentally and physically alert. This goes back to the old law of the survival of the fittest. Hunting may not survive as we have it, if strong measures are not taken.
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