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

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

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

BILL HANSEN, Editor

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

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Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy for, subscription rates, and blank return to 1964. Changes of address should be received within six weeks. Materials submitted for publication will be handled with care, but Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission assumes no responsiblity for loss or damage of same. Permission to reproduce materials in this publication will be granted to responsible parties upon application to the Editor. Manuscripts and photographs should be sent to: Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Copyright 1963, by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

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NOVEMBER, 1963

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Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

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NOVEMBER 1963
CONSERVATION SCENE

Space Age Wildlife Refuge Near Merritt Island

A CONSERVATION SCENE

by product or the space age is literally going to the birds—ducks, in fact.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced recently the signing of an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration establishing the Brevard County Mosquito Control District as the area's first wildlife refuge. Its marshes and surrounding waters comprise a wintering area of major importance to waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway. Concentrations of up to 500,000 lesser scaup have been observed in the brackish waters of Indian River, Mosquito Lagoon, and Banana River. Numerous ponds provide excellent habitat for many species of waterfowl, including pintails, wigeons, ring-necks, teal, and coots, a variety of egrets and herons.

The waterfowl value of the marshes within the new refuge is being enhanced by the development of mosquito control impoundments by the Brevard County Mosquito Control District under natural conditions of irregular flooding, these marshes have been notorious breeding places for salt marsh mosquitoes. In recent years, it has been demonstrated that impounding the marshes by means of low dikes can effectively eliminate mosquito breeding. At the same time, produce attractive waterfowl habitat. The agreement between Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration establishing the refuge recognizes the need for continuing mosquito control in the area and provides for full coordination of the Bureau's waterfowl program with that of the Brevard County Mosquito Control District.

Interest in establishing a refuge in this area dates back many years. When the accelerated reclamation program began in 1958, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—which will administer the refuge—placed the Merritt Island area high on its list of proposed refuges. Purchase of the area by NASA paved the way for the establishment of the refuge which is expected to meet the need for a major waterfowl refuge on the east coast of Florida.

Ducks At A Distance

The Department of the Interior recognizes that every waterfowl hunter taking to the field this fall equip himself with a thorough knowledge of the ducks and geese he seeks. This year's waterfowl regulations again stress the need for hunters to recognize their quarry before they pull the trigger. Enforcement officers probably will take a dim view of excuses that a hunter shot the wrong duck by "mistake," the Department said.

To assist hunters this year, the Department has published a handy 24-page color waterfowl identification guide, "Ducks at a Distance." Copies can be purchased for 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The Department noted that sportsmen's clubs, conservation groups and other organizations can obtain a special 25 percent discount on all orders of 100 copies or more.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said "Ducks at a Distance" was especially prepared to show waterfowl in their fall migration colors and to portray the birds from the same perspective that hunters see them in the wild.

(Continued on page 33)

THE COVER

From a Painting by Wallace Hughes

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER, 1963

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Subscription rates for Florida Wildlife will be increased, for the first time in over ten years, on January 1, 1964.

The reasons for this necessary increase are multiple. Major factors are the production and postal cost increases over the years. Add to that the Commission’s desire to continually improve this publication, with limited funds, and it becomes almost a race against the market. The few of the added costs with a slight subscription rate increase.

Conservation subscribers are asked to assist through-saying the subscription rate increase.

CURRENT subscription rates will remain unchanged through December 31, 1963. Renewals—new, renewals, extensions, and holiday gifts—will be charged at the rates shown on the outside back cover, per the dates specified above. New subscription order blanks will be available with the December issue, around mid-November.

HUNTING REMINDER

Hunters are reminded that the duck hunting regulations for extreme northwest Florida for the 1963-64 season have been set to conform with Eglin Field regulations.

In Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia, and Santa Rosa counties the first pheasant season runs November 16 and ends December 1. The second part begins December 14 and ends January 1.

Remember: In 1963, the Commission recognized the need for summering wildlife of the third region, except Washington and Holmes which have no open season, the duck hunting regulations for this year will be extended every day from November 16 through January 12.

Only duck breed with one or more five-inch tailers are legal.

Begins On The Land

Conservation Education

by Ernest Swift

National Wildlife Federation

NOT TOO MANY DECADES ago in the wooded farming regions of this country, "putting up" wild berries for the winter larder ranked close in importance to a productive garden plot or general farm harvest. Many village and farm children of three score years ago can remember what they deemed at the time the drudgery of berry picking, and then found out how the comestible aroma of juicy pies and elixir of jam on homemade bread.

Toward the latter part of June thirsty housewives sent the family exploring the neighboring brushland, back pastures and woods to see if the late frost had nipped the blueberries and to scout the choicest raspberries. Johnny was told to be on the watch when he went out after the cows or down to the creek fishing, but not to tell the neighbors what he found.

Blueberry pie for the Fourth of July was a sort of seasonal landmark, then followed raspberries, and toward the first of August came the blackberries.

The small fry of the family were always recruited for berry picking. Sometimes the menfolk were impressed into service, but generally there was hay to put up, or even some fancied chore, and not a few secretly felt it was a task for the women and youngsters—but they always ate the berries.

Few youngsters followed their mothers to the berry patch with any great enthusiasm, but prowling about short rations during the winter months was one of the disciplines of growing up in those bygone days.

Pals varied in size according to the age of the picker, with a stout cord or an old harness strap around the waist to hold the pail so that both hands could be used to gather berries.

The growups wore big straw hats, sometimes with mosquito netting round them; and mothers always carried an extra 12-quart milk pail so there would be hot soup. If there were no springs handy a jug of water with a carrying strap through the handle was toted along. The jug always became terribly heavy before the berry patch was reached, and there was always a cautious word not to be spoken on a rock. Seldom was there a lunch unless the distance was so great that the trip had to be made with horse and buggy.

On arrival at the spot for operation the first admonition was, "Now don't start eating berries right away—otherwise you'll never fill your pail—time enough for that when we get back to the house."

I can still see some of the old forest burns shimmering in the heat; acres and acres carpeted with a shear of blue blueberries, and hanging from the low bushes like clusters of small grapes.

One could sit and pull them off by the quart and tie them up with a rubber band. The boys and girls who went blackberry picking with their neighbors in the woods were always the ones who whose arms were covered with a sheen of blueberries gray and blackberry backs pastures and woods.

One could sit and pull them off by the handful. Those hordes of derryfolds who would walk right into a bush and hang from the low bushes like clusters of small grapes.

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**MUZZLE FLASHES**

**Hunting Preparation**

Hunting season tips on gun care, lubrication, and sighting-in the big game rifle

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

In hunting, it is only good sense to take advantage of the maximum effective trajectory or bullet flight path of a given cartridge load. Otherwise, the practical use range of your rifle will be considerably limited.

For most of the popular big game calibers, like .30-06, .370 Win., .280 Rem. and .308 Win., a bullet impact point of 2½ to 3 inches above point of aim usually gives most advantageous application at all practical hunting ranges between muzzle and approximately 225 yards.

What—as a reader writes—if one does not have access to a range that will permit any sighting-in firing beyond 50 yards? In such case, the rifle should be sighted-in at 50 yards so that bullets hit above point of aim to the extent that efficient use will also be possible to the extent that efficient use will also be possible.

For the average shooter, who does only seasonal firing of a large caliber rifle, the ballistics tables published in the gun catalogs are apt to be somewhat puzzling. It takes actual firing over known ranges in order to truly understand bullet performance in relation to hold and sight picture.

Hunting rifles of the rimfire class should be sighted-in with high velocity ammunition (not Magnum loads) so that bullets hit one inch above point of aim after 50 yards flight. This will give a zero of 75 yards, and only about 3 inches of bullet drop at 100 yards.

In an effort to make basic ballistics factors more easily understood, the Marlin Firearms Company several years ago introduced a sighting-in guide, made in the form of a heavy cardboard wheel around which the ballistics of the more common center fire calibers were given revolving window presentation. Although practical, the guide just didn't fit the shooter's coat pocket; therefore, it was usually left at home on the days most needed.

For the average thick brush conditions under which he will later hunt.

The woods' hunter needs to develop skill necessar for quick taking of steady shooting positions, and ability to snap-shoot accurately at targets that, at best, are exposed to aim for only five seconds.

A trial sighting-in clinic and introduction of a competitive course of practical field firing with hunting type rifles could very well put new life into a slowly dying formal target shooting club.

From personal experience, I know there eventually comes a day when even the most enthusiastic formal target shooter seeks variety—and more fun—in lieu of the pressure of the hardest form of competition and the almost absolute perfection demanded of top-ranking tournament performers.

Game figure targets, between seasons varmint shooting and legal season hunting, on the other hand, can keep a rifleman in fine form for practical, all-around shooting without the pressures of tournament competition.

If you plan to hunt one of the far north states or Canadian provinces this season, take care to thoroughly degrase the working parts of your rifle, especially removing all traces of oil from small springs and the firing pin's housing. Otherwise, in subfreezing weather your rifle's action is apt to fail you.

For lubrication, use fine graphite, or silicone solution unaffected by temperature extremes.

At Palm Beach, Florida, shooter Tom Rice, 437 Chleane Avenue, is marketing a gun cleaning kit of his own development that solves field and home gun cleaning problems. His gun cleaning kit consists of three items—his XF-Gun Solvent, for removing lead and fouling from gun bores, an XF-15 Dry Graphite preparation for greaseless lubrication of mechanisms, and an XF-20 Gun Lubricant that goes on metal surfaces as a liquid and creates a microscopically thin protective film of amazing durability.

The products, however, are not for haphazard application; for best results, the manufacturer's instructions must be followed to the letter.

I am very interested in the performance qualities of gun oils and greases, and constantly test and evaluate advertised preparations. I have been doing this since 1929, and on the Florida scene since 1945, both as a hobby and as research technician for National Sportsmen's Research Institute. Products are given rather rugged tests.

In the old days, Hoppe's No. 9 pretty well dominated the category of solvents used for bore cleaning, and products like Big Houghton's Rust-Veto, Jaymac Gun Grease, Gunlick Gun Grease, Hart's 77 Anti-Rust Oil, Ruste-Prud, Sheath and Winchester Gun Oil were the stand-bys for preservation of exteriors. Anhydrous lanolin mixed 50-50 with either high grade (moisture free) white Vaseline creates a amazing durability.

(Continued on page 29)
Two pretty girls from Kansas, a guitar playing ballad singer; a group of coon hunters, a pack of three hounds, and a pet raccoon, pulled the fact from the fire and saved the day for the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club.

To properly tell the story of the 1963, 14th annual Wildlife Night it is necessary to go back a bit and bring the night of August 17 into focus. In Daytona Beach there is an open air theater, complete with band shell and seating arrangements for an estimated five thousand people. Once each year the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club breaks a routine of musical concerts by sponsoring a special program with emphasis on conservation and wildlife. Throughout the years Wildlife Night has become not only popular but eagerly anticipated by the residents and tourists of Daytona Beach.

In the past, Wildlife Night has seen everything from snakes, alligators, hawks, duck calling, movies, bears and retrieving dogs. Each year the show is a bit bigger and better than the preceding year. Quite a few years ago the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission got into the act by helping the sponsoring club obtain suitable conservation programs. With the Commission participation Jim Reed the congenial Information Officer from the Commission's Central Florida region manages to coax an annual fullness of hair in his efforts to come up with something new.

The 1963 Wildlife Night climaxed a long series of successful wildlife shows at the bandshell and surely a credit to the Commission, the sponsoring Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club, and all who participated in what was titled the worlds first Inboard Coon Dog Field Trial.

The trial as conducted at the bandshell consisted of a drag trail laid up one aisle and down the center aisle through an audience of several thousand people to a tree located near the center of the stage. Herman the pet coon was allowed to select his choice of branches on the well braced tree and there awaited the action of the hounds. The hounds were cast from one side of the audience and required to follow the trail on concrete.

All in all it wasn't a long trail, at the most perhaps three hundred yards, but concrete isn't the most conducive element for a coon hunt and when mingled with the aroma of several thousand people it provides a real test of merit for the most determined hound. I will have to take the proverbial coon skin cap off to the hounds of Jacksonville as they demonstrated real coon dog sagacity by following the trail and thereby providing the audience with the sight and sound of a real honest to goodness coon hunt.

In the audience was one elderly gentleman who arrived with his granddaughter an hour ahead of show time. Seems the fellow was an old time coon hunter from the state of Tennessee and wanted to make sure his little granddaughter had an opportunity to hear the mountain music. Seated in the front row was a delegation from the humane society to make sure Herman the pet coon came to no harm.

The back rows witnessed an audience standing on the back of the benches in order to view the treewing and baying of the hounds. The pretty girls from Kansas introduced the hounds to the audience and probably converted some of the young fellows on the beach patrol to the sport of coon hunting.

Gene Smith the singing Game Commission Information-Education officer from north west Florida strummed the guitar and sang "Bay at the Moon" with considerable improvisation of lyrics to fit the occasion. Dr. Fred Peacock, a Jacksonville veterinarian, went back to Jacksonville with a winning hound, a two year old Redbone named Leroy. All in all it was a grand time, a splendid wildlife show, and many folks went coon hunting without getting their feet wet.

The success of the 1963 Daytona Beach Wildlife Night has already opened spectalations for the 1964 occasion. Some would have the next event a full fledged "Inboard Coon Dog Field Trial" with proper sanction and awards.

Selective Breeding

One objective of a dog club is to improve the standard of a sporting breed. This can be accomplished by the selective breeding of the better dogs. In other words a field trial champion dog bred to a field trial champion should produce a litter of prospective field trial champions.

Evidence of the success of such practice can be noted at each field trial of the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club, and other field trial activity around Florida. For instance "Meto Of Devil's Garden," a son of Amateur Field Trial Champion and Florida Champion "Mallard Of Devils Garden," is a consistent placing dog in both the derby and the qualifying stakes. I think however the most marked evidence of this breeding theory was displayed during the fast club trial of the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club.

With nineteen retrievers entered in the Derby Stake the judges selected seven dogs at the conclusion of four series of competition. Of the seven dogs remaining in the winners circle five were from one litter. This litter the results of a breeding by Florida Champion "Dee Dot's Greatful Duke" owned by Parker Capps of Jacksonville and out of Florida Amateur Champion "Siglone Rebel Babe" owned by Dick Cheves of Fort Myers.

While these winning youngsters were the results of selective breeding, they would never have reached the circle had it not been for the efforts of the owners and many hours of training. However in order to have a winner it is necessary to have something to start with, and I feel that those who watch retriever field trials may do well to keep an eye on this breeding.

Labor Day Field Trials

The Panhandle Sportsmens Club conducted its second annual Labor Day Coon Hound Field Trial and Water Race at Panama City. The days trophy events was literally carried away by a grade class black and tan hound from Crestview, Florida. Of the four trophy events "Slim" owned by Edy Jones of Crestview received top honors in three. First at line in the land trial, first at line in the water race, and first at the tree in the water event. The determined "Slim" was cast by his owner in...
FISHING

Noise and Fish

Surface fishing the plastic worm with spinning tackle

by CHARLES WATERMAN

Fish hear through what is usually termed the "lateral lines"—lines which show plainly or hardly at all depending on what kind of fish you're examining. Since the lines run almost from bow to stern and there is one on each side, this listening apparatus is evidently pretty important.

The study of all the sensory equipment of fishes is one of the hottest things in fish biology right now and it is known that various kinds of fish whine, grunt, click, squeal, whistle and snarl at each other or the world in general. Some of these noises are clearly audible to an angler, even when the fish is under water. What they mean he can only guess at, but it shakes him to know that there are thousands of underwater signals he can't hear and wouldn't understand if he could.

He'd probably be even more bugged if he could hear them and could know what they were.

So we know that a bass can hear a lot of little noises under water and we wonder what scares him and what attracts him. Probably the answer is that what scares him on Tuesday may attract him on Wednesday. We don't know why, but we're not doing so well.

When the proper noises are made.

They cast the worm over underwater vegetation and reeled it rapidly with irregular rod whipping. The worm made a wake on top like a hurrying snake. Sometimes it actually skipped in a wind riffle. It worked on both calm and windy days.

The "strikes" consisted of big swirls—sometimes attended by a splash. When that happened the fisherman gave slack immediately, allowing the fish to get the entire worm into his mouth. It usually was a wait of several seconds. Then he'd set the hook hard and there was a very high percentage of successful hookings. For short periods it was very nearly the most productive bass fishing I've ever seen. The water was several feet deep.

These fellows preferred black worms but said they wouldn't give other colors much of a trial.

Right along with this noise business: I was given some nylon rowlocks to test the other day, the theory being that they would prove much quieter than metal.

They were quieter and they were apparently quite strong enough for any kind of rowing. They did not show wear after a couple of weeks of hard use. Unfortunately, I bumped one of them against a bridge piling and it snapped in two. I doubt if this is a serious fault. It was a hard blow and probably wouldn't happen again in years.

Now a very loud noise that causes heavy vibration is something else again. A sudden clap of thunder will startle fish. Undoubtedly a shot fired near the water's surface would do the same. You can bang a skiff in such a way that it causes a lot of underwater noise (just stick your head under and listen) and I have seen fish startled by such a bang. Fish accustomed to being fed from boats, docks or shore will come to the feeding area when the proper noises are made.

Shy fish are often scattered by the vibrations and movements of boggy ground. The vibrations, of course, are transmitted through the water but I don't know if they are received the same as sounds or not.

Without scientific experimental evidence, I'd say that the fisherman should be most careful of thumps or not. Without scientific experimental evidence, I'd say that the fisherman should be most careful of thumps or not. Without scientific experimental evidence, I'd say that the fisherman should be most careful of thumps or not.

More About Plastic Worms

I have no idea where the plastic worm is going to stop—probably never.

The latest exhibition of worm angling I've viewed was a deadly bit of surface fishing demonstrated by a fisherman named Albert Guenther and a couple of his friends.

Using plain, ordinary plastic worms with single hooks and spinning rods, they caught big strings of bass on a lake I had considered a poor fishing spot.

The rig was simple. Using 8-pound-test monofilament line they attached a somewhat heavier leader about a foot long with a small swivel in between.

The weight of the worm and hook came to something like 1/5 ounce and it was light enough that if you laid it gently on the surface it would float for an instant.

They cast the worm over underwater vegetation and reeled it rapidly with irregular rod whipping. The worm made a wake on top like a hurrying snake. Sometimes it actually skipped in a wind riffle. It worked on both calm and windy days.

The "strikes" consisted of big swirls—sometimes attended by a splash. When that happened the fisherman gave slack immediately, allowing the fish to get the entire worm into his mouth. It usually was a wait of several seconds. Then he'd set the hook hard and there was a very high percentage of successful hookings. For short periods it was very nearly the most productive bass fishing I've ever seen. The water was several feet deep.

These fellows preferred black worms but said they wouldn't give other colors much of a trial.

Maybe it works only on certain kinds of lakes but—well, they caught a lot of bass.

I am watching with interest a rod put out by the Farwick people in California. It's called the DuPont's Stren. This DuPont kit, which will cost about $4.95, contains eight different sizes of mono leaders. All of this gear in one clear cylindrical plastic bottle only four and a half inches long. This dupe I recommend. The guy who thought it up should get a nylon medal.
Whether you bag them with gun or bow, their puma) is taboo as a hunting trophy. Animals are now protected statewide and year-round. The once hunted Florida panther (or except in the section of the state south of Highway 60, an area observing special dates—

THE BIG THREE

DEER, BEAR and WILD HOGS

FOR THE SPORTSMAN who seeks big game, and who
likes his hunting exciting and often rugged, there is open season in Florida on game species that offer a challenge of matched wits or bold defiance.

The big three are deer, bear and wild hogs. Whether you bag them with gun or bow, their quest offers exciting sport.

Until the Game Commission considers his taking desirable, the once hunted Florida panther (or puma) is taboo as a hunting trophy. Animals are now protected statewide and year-around. Rarely seen, only a small native population remains. Despite expanding civilization and heavy hunting pressure, the Florida whitetail deer is generally on the increase. Good hunting abounds in many sections of the state.

This hunting season, which opens statewide November 16—except in the section of the state south of Highway 60, an area observing special dates—

is characteristically promising. Game biologists report healthy and numerous deer herds at widely scattered points.

There'll be many a fine buck bagged in some virtually unknown spots, as well as in such popular deer hunting locations as Florida's national forests, Eglin Field, Homosassa and Withlacoochee river country, the Everglades and the scrub oak country that characterizes the Citrus-Hernando section.

It is not so much a matter of pin-pointing the area of heaviest deer populations as being at the right place at the right time. Deer hunting has a pronounced element of luck associated with participation, but success is often influenced by the deer hunter's preparedness, his hunting knowledge and experience.

Hunting techniques vary.

Many Florida hunters like to organize short period deer hunts, place members at strategic points and make a "run" with the hope that a deer jumped and scent-trailed by dogs will take an escape course that will bring it within effective killing range of one of the waiting hunters.

Also numerous are the unorganized, independent hunters who park their cars on back roads and wait for deer to cross of own accord or because of being disturbed by the activity of rival hunters.

Others prefer to still-hunt deep in the Florida scrub, either sitting with back to a tree that overlooks a game trail or occupying a tree-stand built above ground and affording a somewhat more encompassing view. (The secret of your success will be directly related to how still you can be; as someone once said, there's a big difference between sitting on a stand and sitting still! Hand movements must be kept to a minimum and the hunter must firmly resist the temptation to move to another spot.)

Relatively few hunters choose to pussy-foot through the woods, hoping to either jump a bedded buck or spot a deer before being seen—while silently praying they themselves won't be mistaken for deer and shot at by some trigger-happy hunter. If a slow-walk through the woods is your preferred technique, try it during the midday hours when game is most likely to be taking a siesta.

Move very slowly and stop often to test wind direction and study brush and vegetation ahead in the unpredictable moments of Florida deer hunting. It is even possible to get—and miss!—a shot at 30 feet.

Hunting techniques vary. Many Florida hunters like to organize short period deer hunts, place members at strategic points and around you. In order to be successful at this type of hunting, you must invariably see the game before it sees you.

Whatever your chosen method of hunting, by all means utilize the visual assistance a good pair of binoculars provide. The glasses will not only save you a lot of unnecessary and noisy walking, but will enable you to probe shadowed spots where motionless animals in hiding normally might not be detected.

Among deer hunters, there is long standing controversy as to whether or not deer can see color. Scientists say that deer are color blind, and a hunter can be dressed in bright red from head to toe and it won't make much difference unless the hunter moves.

However, the same scientists admit that deer undoubtedly can detect marked differences in tone in their visual world of gray and black and white. For this reason, many hunters take care to wear camouflage pattern clothing that blends with nature's colors, or to stand against background of harmonizing vegetation.

The American Indian used a blind advantageously in his hunting of deer, and you can, too. Your blind, however, must be larger and better camouflaged—simply because it's a sure bet you won't be as still inside your blind as the Indian. You'll need

(Continued on next page)

In hunting the big game trio—deer, wild hog and bear—it is a good idea to get an elevated stand early, they rise as legal.
Florida big game is abundant, but elusive. With exceptions, hunter success doesn't come easy. Hunters, left, must know and study the game and its habitat carefully. Tracks in mud and sandy soil help reveal prowling hunting areas. Fresh track, below, near spring, shows bear visited here not too many hours before.

The Florida Black Bear, right, is notably smart; few hunters, in search of other game, ever see one. Black bear may be taken during legal open season, according to regulations, and during special managed bear hunts scheduled by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Cub bears, below, are protected at all times.

(Continued from preceding page)

a blind large enough to permit you to move about a little inside without being visible or creating give-away noise. For a blind constructed at ground level, one 6 feet or larger on the inside and not more than 3 feet high is about the smallest that can be utilized comfortably and effectively by the average hunter. In a small blind, you will inadvertently bump, rustle or rattle something just about every time you move.

It is important that the blind be located where game regularly travels. If possible, walk leisurely over the area you plan to hunt, note good spots and select one or more at least two weeks before your planned hunt. Set up your blind in advance, if you can, so that game will tend to accept the man-made structure as a natural, harmless part of the landscape.

Always consider prevailing wind direction when planning a blind. The best blind is of no value if your scent is air-borne to game in the vicinity. If the landscape is wooded, use a small blind as a natural, harmless part of the habitat. Animals have been recently glimpsed by occupants of cars traveling of late afternoon on the roads bordering the edges of Windrop Swamp, nine miles east of Tallahassee on the Jacksonville highway.

Generally, bear hunting is done with dogs, with exceptions. Usually, bear hunts are taken by dogs, with the Plott family, of Hazelwood, North Carolina, breeders of the famous Plott strain of bear hounds, and its habitat carefully. Track, below, near spring, shows bear visited here not too many hours before.

The Plott family, of Hazelwood, North Carolina, is to provide

most Florida black bears are found in thick growth river swamps, dense scrub oak areas and large palmetto-studded hammocks that slow down men and dogs and give bruin time to disappear along an escape route as familiar to him as a briar-patch to a rabbit. Consequently, an average of only about fifty legally killed animals are taken each year.

In his remote, hard-to-reach native habitat, the Florida black bear seems to be holding his own. More could be taken without depleting basic breeding stock if more hunters showed the intestinal fortitude necessary to find and bring him to bay. Adult bear may be taken only during the open season that embraces deer hunting, and during special managed bear hunts scheduled by the Game Commission. Cubs are protected at all times.

Adult bear may be taken only during the open season that embraces deer hunting, and during special managed bear hunts scheduled by the Game Commission. Cubs are protected at all times.

**Photo by Edmund McLaurin**

**Photo by Leonart Law Rue III**

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The Florida black bear, not only smart, few hunters, out in quest of other game, ever see one. Once man or dog scent reaches bruin's nostrils, he is apt to put added distance between himself and danger—and fast. Only the more determined hunters ever get close to a bear in the wild.

Another reason—besides the quarry's sagacity in avoiding the hunters after him—is that most Florida bear are found in thick growth river swamps, dense scrub oak areas and large palmetto-studded hammocks that slow down men and dogs and give bruin time to disappear along an escape route as familiar to him as a briar-patch to a rabbit. Consequently, an average of only about fifty legally killed animals are taken each year.

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Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour past sunset. Bag limit is 1 per season, unless special hunt regulations apply. To make bear hunting both attractive and easier for the individual licensed hunter, the Game Commission annually authorizes special organized bear hunts, usually in the Osceola National Forest in Columbia and Baker counties, and in the Apalachee National Forest in Liberty county. Two areas known for good hunting.

The procedure is to provide for several three-day hunt periods, each under a hunt supervisor and Government official.
Big game hunting among the countless islands of the Everglades invariably demands airboats for transportation.

(Continued from preceding page)

Palm Beach will be open for hunting. (Outside of the designated management areas and cooperating counties, the Commission claims no jurisdiction.)

This season, hunters are permitted a daily bag limit of one hog of either sex, and a season's bag limit of one hog of either sex, and a season's

Many hunters openly declare they would rather bag a wild hog than a deer; they know the Epicurean delight of eating barbequed wild hog.

(Continued on page 31)
REGULATIONS FOR 1963-64 HUNTING SEASON

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING FLORIDA RESIDENT GAME BIRDS AND ANIMALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAG LIMITS</th>
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<td>Squirrel</td>
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Duck Season Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Hunters permitted every day, except DeSoto and Manatee counties on Nov. 16-Dec. 1 and Dec. 21-Jan. 1 only. No Open Season in Manatee County.

ALL REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

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

RABBIT HUNTING—Both cottontail and swamp rabbit have been added to the list of game species for which hunting permitted 12 months in the year. No bag or season limits. License required to take rabbit during the regular seasons for resident and migratory game animals and birds.

BEAR HUNTING—The bear is a game animal and may be taken only during the hunting season or during any taking of beef during any season when bears are authorized to hunt.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKING GAME—Shotguns not larger than 10-gauge; Rifles; Repeating Rifles; Long Bows; Pistols. Shotguns and rifles must be tagged by hunter with untagged and hunting permitted 12 months in the year. No bag or season limits. License required to take rabbit during the regular seasons for resident and migratory game animals and birds.

SHOOTING HOURS—For resident game: Before sunrise but not more than 1/2 hour after sunrise. For fall migratory game: From 12:01 A.M. until 6 A.M., except for all other birds when hunting is allowed for any species.

MIGRATORY BIRDS—All merriments (except mergansers) of waterfowl. Engage in any merriments of waterfowl, and may be engaged in the late season.

DOVES—All doves shall be taken with shotguns only. Any other method of taking doves, except shotguns, shall not be allowed.

BOATS FOR WATERFOWL—A migratory bird may be taken from a boat or other craft within 1/2 mile of any watercourse including any waterfowl.-

HUNTING GUIDES—A person shall not engage in the business of guiding hunters on hunting grounds unless he was secured a license to do so. No person while acting as a guide shall take any game or carry shotguns or rifles.

1963 Nov. 16-Nov. 18

Florida Wildlife

REGULATIONS FOR 1963-64 HUNTING SEASON

ALL REGULATIONS SHOWN ARE INCLUSIVE

SEE MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARIES FOR MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING MIGRATORY BIRDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAG LIMITS</th>
<th>FLORIDA WILDLIFE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deer Bag Only</td>
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<td>Squirrel</td>
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GUNS—A gun is defined as any device mechanism for the discharge of a projectile shot, rifle, revolver, air gun, gas gun, blow gun, bar and arrow, or other device.

SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 23 south of State Rd. 60.

NOVEMBER 1963
Hunting Season Regulations

Ocala National Forest—The hunting season for deer in the Ocala National Forest will coincide with the season set for the state as a whole. Hunting of bears, hogs, rabbits, and various other species is prohibited in the Ocala National Forest.

Do not hunt, take, or molest at any time.

DO OBJECT—If you object to the hunting season set for the Ocala National Forest, you may object by written protest to the Director and/or the State Conservation Officer. You may also appeal to the Governor of the state. The State Conservation Officer shall prepare a report of the protest, which shall be sent to the Governor of the state. If the Governor so directs, the protest shall be heard by a hearing board established by the Governor. A written statement of the decision of the hearing board shall be sent to you at the address shown on your protest. You may then appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Governor of the state. The Governor of the state shall then make a final decision on the protest.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission—The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission shall, by order, prohibit the hunting of any species of game. The order shall be published in the Florida Constitution. The order shall be effective immediately. The order shall be in force until amended or revoked by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

NO DISCHARGE—Firearms—Do not discharge firearms near inhabited areas or in public places, such as parks, schools, or other public places.

DO NOT HUNT—There is NO OPEN SEASON on the following species: deer, hogs, rabbits, and various other species.

DO NOT CARRY FIREARMS—Carry firearms or guns during hunting season. In prohibited in National Forests and on state-owned or state-controlled Wildlife Management Areas.

Hunters Affiel don't always get a rocket, a pheasant, or a Canada goose, but they hope to. And, in this hope, the hunting fraternity pays annually about $150 million dollars into the game management kitty. The money goes to buy land; to restore and improve habitat; and to do research, so that every whim of wildlife can be met.

The motive, of course, is purely selfish. Hunters pay more with the expectation that they’ll get more. But to get more game there has to be more. And according to Remington’s Wildlife Management Division, here’s the way it figures.

Bluebirds are in short supply. Some claim there’s a victim of the shot gun; others say clean-up forestry and the removal of den trees has resulted in a housing shortage, but it really knows. But, if the bluebird weighed up and held a point dog—then, we’d know. And we'd be doing something about it.

Alligators—Crocodiles

All alligators and crocodiles of any size, and their nests, eggs, and young, are fully protected at all times in all parts of the state. Do not hunt, take, or molest at any time.

NO PERSON MAY TAKE or possess any alligator, crocodile, or black caiman, or any part thereof, or their skins or hides or nests or eggs except under permit from the Director of the Commission.

South American Caiman of any size, other than the Black Caiman, may be imported and sold when advertised to represent alligators as alligators. Wherever Caiman are advertised as "Baby Alligators," the words "South American Caiman" must be shown immediately beneath the words, and in letters not less than half the size of the words or letters, used in writing "Baby Alligator." No alligator or American crocodile may be sold. Dealers are subject to suspension and must possess invoices or documentary evidence that such caiman were imported.

DO NOT USE—It is prohibited to use any of the following methods or weapons while hunting: Full-jacketed bullets or .22 caliber rimfire cartridges for taking deer or bear. Fully automatic firearms, rifles or pistols for taking migratory birds, Cross bow. Taking game over bait. Hunting with gun, possession of gun while hunting, any firearm that is capable of being used for hunting, including air guns, air rifles, or other weapons. Saltlick. Setguns. Live decoys, Airplane, automobile, power hunting in Florida.

Transport ation—Guns may be transported only as permitted by law and regulation of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission—The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission shall, by order, prohibit the hunting of any species of game. The order shall be published in the Florida Constitution. The order shall be effective immediately. The order shall be in force until amended or revoked by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. You may object to the hunting season set for the state as a whole. The order shall be in force until amended or revoked by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

You Pay For What You Get

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The word "duck" is a disappointment over a pointing dog. It fits neatly in the mouth of a Labrador. It weights a pound and a half, and is good eating; and, if you're lucky, it serves well the needs of fly fishermen. Water ducks, too, had problems of housing shortage, but not for long. Across the country dens were provided in quantity, and research to establish its other needs is going on to keep things for the waterfowl, and out for the woods are looking up.

The bald eagle—our national bird—is on the skies. It’s getting survey and control, marketing, taking, and research, and a lot of sympathy. But as for a determined, well-financed management program—nothing. But antelope, a huntable game species, were also on the ropes a few decades back. They got lost of attention and help, and a big big push from the hunters. All this is not to say that the way to save bluebirds and bald eagles is to declare them game and hunt them. But as a fair and reasonable way to say that game species are privileged species, and money in quantity is spent in support of their welfare. It is fair to say that hunters are not about to abuse and destroy something they cherish and pay good money to take in numbers. And it is fair to say that responsible administrators of game affairs are not about to seek jobs and reputations in unwise use of the game resource.

We strongly favor and support the development and management of non-game as well as game species, and believe wildlife can serve added purposes for conservation without gracing the dinner table. We respect the interest of non-consumptive users of wildlife while pointing out that hunting, as a consumptive use, is not one to affect any permanent reduction in numbers. All told, guiding producing areas for ducks. A great host of songbirds, shorebirds, and other marsh inhabitants will be benefited in species degree, and who’s to argue whether a rose hedge for game is worth more for rabbits and quail than a rose hedge for non-game species runs off on non-game associates. Take, for example, the $105 million treasury loan to purchase and manage land for wildlife. Duck hunters will pay the bill, but the benefits will extend beyond the primary intent of safe-guarding producing areas for ducks. A great host of songbirds, shorebirds, and other marsh inhabitants will be benefited in species degree, and who’s to argue whether a rose hedge for game is worth more for rabbits and quail than a rose hedge for non-game species runs off on non-game associates.
Both will throw far enough but the spinning outfit runs into line slap and guide friction which are only minor problems with plug outfits.

An ordinary freshwater casting outfit will work very nicely with 20-pound-test braided line and you can go even heavier if you want to.

Florida bass often prefer big lures and you can toss them as big as an ounce with the same plug outfit that works with half-ouncers.

A ready thumb can give control of the baitcasting lure the instant it hits water.

Baitcasting is less work than spinning if you do a lot of it. The plugging reel is set close to the rod handle and the cranking band doesn’t have all the twisting leverage that a coffee-grinder type spinning reel provides. In my experience the hardest part of using a spinning rod is hanging on tightly enough that the whole outfit won’t wobble when you turn that big long crank. Children and ladies often speak up pretty frankly about this. We he-men don’t mention our sore forearms.

Baitcasting is ahead of spinning in working noisy surface baits. There’s more control and the rod tip is usually a bit stiffer.

Unless you have both outfits you aren’t completely equipped.

If we’d always had the baitcasting reels we have now the chances are that spinning never would have taken over.

Nearly every big manufacturer has turned out a free-spooling casting reel in recent years. That means the handle isn’t engaged when you make a cast. Thus the spool runs more easily. You disengage the handle with a button before you cast and when you wind it automatically snaps back into gear.

Although we’d had such reels for tournament and heavy salt water work for a long time, it took the Swedish Ambassadeur, marketed by the Garcia Corporation, to set the trend in light plugging tackle.

The Ambassadeur is still near the top of the heap and justifiably so because it’s an excellent piece of equipment. The de luxe model costs a hundred bucks.

Until the last 18 or 20 years it was hard to get a “fast” baitcasting reel (one with little “flywheel” action as the lure is cast). All of the free-spoolers are “fast” and there are some others, notably the “direct drives” and other nylon-geard reels as well as some with ultra-light metal gears. Nearly all baitcasting reels have been speeded up.

A fast reel is less prone to backlash. A true backlash is a distinctive kind of line tangle. The line starts the spool turning rapidly and then slows up; the reel continues to run and throws the line all over the spool in a series of loops. The critical instant in backlash comes when the lure has about used up its original momentum and is slowing preparatory to plopping into the water.

A good caster uses a gently applied thumb, possibly aided by mechanical braking power applied to the spool shaft through “drag” adjustment. Years ago there were hundreds of anti-backlash devices.

(Continued on next page)
buds up it's worse than just an ordinary backlash. Mono requires more careful thumbing and generally won't stand for quite so much of a snap in the cast. Charley Wray of Winter Park, who is an expert at mono casting with a plugging outfit, says he always throws a "soft" cast with monofilament. You have to look closely to tell the difference in such a cast but the difference is there. Less wrist snap.

For shoreline casting on black bass I'll take braided line because I get better accuracy but I don't use braided line finer than 10-pound test. Smaller than that it's pretty delicate.

Extra hard braid takes on some of the undesirable characteristics of monofilament. Extra soft braids collect too much water, cast skippily and spray you on every cast.

By the time you learn to cast well you don't have many backlashes but at about that time you learn to untangle them pretty easily anyway. In giving an exhibition of casting the other day I got carried away and announced I would show how to cause a backlash. The resultant birdnest was a bit beyond my fondest hopes so I waited until I got home to untangle it, figuring a sharp knife would be a great help. Surprisingly I undid the mess in a couple of minutes. I guess I've had a lot of practice and it's never quite as bad as it looks.

Anyway, it doesn't even compare to what some casters call a "snazzle" on a spinning reel. That happens when about 40 loops of line decide to hop off the spool at once during a cast. It usually results from an overloaded spool.

The star drag that comes on some of the free spool reels enables the baitcaster to play long-running, big fish without losing his thumb. However, the true star drag is not permitted in the bait-casting class of many fishing contests because it can be "adjusted while playing the fish."

Fish so caught must be entered in the "general division."

Until advent of the improved drag the little "cob" or "slip-clutch" drag was about all you could have put on your plugcasting reel. They were all right for limited use but weren't so hot if you were trying to play something like a bonefish that is likely to run more than 100 yards.

Nevertheless, it is likely that the Pflueger Supreme reel, with the addition of a little slip clutch, has caught more big fresh and saltwater fish than any other baitcasting outfit. They now make a free spool model.

The Supreme wasn't particularly fast in its early days.

I used to know a bass fisherman named Carl Moyer of Sanford, Florida, who used a stiff casting rod, a Pflueger Supreme reel, 15-pound test line and a quarter-ounce Creek Chub Darter. Don't ask me how he could cast the thing like a bullet. It was a case of long practice and living with that kind of an outfit. His thumb was attuned to the delicate pressures necessary.

My advice to the fellow just taking up baitcasting is to get a fast reel (either a free-spooler or one with light gears), a rod from five to six feet long, a reel with light gears, a line that weighs around 5/8-ounce Later he can go to lighter and heavier lures and lines. He should learn to cast with a quick, snapping motion to begin with. Later the backhands, sideswipes and lobbing casts will come easily. The wrist should do most of the work if you're to be accurate.

If you're going out to get some 5/8-ounce lures you may have to take some scales with you. Of late, manufacturers have coyly neglected to mark the weights on the boxes.

I'll suggest some that would be a good start for a beginning baitcaster, probably a guy who also has a spinning outfit for lighter lures. I'm not telling you that these lures are the very best but they are good ones and representative. Don't get a whole boxful that are too nearly alike.

Include a plug that floats at rest and dives on the retrieve and can also be used as a popping, slowly-worked surface plug—say a South Bend Bass Oreno.

You need a good weedless spoon for use over grass beds and in coontail masses and buy five completely representative. Don't get a whole boxful of them. For a skirted weedless bait for vegetation-filled waters, I like the Hawaiian Wiggler and in Florida they usually get you a yellow skirt with it. You won't go wrong on an old-fashioned sinking type with spinners front and back—like a Tampieuda. That's usually called a "torpedo" bait.

A diver with a long metal lip is handy but I don't generally list it with the first five. By keeping these types in mind you might go out and buy five completely different baits but still have a similar collection. Think in terms of types rather than makes.

The purchase of baitcasting rods has been complicated lately by the advent of the stick with stiff butt section and a very flexible tip. I don't care much for these because I was raised on more gradual tapers but I can see merits in the new ones in that they are adaptable to a wide variety of lures.
W.E WERE FISHING the Kissimmee River in central Florida, this visitor from Chicago and I. I was casting my frog-colored surface plug around the hyacinths when suddenly I heard my companion squeal.

"I've got one," he yelped. "I've got a good one."

I looked around just as the fish jumped. came out of the water like a piece of spring steel, whipping well above the surface, its slim body a blur of motion. There was no mistaking that fish.

"You've got yourself a pickerel," I said. The fish jumped again. If anything, this leap was higher and more spectacular than the first.

"A ... a ... a ... what?" the man stammered between clinched teeth as the fish got airborne for a third time.

"Pickerel," I emphasized, reached overboard with the landing net as the fish came to bay. Scooping it up, I gingerly removed it from the net mesh by clamping its lower jaw with a pair of pliers, in due respect for the sharp gill covers.

"See, just an old chain pickerel," I said. "Want to keep 'im?"

Dave examined the fish closely. "Is it good to eat?"

"Some people think so," I explained. "But I don't eat to it much. Too bony."

"Let's keep it anyway," Dave said. Later, back at the dock, he revealed what he intended to do with the two-pound pickerel.

"I'm going to pack this thing in dry ice and take it back to Chicago with me," he said. "Otherwise, no one would ever believe I caught anything like it in Florida."

It was an unusual reaction ... but typical.

Many pickerel inhabit the rivers of Florida.

A pickerel comes catapulting from the water, right at the boat.

A pickerel catches catapulting from the water, right at the boat.

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

THAT ACROBAT, THE PICKEREL

This long, slim battler shows up in some of the darndest places!
SEMINOLE BEAGLE CLUB, INC.
Gene Sellers,
134 E. Fourth Street
Jacksonville 2, Florida

CALOOSA BEAGLE CLUB
Mrs. Henry J. Bond
1710 Fourth Street
Cape Coral, Florida

Fox Hound Clubs:
FLORIDA STATE FOX HUNTERS
ASSOCIATION
John Stephens
1001 Pine Ave.
Quincy, Florida

BIG BEND FOX HUNTERS
Julian Parish
Blountstown, Florida

LEON COUNTY FOX HUNTERS
ASSOCIATION
Robert E. Green
252 Jennings Road
Tallahassee, Florida

Tampa Bay Kennel Club, Inc.,
6407 Julia Street
Tampa 10, Florida

Clearwater Kennel Club
101 honey Road
Clearwater, Florida

ST. PETERSBURG DOG Fanciers
ASM, INC.
6009 Gulfport Blvd
St. Petersburg, Florida

Manatee Kennel Club, INC.
P. 0. Box 4
Palm Harbor, Florida

SA-RAY KENNEL CLUB, INC.
1353 S. Bridge Ave.
Sarasota, Florida

GREATS MIAMI DOG CLUB, INC.
Dinner Key Auditorium
Miami, Florida

Fort Lauderdale Dog Club, INC.
War Memorial Auditorium
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

and fired like fresh-out-of-the-box shells.

After I use up my present supply of paper tube shells, I intend to purchase and reload the plastics exclusively.
CONSERVATION EDUCATION  
(Continued from page 5)
reservoir. Whole families made up a team, and some individual Indians could pick more than 60 quarts a day. Sold at 10 a quart this was considered a big day's wages 50 years ago.

Picking raspberries was something else again. Often the largest berries were along the edge of a woods or fence. Even the raspberries would start their high singing whine and produce an occasional hump; and of course there were hortense to watch out for—especially to avoid stepping in their nests. But when the raspberries were ripe they could pierce the thickest stems and leaves in the patch, and the thorns were devoured by the raspberries.

But berry picking had educational advantage. One learned to avoid poison ivy, honeysuckles, and low to work through the bushes without getting all scratched up. There were always birds flitting about, some singing, others scolding, and now and then a nest with empty egg shells would be discovered. There would be squirrels, scurrying woodchucks, or possibly a fox; and rare occasions the day might be greatly enlivened by a big black bear rearing up on the opposite side of the thicket to challenge the right of occupancy. This always brought a hustle by all concerned, followed by much agitation and a council of war. Such an incident was worthy of much bragging throughout the neighborhood.

But returning home after a long day did not complete the job. The berries had to be "picked over." This was another task for the youngsters, but could be done in a shade of the back porch. In the meantime mother got the jars taken out of the boiler, it was the job of the man of the house to tighten the cover. Then the jars were washed clean by putting the jars upside down on old newspapers to cool and to see that none leaked. There were always fresh berries for every meal with an added compensation of fresh pie.

But there was a disadvantage in picking berries when you were to fill before starting home, and mothers always had the propensity of finding something the children had missed and current and gooseberry jelly. By September it was time to make jam, and nowadays you can buy wild cranberries. That was always with team and wagon, and some was devoted to ruffled goose hunting.

Butchering came in October; both pigs and beef. Few lads learn anatomy today by standing in a chill, fall wind and stripping a porker, and see how the different cuts are for cooking. And there were debates over the original ingredients of the liquor to cure them, and the season and type of salt pepper and brown sugar. And finally the rich smell of smoke and meat from the smokehouse. And, of course, there was sausage, headache, blood pudding, and corned and dried beef.

Many a citizen of yesteryear learned his or her first outdoor lesson, the ability to handle a gun fast and accurately, hunting the wild boar of the Florida Everglades and on undeveloped acreage adjoining cattle ranges, or sparsely guaran­tees plenty of fast action and ex­citement.

The Florida or United States black bear is a sizeable target, fairly large and expertly! .358 Winchester... 270 Winchester, Magnum pack all the power needed.

Today there is evidence of regular and recent feeding. A lone hunter without a dog can take a stand overlooking the area—and wait! It is important that the stand be occupied well before the approaching hours of dawn or dusk, and that the stand be located so that animals coming into a feeding area will not scent or other­wise detect and avoid the waiting hunter.

The future and the determination of interest is wide. It will put you above the ground scent level and provide a vantage point for slow, sweeping study of likely game approach trails.

In the Everglades section, 20 miles of Miami and 15 to 20 miles east of the Tamiami Trail, remote palmetto and mangrove islands, dot expansive shallow water grasslands.

Sixty mile per hour airboats are generally preferred for trans­portation of hunters and dogs to likely spots in this section.

Once a boar is sighted, dogs and hunters go overboard in dry land search for a brushy spot, and the hunter may expect close range encounter with a brush-hidden foe that may burst out with surprise.

For either style, use a weapon with knockdown power, and be familiar with how to use it fast and expertly.

Center fire rifles chambered for calibers like the .33 Remington, .30-30 Winchester, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, .280 Remington, .30-06 Springfield, .30-40 Krag, .338 Winchester, .270 Winchester, .264 Winchester and 44 Ruger Magnum pack all the power need­ed, at close range or long.

Shotguns preferably should be of repeating type, loaded with both rifled slugs and No. 1 or larger size buckshot. The wild hog is a sizeable target. Fairly easy to hit when a standstill, but the shot that is well protected by thick under-skin fat. Shotshell loads must be heavy enough of large buckshot to penetrate an animal's vitals. With the right loads, the shotgun is deadly on wild hogs, especially where there are two or more hunters in a party, it is advisable to have at least one 12 gauge shotgun. Canned slugs in shotshells are had at 30 yards or less. At such range, a shotgun can be very effective.

I am afraid we will keep on with our shallow illusions of conservation; we will allow some of our most enduring experiences of life to be lost by ignorance and false standards.

How many children gather hazel nuts to put on a shed roof to dry or to use for their butter nuts? How many know that their breakfast bacon comes from? Such thrift, such pleasures, and what not was the family status in the neighborhood. It just isn't done today.

The BIG THREE  
(Continued from page 16)

Wild hogs are where you find them, but certain areas—Palm Beach county, the Everglades, Camp Blanding, Fisheating Creek, Farmton, Richloam, Croton, Citrus, Avon Park, to name a few of the more popular wild hog hunting areas—have heavier populations than others.

For hunters with healthy hearts, strong nerves, and a certain amount of money, and some knowledge, can do a great job in hunting the wild boar, with an added compensation of lighting speed and explosive destruction. The best times to hunt these vicious kings of the Florida scrub are during the early morning and late evening periods, when the boars are foraging for food. During the heat of the day they habitually bed down in thick, cool undergrowth and, except when trailing dog oust them from their beds, are seldom seen of mid-day.

Wild hogs love to feed on succulent turkeys buried in the mud bordering backwoods' lakes and ponds. While in these areas, the animals often create deep furrows. Where there is evidence of regular or recent feeding, a lone hunter without a dog can take a stand overlooking the area—and wait! It is important that the stand be occupied well before the approaching hours of dawn or dusk, and that the stand be located so that animals coming into a feeding area will not scent or otherwise detect and avoid the waiting hunter.

A tree stand within shooting range may be. It will put you above the ground scent level and provide a vantage point for slow, sweeping study of likely game approach trails.

In the Everglades section, 20 miles of Miami and 15 to 20 miles east of the Tamiami Trail, remote palmetto and mangrove islands, dot expansive shallow water grasslands.

Sixty mile per hour airboats are generally preferred for trans­portation and dogs to likely spots in this section.

Once a boar is sighted, dogs and hunters go overboard in dry land search for a brushy spot, and the hunter may expect close range encounter with a brush-hidden foe that may burst out with surprise.

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from the damage done to a dead fish that lies in the sun for a couple of hours to one that's been lying around for days. A fish that’s cleaned immediately after catching and popping on ice is fresher than the odd one that dies on a stringer.

Some fishermen would bury fish that others consider fresh. It may be the degree of freshness and the care that's taken of fish that makes fish lovers or fish haters when dinner time comes.

Remarkable remark about venison:

“A man who doesn’t like venison simply never ate any that was treated right.”

When you consider the progress of the average deer from swamp to table you are inclined to think he has something and fish are in the same category.

Some of the most accurate casters with spin cast (push-button) reels have developed a technique for “feathering” the line to control casting distance. Despite the glowing promises of a few years back, manufacturers haven’t come up with anything in the spin-cast department that can be “feathered” with the thumb. In my experience it's either going or stopped.

Well, folks I’m talking about haul off with a normal cast and while the bait's in the air they slide a thumb from the other hand along the line as it pays out. I tried to make fun of the method but my humor fell flat. It isn’t hard to do and it works. You can use your hands if you want. Don’t bother me about it anymore.

Certain spinners used for fresh water game fish may have sound or at least all the main attractions. This factor is usually ignored by users and designers alike. Perhaps if someone wanted to write about it they could give some assistance from sighting equipment.

When is seafood spoiled? Well, it depends on who’s going to do the eating. Fact is there are a lot of degrees of spoilage ranging

**CONSERVATION SCENE**

(Continued from page 4)

Service officials expressed the hope that every hunter carries a copy of the booklet and studies it before he goes into the field so that he will be adept at recognizing various species.

In addition to hunters, “Dudes at a Distance” will interest conservationists, students, and others who enjoy observing birds, the Department said.

**New Public Boat Ramp**

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has completed work on a public boat ramp on the Econfina River at Highway 98 in Taylor County.

The launching ramp was constructed through a cooperative agreement between the Game Commission and the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County. The county prepared the site and the concrete ramp was installed by the Game Commission.

Land for the ramp and adjacent parking area was donated by the Weaver Loughridge Lumber Company. This is the second such facility given by the Company for a launching area.

R. L. Edwards, County Commissioner, said: “Everytime I’d present my bait to a spot that looked as if it would hold a bass, a pickerel would grab it.”

That’s the chain pickerel for you. Just about the time you figure you’ve got it pegged, it turns the tables on you. I don’t guess I’ll ever figure the behavior pattern of this slender fighter, which is all right. It is more fun like it is anyway.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

(November, 1963)
University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The busy marsh mammals, important for fur purpese, occur widely in coastal and inland marshes. Their fur never did create much of a fashion stir, and the animals have few advocates among marsh managers, the muskrat trappers, and farmers.

One way to help control the animals, it appears, is to eat them. The new booklet, "Nutria for Human Use," may be obtained without charge from the Agricultural Experiment Station at LSU in Baton Rouge. Ask for Circular 77.

New Wildlife Manual

"WILDLIFE Investigational Techniques," a publication for practicing field biologists, wildlife administrators, and college instructors now in available for distribution in a revised edition. Edited for The Wildlife Society by Dr. Henry S. Mosby, professor of wildlife management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the 419-page manual is a broad summary and explanation of the best known practices currently applied in the game management field.

The new edition contains an additional chapter on instrumentation in wildlife investigations and a glossary. Several chapters of the earlier version also have been taken a terrific beating. Bamboo is seldom seen in new casting rods. Impregnated bamboo, however, is very good. Nearly all of the baitcasting rods used today have offset reel seats—that is, the rod does not continue through the entire grip. This is more comfortable for most fishermen although the kind with the straight reel seat and a rod that runs clear through to the handle is probably more rugged. Don't be too sure you wouldn't like the true one-piece rod until you try it.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the freshwater game fish of the prescribed species and sizes listed below.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days of date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date:
Gone & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fl.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the undersigned data listed below:

Name (please print)...

Address...

City...

State...

Species...

Weight...

Length...

Type of Tackle...

Bait or Lure Used...

Where Caught...

in...

County...

Date Caught...

Catch Witnessed By...

Registered, Weighted By...

Signature of Applicant...

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS...

0 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL...

4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)...

1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER...

2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE...

2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST...

1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness. The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.
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