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FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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In search of its food of dead animals • very keen eyesight and sense of smell • nests on the ground • in dense woods • feeds young by regurgitation • does not carry foods in bill or feet

BIRDS OF FLORIDA

Also called buzzard • found through Fla.

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

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MARCH, 1965

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CONSERVATION SCENE

Outdoor Recreation Requirements For States Announced

WILD ANIMALS: Who says we have nothing to say about the civilization into which we are born? Some people, for instance, are disturbed by the disappearance of various animals that have vanished from the scene in the past year in cluded Anhinga, Common Gallinule, and Green, Little Blue, Black-crowned Night and Yellow-crowned Night Herons.

THE EIGHTH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY of the Florida Audubon Society in Polls County is now in operation through the leasing of the property from the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. To be known as the Phosmico Wildlife Sanctuary, south of Peace Creek a mile east of Bartow and just off Route 69, the property is located Audubon posted the property and the Wildlife Sanctuary project. 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Spring Bass

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The best season for big bass fishing comes up pretty shorty.

Lunker largemouths are best caught around spawning time in Florida. Some of the theories surrounding black bass reproduction make atomic fission sound pretty simple. Ask stupid questions about spawning bass and you'll get plenty of appropriate answers.

Here are a few innocent facts unlikely to draw arguments.

The whopper bass are females; the nest is guarded by the male after the eggs are deposited; panfish (bluegills especially) make repeated raids on bass spawn; once the eggs are hatched the male is apt to figure the heck with it and start slurping up the forever and why isn't something done about it? arms in bass.

On the egg situation, the biologists generally taking to the biologists, provide enough largemouths

for an entire lake. Small basslets himself.

is common knowledge that if you throw back a

should be returned to the water but no one pays

THERE IS NOW A MOVEMENT TOWARD PROTECTING CERTAIN SPawning areas from fishermen. Some guides who make a living showing people how to catch spawning fish from boats are strongly opposed to wading in spawning areas because the nests are thus damaged or destroyed.

Heavy motorboat traffic in shallows can destroy nests or cover them with silt—whether this is com-

Mon enough to be an important factor can get you an argument.

After you've boat-fished for a few days in Flor-

ida and realize that danger from poisonous snakes is virtually non-existent you're apt to become care-

{}-less about one operation that CAN be risky—un-

hooking a snagged lure.

You hang your bait in a tree, bush or shoreline
glass and when you move the boat toward it you're intent solely upon getting your lure back. An ideal

place for hanging up a bait is also an ideal spot for a water-moccasin to be leaping and rattlers like

waterfront views too.

So look around a little before sticking your pinky into unseen areas.

Reaching for a snagged lure is also a good way to tear out of a boat, get into a wap's nest or encounter poisonous vegetation. Backing your motor around

near shore is a good way to tear it up, too.

I didn't start out to make such a big thing of it. It's just a matter of common sense.

The Rogue is a medium-priced, heavy-duty fly reel. A couple of years back, I used a picture and a

piece about it. Originally the Rogue was intended as a combination fly and wire-line trolling reel and it came with a long "release lever" that you oper-

ated with your finger when you wanted to remove drag tension.

That lever was fine for trolling but I couldn't see much use in it for fly fishing so I cut it off my reel to get it out of the way.

Now they're making Rogues without the release lever. I guess the new design was the result of some advice by Stu Apte, the Keys tarpon guide who found the Rogue a good rig for heavy fish. Anyway, the new model has a counterbalance for the handle and is tough as a boot. It's caught some heavy fish.

Anyway, the new model has a counterbalance for the handle and is tough as a boot. It's caught some heavy fish. This is the time when big shiners drifted over

That's the time when big shiners drifted over

shallow flats and are especially productive.

Now once the fish really get on their shallow, fanned-out nests we come to some really unusual fishing techniques.

One of the most deadly is that of actually sight-

ing a bass or two on a "bed" and towing a shiner right into the middle of things.

Not always does the fish eat the offering. Some-

times it simply tries to carry the intruder off the homestead to discard it. Those who use rubber worms on beds like to have some extra hooks in

so I can't draw much of a conclusion there.

When actually guarding a bed, male bass will sometimes slash an artificial and sometimes ignore

it so I can't draw much of a conclusion there.

There is some argument that we thus lose valu-

able monsters—whoppers that took years to grow up and can't be replaced for a long time.

There are a few who mutter that big spawners should be returned to the water but no one pays much attention to this unpopular sentiment and it is common knowledge that if you throw back a 10-pounder, the guy who caught it will generally go with it.

I once heard a spirited dockside argument between a fellow who had kept a string of small bass and a guy who was filleting one 10-pounder. Each
MUZZLE FLASHERS

Explanatory notes on basic firearms and ammunition information

Gun Facts

By EDMUND MCLAIRN

The veterans who brought home custom grade war souvenir sporting weapons, and domestic purchasers of post-war foreign gun imports, frequently find matching ammunition hard to come by. The reasons are that many of the European calibers (designated in millimeter measurement sizes in accordance with whims of individual purchasers, rather than to popular standards. Consequently, some of the required European calibers are rarely seen among American loads stacked high and in variety on dealers' shelves.

However, most of the hard to get European cartridge designations and desired bullet styles can be found among the Norma line, a Swedish small arms ammunition manufacturer franchised in this country through Norma Precision, Inc., South Lansing, New York. Included are both fairly well-known and lesser acquaintances—.45 Jap, 6.5x54MS, 6.5x67, 7x61, 7.62 Russian, 7.63 Argentine, 360 Britiah, 7.7 Jap, 8x57R, 8x57, 8x57, 9.3x62 and 9.3x74R. Your local sporting goods store can order the ammunition for you direct, or it can be ordered from any of a number of national distributors by dealer or consumer.

Norma ammunition is of Olympic Match grade, not to be confused with many inferior European cartridge manufactures, or with war surplus ammunition.

For truly obsolete rifle ammunition, to fit chamber sizes of any of the new modern firearm manufacturers, try the firm of Medicus, 35 East Main Street, Elmsford, New York. Periodically, odd lots of ammunition from long discontinued calibers are acquired by this firm and advertised for sale through The Sporting News.

Some of this old ammunition is remarkably well preserved, even in the larger potent. Only recently I fired forty-six rounds of large caliber, black powder, rifle ammunition made for use in the War Between the States. For 160 years of age, it grouped surprisingly well. Primer ignition, except for a single dud and one slow or "hang-fire," was positive.

Naturally, you purchase and shoot generations-old or questionable manufacture war surplus grade ammunition at your own risk.

Successful shotgunning calls for an applied technique that begins with good gun fit and ends with touching off shots at precisely the right moment. This holds true whether one shoots upland game or waterfowl, trapshoots or participates in Skeet shooting.

Between the alpha of good gun fit and the omega of accurate firing there can be a number of existing conditions or exercised shooting habits that can influence final results.

The shotgun is the most popular of hunting weapons, yet, surprisingly, relatively few shooters are intimately acquainted with an owned shotgun in respect to physical dimensions, internal functioning and the most efficient manner of using the smoothbore weapon.

During the coming months I plan to devote full treatment to various phases of shotgunology, beginning with a comprehensive article on the importance of good gun fit and how to know whether or not you have it in your present shotgun or will have it in a contemplated purchase. The gun fit phase, particularly, is not one to be treated superficially, in text, nor laconically in a letter; hence, the planned column, to give readers an applicable guide to good gun fit.

Meanwhile, I recommend collateral reading of two excellent, illustrated booklets on the selection and use of a shotgun.

The first is "Basic Shotgun Instruction," written for all ages, price $5e from the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The second, "Basic Training In Shotgun Shooting," priced at a dollar on order from Ithaca Gun Company, Ithaca, New York (or possibly complimentary from your local Ithaca gun dealer), is especially suitable for sensible, safe introduction of a young shooter to his or her first shotgun.

KEN VENTURI, California pro golfer now claiming a Central Florida course as his home base, says he believes that target practice with a rifle between tournament dates tends to sharpen his accuracy for putting. I go along with that philosophy.

I played championship basketball until I was 33 years old, long after former teammates had sought less physically demanding sports. I am confident that pre-game .22 caliber target practice—especially fast snap-shooting—improved my ball handling and goal shooting on the basketball court.

Like Venturi, I believe that split-second decision and coordination developed and intensified by regular shooting of moving type targets with a .22 rifle can be made to pay off in other sports.

It is a good idea to mark with owner name, or otherwise make readily identifiable, all items of sporting equipment. This is especially good insurance against possible mix-up or misunderstanding where a number of persons assemble to use equipment of identical make and model, or of common physical appearance. Neatly executed name identification also adds a distinctive touch.

For the past three years I have used small, Platco-Brand No. 702, plastic name plates, manufactured by Southeastern Sales Corp., 1705 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida.

The plates are made from hard, 3/32 of an inch thick, durable plastic, and are 2-1/4 inches long by 5/8 of an inch wide. The four corners are attractively angle-cut, and there is a small mounting-screw hole in each end of the plate.

Solid black panel background with white name lettering 1/4 of an inch high probably makes the neatest and most striking color combination. However, the name plates are available in a choice of red or green background (with white name lettering), or solid white background with black lettering. Minimum order is 25 name plates, all alike; unit cost figures out to about 19 cents per plate, including added 3% Florida state sales tax.

To mount the name plates on equipment, you can use small screws or miniature bolts when making installation on hard materials, like wood and plastic tackle boxes, hard leather gun cases, golf club bags, etc. For mounting on soft leathers and other pliable materials, Placob or Borden's Epoxy cement can be used, or the name plates can be neatly sewn on with matching color nylon fishing line, using the ready-made screw hole.

Whatever the receiving material, sparingly coat the back of the name plate with adhesive before placement, later adding supplementary screws or end-­wheel nylon stitching to make the attachment truly permanent.

It is also possible to put a nylon fishing line or a leather thong loop through one of the end holes in a name plate and thereafter use it as a readily detachable tag, like those used on suitcases.

There seems to be a reader need for occasional inclusion of some technical or semi-technical explanation of a single phase of gunology.

From time to time short explanatory texts will be tucked on to this column, to provide a so-called beginner's basic thesaurus of firearms information.

The breech of a firearm is the rear portion of the bore where the cartridge or shell is inserted into a smoothbored chamber.

The breechblock is a sliding metal block at the breech which serves to plug the rear of the bore, supporting the head of the cartridge when the gun is loaded and fired. The breech bolt takes the thrust of the expanding powder gases and blocks the force of these gases to the rear. The peak of this rearward pressure is expanded in pounds per square inch. During factory testing, breech pressure is measured with a special pressure gauge. Even with rifles of the .22 rimfire class, developed breech pressures run high. Newly manufactured firearms are proof-fired with special, extra powerful ammunition to prove their qualities before being released to the trade.

In using a gun, the shooter should first make sure that all oil or grease is removed from gun chamber, bore and ammunition, so that cartridge cases properly grip the walls of the gun's chamber and do not exert undue backward thrust on the breechblock when fired.
DOGS

Hunting-Trials-Training

Northwest Florida inaugural field trial rates with the country's best

By JIM FLOYD

On December 14, 1964 the inaugural running of the Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Clubs open field trial took place. This was on the three thousand acre field trial area, of the St. Regis Wildlife Management Area, in extreme northwest Florida just south of the Alabama line.

To say that this field trial was outstanding would be a disservice to the members of the club, to the handlers and gallery. In every way the dogs that competed, to the judges and trial officials and to the hunters all had a good time. It became apparent that this was one of the greatest and most outstanding field trial area.

The work for this field trial did not start with the running of the first dog but had been in progress for more than a year. It would be an injustice to the club to report the field trial without providing some word on club activities.

The Northwest Florida Pointer and Setter Club, located in Pensacola, stands unique among sporting men clubs for efforts in establishing and maintaining a truly outstanding field trial area. At the very beginning the club managed to have three thousand acres of the twenty-five thousand acres St. Regis Wildlife Management Area set aside for field trial purposes. The club, with the assistance of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, posted the trial area. The work did not stop with the posting, as the club developed more than ninety quail food plots throughout the area. These food plots represent the combined efforts of the club and the Game Commission, with the Commission providing the seed and the club doing the planting.

The value of these food plots to the area was established beyond question during the trial as a number of finds were in the immediate vicinity of the plots. The club purchased its own tractor and farm equipment. The members have assembled throughout the past, during the spring and summer week-ends, for the sole purpose of planting and tending their quail food gardens. No hunting is allowed in the field trial area.

This field trial was a big undertaking for a club with little more than one year experience and everyone was more or less holding their breath until the time of the drawing on Sunday night, December 13.

At the conclusion of the drawing 76 dogs were braced for the three stakes. There were 54 all age dogs, 16 derby entries and 6 youngsters for the puppy stake. To have 76 dogs entered in three stakes is outstanding, and is even more outstanding considering this was the club’s first big field trial. When studying the entry and recognizing the quality of the entries, one wants to remove his field trial hat in respect.

VENDETTA Wins Open All-Age. The first dog drawn on Sunday night was a liver and white male pointer named "Vendetta," owned by Harold Sharp of Atlanta, Georgia, and handled by John Rex Gates of Leesburg, Georgia. No one questioned the quality of the dog’s performance during the first sixty minutes of the field trial. "Vendetta" exhibited all that could be desired in a truly outstanding bird dog and with a front-running race, and about as big a race as possible without running completely out of judgment. "Vendetta" made three finds during the course and handled each with the style of a champion. He finished every bit as strong as when he started and seemed ready for more. At the conclusion of the first day’s field activity it was apparent to all that "Vendetta" was the top dog of the day.

As the trial entered the second, third, fourth and final day it also became apparent that this was the dog and performance that had to be beaten to win the field trial. At the conclusion of the Open All-Age, and with the announcement of the winner, many opinions were confirmed that "Vendetta" had set a standard for field trial performances with the first race that had not been surpassed by the other 33 dogs. "Vendetta" is reigning champion of the All-American field trial at Carbondale, Illinois, and the National Amateur Stakes at Albany, Georgia.

HASTY NELL takes Second Place: "Hasty Nell" a white and liver colored female pointer owned by Ed Fenelon of Palos Heights, Illinois, and handled by Roy Jines of Forkland, Alabama. Brought home the second place bacon with style and grace as she recorded two excellent finds and produced a strong forward race from start to finish. Strange as it may seem "Hasty Nell" was one of the last dogs to run on the first day of the trial. A wag might be prone to comment that the field trial could have stopped at this point; however, no trial is over until the last dog has been picked up.

FLAMING STAR takes Third Place: "Flaming Star" a white and orange male setter owned by Dr. James Hoffmeister of Kingston, Tennessee, and handled by Herman Smith of Hatchechubbee, Alabama. The setter was never wide off course and had a good search. It seemed to have a little more drive than the first place puppy, but did not appear as mature as the winner. The third place puppy "Tuffy Lynn" was a white and orange male setter owned by Dr. Lynn of Dallas, Texas. The setter was never wide off course and had a good searching race.

Riding the judicial saddles at the Inaugural field trial of the (Continued on page 34)
Emphasis on Water Supply and Pollution Problems

National Wildlife Week

Water, America's most vital natural resource, will be the center of attention during National Wildlife Week, March 14-20, 1965. The National Wildlife Federation is asking every citizen to join in efforts to insure enough clean water for America's present and future needs.

By 1980—only 15 years from now—America will need 600 billion gallons of water each day. By the year 2,000, we will need a trillion gallons daily. It would take a tank car train 600,000 miles long to haul it. But unless we can find a cheap way to convert salt water to fresh, hydrologists estimate our maximum fresh water supply will be only 650,000 gallons a day.

The National Wildlife Federation has emphasized the fact that with this increasing demand for fresh water, the only answer is to re-use existing water supplies. Some authorities say we will need to re-use our water six times by 1980. This is the reason water pollution control is the most important conservation program in America today.

Every citizen is urged to put the slogan "Fight Dirty Water" into practice. Wastes from homes, factories, farms, boats and numerous other sources are reducing our supplies of usable water. First we must invest more money in city and industrial water treatment plants. Second, we need more research to find better ways to treat water so that it can be re-used and re-used to meet our growing needs. Finally, we must support strong anti-pollution laws for our rivers, streams and lakes.

National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and state affiliates, such as the Florida Wildlife Federation, has been held each year since 1952.
NEEDED:

Clean Waters

Modern living demands vast quantities of clean water—12 gallons every time someone takes a shower, 200 gallons to make one dollar's worth of paper, 65,000 gallons to manufacture an automobile, 320,000 gallons to produce one ton of aluminum and 750,000 gallons to irrigate one acre of farmland.

Right now America uses 350 billion gallons of water every day. By 1980 we will need 577 billion gallons a day, and by the year 2000, 989 billion gallons.

Where is this water going to come from? There is not enough "new" water to meet the needs. We must use the water we have over and over again. To do this, the water must be kept clean—clean enough for municipal water supplies, clean enough to meet the needs of industry and agriculture.

Protecting our economy is only one reason why we must keep our rivers and streams clean. We must also have clean water to protect our health, to give our people good recreation, to protect our fish and wildlife.

Every city has (or should have) a clean water program. This means a safe and reliable source of water, properly designed sewage systems, and adequate and well operated sewage treatment plants.

In the words of one State—Maryland—"no community has the right to deprive its people of clean waters by using streams as a dumping ground for sewage, wastes, and refuse." And it tells its citizens "if you live in a community which has a sewage system but no sewage treatment works, you are contributing pollution to the streams of your State."

The States have the basic responsibility for water pollution abatement. In most cases, the State water pollution control agency is located in the State capital. In cities, water pollution control is generally the function of the City Engineer's office, the city's water agency, or its Health Department. The Federal Government helps abate water pollution in four principal ways—

CONSTRUCTION—United States cities are spending $700 million annually on new or enlarged treatment plants. To help, the Federal Government can pay 30 percent up to $660,000 for municipal waste treatment construction.

Those who use water must return it to rivers, lakes and streams on nearly clean as possible. Citizens must support efforts to increase research on pollution control.

ENFORCEMENT—Because water respects no political boundaries, law enforcement is necessary. A poor neighbor upstream can pollute and contaminate a river miles below. Federal enforcement actions have now involved more than 7,000 miles of rivers, streams and bays, 600 cities, and a like number of industries.

RESEARCH—To find out what pollutants are dangerous and how they can be prevented or made harmless, much more research is needed. Federal scientists are studying ways to remove waste water, transforming it into pure clean water again. Four separate laboratories are being built and five more are planned to meet regional and special water quality problems.

RIVER BASIN PLANNING—Water quality and water problems vary, and river basin planning and comprehensive studies are necessary. Federal projects in eight major river basins are working to preserve water quality there, not only for the present but for the years to come.

Every citizen should know what is going on in his own river basin and what steps need to be taken to protect his own local river, stream, lake or shore. Here is where you can find out what needs to be done—

From Your City: Find out what is being done to treat your city's wastes. Does it have secondary treatment (the most efficient kind) or primary treatment or no treatment at all? Find out, too, what kind of wastes may be produced by industry in your area and what is being done to control these wastes.

From Your State: Find out what your State Water Pollution Control Agency is doing and how you can help its program. There may also be a river basin agency in your area which looks after water quality in your river. If so, your State agency will be able to tell you, and give you its address.

From Your Civic or Conservation Organization: Many civic and women's groups and all conservation groups have clean water programs. Get in touch with those in your own community and find out what you can do.


By joining in the struggle for clean water, you can play an important role in assuring the future prosperity of this country and in maintaining the health of our people. An adequate supply of clean water is essential if we are to achieve these goals.
Fight Dirty Water

National Wildlife Week, scheduled for March 14-20 this year, is one of the many worthwhile conservation educational projects sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Representing some two million members of state conservation organizations, individual contributors and associate members, the Federation was organized in 1938 to coordinate citizen efforts in sound management of the nation's natural resources—soils, waters, forests, rangelands and wildlife—through educational programs. The Federation publishes the bi-monthly Conservation News, the weekly Conservation Report, and provides numerous conservation education leaflets for teachers and school children, and other services as part of its educational program. The privately-financed organization also awards, each year, a number of scholarships and fellowships to college students majoring in conservation and distributes information on conservation problems to the public through newspapers, radio and television stations.

The observance of National Wildlife Week is conducted at the local level by sportsmen's clubs, conservation clubs and other groups which are members of the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Valuable assistance is provided by state government conservation agencies.

This year National Wildlife Week will focus public attention on the problem of pollution control and prevention in America's streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Using the slogan—"FIGHT DIRTY WATER!"—the Federation is seeking public awareness and support in efforts to ensure adequate, clean water supplies so necessary to America's growth and prosperity.

Unless we can find an economical way to convert salt water to fresh, America will soon run short of its water supply.

Every citizen of this state and nation should take an active interest in this year's National Wildlife Week observance, March 14-20. Sponsored annually since 1952 by the National Wildlife Federation, the world's largest citizen conservation organization, the observance is designed to focus public attention on an important conservation problem. This year, the subject is pollution control and prevention.

Clean water, of all our natural resources, is the most important and the most vital asset to every human being. Without it, there would be no life on this planet, and there is no synthetic substitute. And, we Americans are consuming water at an amazing rate.

Although each of us could survive on only six pints of water per day, we are using an average of 150 gallons per day for domestic purposes—drinking, bathing, cooking, doing the laundry, washing the car, watering the lawn, flushing toilets, and for other purposes. But it takes much more than that to provide us with our food, clothing, and other things we use to maintain our high standard of living. Even if we could live by bread alone, the water required to grow the wheat would come to 300 gallons per day per person. Another 2,500 gallons per day is needed to produce the milk, butter, eggs, cheese and meat which make up so much of the present American diet.

Although a person could survive on only six pints of water per day, the nation will need approximately 1 trillion gallons per day. By the year 2,000, it is estimated that the United States will need approximately 600 billion gallons of water daily. By the year 1,000, it is estimated that the United States will need approximately 1 trillion gallons per day. National Wildlife Week is designed to make every American aware of the great needs for pollution control programs.

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As the National Wildlife Federation points out, the only way to supply that much water for present and future populations is to make every gallon in our rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and irrigation systems count. We must stop pollution—domestic, industrial, and agricultural—before it starts, clean up waters that have been polluted in the past, and make every gallon available for more than a single use.

By 1980, America will need 600 billion gallons of water each day. We cannot afford to wait in the hope that additional water supplies, such as converting salt waters into fresh, will be available. The time to FIGHT DIRTY WATER is now!
The white-tailed Deer is Florida’s most abundant and most valuable big game animal. According to census calculations by Game Commission biologists about 190,000 deer inhabit the state’s forests, swamps, hammocks and prairies.

More than 350,000 hunters annually spend around 215 million dollars to harvest approximately 14,000 white-tails, making our deer population valuable financially as well as aesthetically. Good management based on the constant study of deer herds by Commission biologists continues to promote an increase in deer numbers throughout the state, despite encroachment upon deer habitat by the needs of a growing human population.

Hailmark of the White-tailed Deer is its white tail, flapping magnificently from side to side as it flees in alarm into a nearby area, photo below. Deer tend to multiply rapidly; a healthy doe may produce twin fawns, photo at right, for as long as 14 years.

Deer herds must be watched carefully to prevent overcrowding, causing serious damage to their health and habitat. Like cows, a given “deer pasture” will support only a given number of deer, all dependent upon the year around food supply. Fawns are born as early as February in south Florida, and as late as July in the northern part of the state.

Photo By Tom Wayman

Each year the buck deer sheds, or “drops” his antlers, photo at far left, and grows a new set. The shed antlers are not often found in the wilds because they are quickly covered with vegetation, are eaten by rodents, and will rapidly decay under certain conditions.

Soon after shedding occurs – beginning in November in south Florida, December in the central areas, and January through the northern parts – new antlers begin to grow, circle photo left. The growing antlers are fragile, filled with blood vessels, and covered with skin and fine hair. Bucks are referred to as being “in the velvet” during this time. The buck, at right, displays a fully formed “rack” of antlers, still in the velvet.

Size of antlers, or number of points, do not indicate age, but rather reveals the health of the animal, and habitat condition. Well fed, vigorous bucks grow good size antlers. Undernourished, sickly bucks the same age, on overcrowded range may grow only “spikes.”

The age of deer is determined by noting development and amount of wear of its teeth.

Prior to the breeding, or “rutting” season, below, the antlers harden, the skin is rubbed off, and the buck is willing and ready to fight other bucks for the favor of the does. During the rutting season – August in south Florida, September in central areas, and October in northern regions – the buck deer is one of the most dangerous animals in the wild.

Photo By Karl Marzowski

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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There are a lot more panfish than people so we needn’t worry about running out. Since there isn’t much glory attached to bringing in a mess of bluegills, Florida’s larger fish will continue to get the publicity. Besides, the tourists have bluegills and crappies back home.

Those are the most popular panfish and we can say with pride that some of our crappie require the larger-sized pans. Bluegills and crappie are found in 48 of the states and I don’t know about Hawaii and Alaska.

In Florida we have both black and white crappie but I can’t always tell a blonde black crappie from a brunter white crappie and they taste the same.

We have some other sunfish such as rock bass (called goggle-eye in many sections) and stumpknockers or spotted sunfish as well as shellcrackers. Warmouth are plentiful.

Although much of my youth was devoted to the pursuit of bullheads, often listed as panfish, I’m going to stick to the sunfish types this time.

I think artificials are more fun but bait catches a lot more panfish. In fact, many top game fishermen turn to bait for a mess of bream. It’s more reliable than artificials although most of the really spectacular panfishing I’ve seen was with lures and flies.

Light spinning tackle is pretty nearly No. 1 on the panfish program and, although I’m a bit overboard on fly rods myself, I have to concede there are times when the long stick takes a beating.

Before spinning tackle immigrated to this country, I sometimes used to fish for panfish with a regular baitcasting rod and a heavy bobber. A float can be a big help. Generally very light ones are best if you don’t need casting weight as they’re sensitive to nibbling and offer a minimum of resistance when the fish takes the bait. Of course, with a float you have an excellent means of adjusting your bait depth, even though it may be a considerable distance from you.

Don’t figure a fisherman is necessarily headed for the happy house when he shows up with an artificial lure and a bobber above it. I once saw a fellow cleaning up on “specks” with a small jig and bobber.

(Continued on next page)
A minnow can be handled by the lower lip the same as bass. This one fell for a miniature jig.

Some of the countless variations of spinning rod artificial for panfish. Squirrel tail flies and rubber spiders fished with small spinners are current favorites. Small jigs are especially good lures for crappie.

Specks are caught during the winter months and early spring. That doesn't mean they can't be caught at other times. Crappie are usually near the bottom. I've caught more of them in water several feet deep than anywhere else but I've seen lots of them come up from great depths in northern impoundments. I've also seen them taken readily in water barely deep enough to cover them.

The approved method of catching a crappie on a jig is to make a short cast with it, preferably near brush piles or logs, let it sink to the bottom as fast as it wants to go and then pick it up gently to start a very slow retrieve, letting it settle back toward the bottom at intervals of a foot or so. Crappie generally take gently—often your jig simply doesn't get back to the bottom. When you find a school of specks they may keep coming for quite a while. Actually, they seem to get stirred up when you catch a few and may be all over your lure for a few minutes.

Crappie are "papernose" all right but I wouldn't say there's much danger of pulling out the hook if you use light tackle. Four-pound-test monofilament is about right for your spinning rod, which should be fairly soft.

Bluespots and their relatives are generally caught below the surface during cool weather although they aren't nearly so susceptible to jigs as the crappie. Very small spinners ahead of some sort of fly are generally first choice and most below-surface fishermen prefer spinning tackle. You hear a lot about the Megga spinner and the Shinyor, both of which have weighted bodies integral with the spinner itself. There are hundreds of variations.

The use of a small, treble-hooked fly behind these spinners is very good for fish with small mouths and a tendency to nibble. Treble-hooked squirrel tail flies seem to be the most popular at present. Squirrel tail is durable and seems to have a bit more action than feathers. Bucktail is just as good. I suppose there may be some difference in colors at times but I wouldn't worry too much about that.

The rubber spiders or "bream-killers" are simply little sponge rubber bodies with rubber legs on single hooks. Providing the water is reasonably deep, they can be fished with either line or 12 feet long. A fly rod can be used the same way, either with monofilament line or with regular fly line and a leader. You can't really fly cast bait but you can give it a gentle flip that will carry it out pretty well, using a level fly line. You fish monofilament line the same as if you had a cane pole.

Small jigs and weighted spinning lures are generally considered best of spinning baits for crappie. They can be trolled over Florida lakes until fish are located and then you can cast if you want to. For speckled perch, things should be kept in slow motion. I wouldn't dare suggest that anyone use a pair of ones in trolling for specks but you'd better keep your outboard at a pretty slow idle. It's when specks are bedding that the big catches are made as they seem to hang in large, loose schools. Most Florida specks love it. A float isn't generally much help with a spinner.

You'll take some small bass on the spiders but I think they prefer slightly more action in their bugs. Accurate casting and slow retrieve are very important in shore fishing. Most panfish don't move far for their quarry, which means you'll want your lure very close to the cover, whether it be a brush pile or a stump.

Now something more about accurate casting on shorelines: There are times when being able to hit a spot the size of a saucer is important. Accurate casting for black bass is essential but usually it's good enough if you can drop a plug on a spot the size of your hat.

Bob Doffel, former national casting champ is one of the world's best with ultra-light tackle and I've written repeatedly about his activities. I'm not accurate with a spinning rod and on several occasions I've gone bream fishing with him, using duplicate lures and fishing shorelines. Giving me first chance (Continued on next page)
at the shore, he's caught 15 or 20 bluegills to my one, simply because the fish were lying close to the cover and he was casting within inches of them. Of course, short range casting is for the most part, simply because the fish were lying close to the cover and he was casting within inches of them. The underwater spinning lure begins moving almost as soon as it hits the water and bluegills and big, bushy bivisibles on No. 12 hooks will sometimes come up with a bass worth keeping.

On popping bugs, you can use a No. 8 hook as a pretty good compromise but you can go to a No. 6 and be set up a little better for bass. The warmouth perch usually runs smaller than bream in my neck of the woods but he has a big mouth and can take a good-sized popper. The front end of a warmouth looks a lot like a black bass. Bluegills have easily torn mouths and many are lost from fish stringers. When there's little boat movement I usually fasten black bass only by their lower jaws on snap stringers. Big bluegills can tear loose from that kind of hookup. A livewell is fine or a net bag can be slung over the side of the boat. Fishing from boats out in the open is much more enjoyable in my opinion.

(Continued from preceding page)

There Are Reasons For The Rules

The Spring Gobbler Hunting Season

BY LOVETT WILLIAMS

The idea of hunting game animals during the season when they are matting is not unusual. Deer are traditionally hunted during their mating season throughout the world and so are many other mammals. Wild turkeys have been hunted during the spring, which is their mating season, in the South since Indian times. In neither case has any harm been done to the productivity of the species. Two facts are responsible: both animals are polygamous; and only males are hunted. There is little chance that public sentiment will ever override the traditional of hunting deer during the fall rutting season but spring gobbler hunting will not be as widely accepted until a few basic principles are understood.

Polygamy is the habit that the male of some species has of taking more than one mate. To begin with, most animals are born or hatched in about equal numbers of males and females. This means more males than can mate in polygamous species, and in a sense, the extra males do not function in the productivity of the flock or herd and could be removed from the population with no loss except the substitution of these individuals alone. About 96% of the male turkeys in Florida are excess to this respect. One gobbler can mate at least 10 hens. Since hens and gobblers are hatched in about equal numbers, there are 9 extra toms for each hen. Each hen needs to be mated only once to take care of the

Some favorite fly-rod lures for panfish. Since the advent of spinning, few spoons and spinners are used with fly tackle, although some very light ones will work. Fast of the lures shown here are simply wet trout flies. Hook sizes for panfish are small: usually around No. 6 to No. 10.

fertility requirements for her entire clutch of about 10 or 12 eggs, and she remains fertile for several weeks. After the single mating, the hen no longer needs a gobbler, and after all the hens are mated one time, all of the adult gobblers could be removed from the population without reducing the productivity (but, of course, under present regulations such a total harvest is impossible).

Taking this knowledge into consideration, biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have recommended an open season on gobblers throughout Florida, with a few local exceptions, in late March and early April of 1965. The dates for the season are selected with these objectives:

To open the season on a date late enough in the spring to insure that most of the hens have already been mated the single, essential time. This is mid-March in south Florida and late March in north Florida.

To permit the season to coincide with the time that toms are gobbling well and can be effectively harvested by hunters. Gobbling lasts throughout March in south Florida and usually reaches a peak in northern Florida around the first of April, depending on the weather.

To terminate the season before a significant portion of the hens begin incubation so that they will not be unduly disturbed by hunters.

Wildlife Biologists estimate that this special season will increase Florida's annual turkey harvest, by approximately 2,600 turkeys, but more importantly, it will provide more Floridians and visitors with a few more days to try to bag the largest and wariest game bird in North America, in the state which has more wild turkeys than any other.

Sex Evidence — Evidence of the sex, along with the heads, must remain on the carcasses of ALL TURKEY taken during the spring gobbler season, while in the field, forest or camp. Spring turkey hunting regulations on certain Management Areas appear in the General Summary of Regulations for Florida's Wildlife Management Areas, and in the December 1964 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

Spring Hunting Dates

Turkey hunters — check your 1964-65 Hunting Regulations Summary. The spring turkey (gobbler only) hunting season will open March 13, 1965, and close March 28, 1965, in that portion of the state south of State Road No. 50.

North of State Road No. 50 the spring gobbler season will open March 27, 1965, and close April 11, 1965.

During the spring turkey gobbler season hunting will be allowed only from one-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon.

Hunters are permitted one gobbler per day, and two for the season.

Turkey hunters are advised to consult their summary of hunting rules and regulations, or to contact the local Wildlife Officer. Detailed information can be obtained from the Commission regional offices listed on page 3, or from county judge's offices.

MARCH, 1965
Is Conservation For The Multitude?

By ERNEST SWIFT

A NATIONAL AUDUBON Camp is located a few miles from where I live in northern Wisconsin. The camp site includes several small clear-water lakes surrounded by undulating hills covered with a fine growth of hardwoods. The camp buildings are situated in a well-groomed area above the lake. The whole scene is inspiring and the atmosphere one of quiet beauty and peace. Strangely enough there are no television sets and no daily newspapers. For two visits to the place I have found myself on an oasis bypassed by the brutalities of the world.

The camp is now in its tenth year of operation, and I have watched its progress with keen interest. For the past four years I have been a frequent visitor, and on occasion have assisted in the program by discussing the birds and bird life of the North Country.

I have found it very interesting to meet the people who attend as well as ascertain their background, and to learn something of the camp curriculum. Those attending come from Florida, New England, the Midwest, and the Pacific states; and even a few are from foreign lands. They are a cross-section of the people. I have found them serious, sincere and avid to learn. To watch them is that is trying to get all homo sapiens in the right frame of mind about spreading litter over the face of America.

Evelyn litter bit hurts! How many times have we read, seen, heard and talked about the little phrase that is trying to get all homo sapiens in the right frame of mind about spreading litter over the face of America?

The face of America, Chihuahua, is two-faced. Meaning land and water. And the litter that is starting to clog our waterways is just as trashy and unsightly as that litter that borders the nation’s highways.

Trouble is, for centuries on end boatmen have always taken to throwing things overboard (including a few of the human variables in the “ho ho ho and a dead man’s chest” days) and leaving them to the natural scavengers of the sea to take care of keeping the waters clean.

Let’s face it, modern-day boaters...many items tossed from pleasure boats have a rather substantial ability to remain afloat. Disposable drinking cups, crumpled wax paper, plastic bags, glass bottles and metal cans with small openings are good examples. Some of these things can float for hours, months, maybe years...

It is up to us boatmen to take the bull by the horns, now, and start thinking about eliminating this needless ugliness that really is starting to bug things up. Here’s what we can do:

Start talking to the family about not heedlessly throwing things overboard. Find ways of taking care of refuse aboard your boat...for example, there are several brands of plastic containers which won’t rust or rattle on the market today.

On small and confined bodies of water it is best never to throw bottles or cans overboard, even in deeper spots. On large open ocean waters it is all right to discard such things when well clear of shore, but punch holes in both ends of cans so they’ll sink promptly, and bottles should be filled with water before being tossed over the side. Another little point...good boatmen observe other rules of good conduct when enjoying the freedom of the waterways. Some islands, points and sand spits, for example, are state and federal waterfowl refuges and during breeding season are off limits to human beings. Such boats are also aware it is against the law to shoot sea birds (despite their apparently plentiful numbers), and that interfering with commercial fishermen’s boats, nets, traps and other gear simply isn’t done. Be neat, Charlie.

BOATING

Pontoon Boats

By ELGIN WHITE

With spring coming on the 21st of March, letta Floridians are going to be hitting the lakes and swimmins’ waters of our fair state, and there seems to be a lot of interest in the Aqua-Skimmer or some little gimmick that acts, looks, and feels something like a surfboard...only it has a small outboard attached right in the middle and you steer with your tooties. I saw one of these in action on Tallahassee’s Lake Hall last year and the kids involved seemed to be having a whale of a time with it. It’s really good for gettin’ wet, and, well, let’s face it...it’s different!

Gone some very interesting figures in from Fred Lifton, president of the Outboard Boating Club of America. For those doubting Thomases who really aren’t convinced yet of the importance of the boating industry in this bright land of ours...take a glimmer at these facts:

According to the annual joint (Continued on next page)
a little hint sent in by Bob mine did the trick for me."

Sales of outboard motors reached 325,000, an increase of 30,000 over 1963, but accounted for 550,000 vessels in the U. S. pleasure boat fleet, compared with 452,000 miscellaneous craft (canoes, row boats, etc.).

Lifton, in releasing the report, said, "This is impressive proof that boating has definitely emerged from a slow-down period we experienced in the early '60's."

"If you suffer from this par-

matically sad, in the middle of the boat, where the pitching and rolling is the least.

SHADES OF Ol' Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn!

Look for more and more pontoon boats as the spring weather makes a serious bid for our attention. Since family boating has become the big thing it is, these flat-decked all-purpose lake boats have really taken the public by storm.

Of course, all of us realize what a boon family camping is . . . well these pontoon boats just ease the pain of trying to find a good campsite by the river somewhere . . . you just camp on the boat!

The pontoon boat is essentially a machine-age raft. It consists of two "hulls" which may be of metal, plastic or wood, atop of which rests a generous-sized platform. A small or medium sized outboard completes the rig.

The platform may be finished off with nothing more elaborate than a safety railing. Regular outing limits of various styles and sizes can be pitched on them to provide dressing rooms for daytime swimming or shelter for sleeping. Slightly more elaborate versions have colorful canvas dodgers laced to the railings and fitted with gaily colored canopies.

All pontoon boats are ideally suited for entertaining sizeable groups aboard. They are quite safe because of their wide beam and the fact that their fully enclosed pontoon can't fill with water or sink under heavy loads. The craft can navigate large lakes, rivers and inland waterways, but don't try to take 'em to sea. They aren't speedsters, either, but a few with large motors can go fast enough to pull skiers. And since construction is simple, prices are reasonable. You'll see a lot more of these babies this spring and summer.

Florida asked me not long ago what you can do about seasickness in a small boat. Now, this is a bit unusual, but it does happen. 'Course, the best bet is to draw a dramamine tablet prior to stepping into any boat. I know for a long time there I could get seasick taking a shower, but dramamine did the trick for me. If you are one of those characters who balk at taking any kind of pill, here's a little hint sent in by Bob Brewster about small-boat seasickness: Instead of watching the ripples or waves, fix your gaze on stationary objects within the boat. Also, if you suffer from this par-

various waters on where Florida was about seventh in the nation in distribution of outboard motors, for example? You're a winner. Our Sunshine State falls into line behind New York, Michigan, California, Illinois, Texas, and Ohio, in that order.

If you have never been to the Chicago National Boat, Travel and Outdoors Show and are planning a jaunt up Windy City way in March, don't miss it.

This is undoubtedly one of the finest displays of boating and outdoor equipment to be seen anywhere in the world, and boating enthusiasts usually get more than just a look at pretty boats lined up in a row.

It is at the Chicago show that many new models and innovations are introduced, added to the increased interest shown in boating by the figures presented in the preceding paragraphs.

One of the top attractions at this year's event, scheduled for McCormick Place March 6 through 9, is the introduction of the world's largest production model fiberglass sailboat - a 44' boat built in Italy. This will be quite a craft to view, but unless you keep company with the blue-bloods, forget about purchasing this baby. She retails for a cool $49,995 without sails.

Boats at the Chicago show are getting bigger all the time. Guy Hughes, executive producer of the event, says that this year's fleet will include the largest craft ever exhibited, a 54-foot houseboat by Carri-Craft.

Other highlights you'll get a kick out of at the Chicago exhibit will be the camping equipment section, featuring folding tents to "pop-up" folding tent campers to pick-up campers and self-contained motorized campers.

Hughes also stated that the largest fishing tackle representation in the history of the show will be on hand this year. Guy said un-

What you can do about sea-sickness in a small boat

†"Tis proof, indeed, Freddie.

(Continued from preceding page)

WIDE-BEAMED PONTOON BOATS ARE BECOMING EXTREMELY POPULAR AS FAMILY CAMPINGS INCREASE EACH YEAR.

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued on next page)
and developing outdoor recreation programs, activities, resources and needs throughout each area. He urged others to follow this practice.

The majority of the States have designated liaison officers to work with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in carrying out the program. The formal requirements have been provided to the State liaison officers. Florida county and local officials, as well as organizations and private citizens interested in various types of outdoor recreation, should contact the Outdoor Recreation Development Council, Tallahassee, Fla., to see that their needs are considered in the State outdoor recreation plan.

Wildlife Nature Stamps

Ever see a gray-crowned rosy finch, Great purple hairstreak, godwound, or brittlebush? These are but four of the 36 species of American wildlife depicted in the 1965 edition of the famous stamps issued each year since 1958 by the National Wildlife Federation. More than two million conservationists will receive the new series of colorful stamps through the mails during the next six months, according to Federation Executive Director Thomas L. Kimball.

Reproduced in full-color printing from original paintings by some of the nation's most noted wildlife and nature artists, the 1965 wildlife conservation stamps feature portrayals of five mammals, 12 birds (including the gray-crowned rosy finch), three butterflies (including the Great purple hairstreak), nine fish (including the lookdown), six wildflowers (including brittlebush) and one tree—the Ponderosa pine. Under the direction of Federation Art Director Roger Terry Peterson, an art team of Maynard Reece, Don Eckelberry, Rudy Freund, Don Malik, Jean Zallinger, Louis Darnton, Suzan Swain, and Peterson have combined their talents with those of the graphic arts to produce an outstanding set of dramatic and realistic portrayals on a series of colorful stamps suitable for any decorative or educational use. Many school children and teachers have benefited from the stamps in learning about America's wildlife heritage and save them in special albums provided to the Federation. The albums contain complete descriptions of the birds, animals, fish and plants portrayed by the stamps plus other articles of interest to nature students.

All contributions received in the wildlife conservation stamp distribution program are used by the Federation to support its educational efforts throughout the country. Contributors help support publication and distribution of educational leaflets, college scholarships for deserving students of conservation, promotion of National Wildlife Week, and many other projects aimed at acquainting all Americans with the need to conserve and wisely use our natural resources. The 1965 edition of wildlife conservation stamps, as well as some previous editions, remain available from the Federation's headquarters, 1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 for a minimum donation of $1.00. Stamp albums are also available at a price of fifty cents.

Barge Canal Policy

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at a business meeting in Tallahassee, January 29, 1965, adopted a statement of policy regarding the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. The statement of policy is as follows: The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, as the responsible agency for the Cross-Florida Barge Canal will have a drastic impact on the involved fish and wildlife resources of central Florida. Based on this knowledge, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has cooperated with governmental agencies, and reviewed plans prepared by the Corps of Engineers. Our findings indicate that there will be certain adverse effects on the fish and wildlife resources but that these are overshadowed by increased fishing and waterfowl hunting opportunities associated with construction of Rodman and Eureka Reservoirs.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, therefore, endorses construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal provided that its recommendations concerning preservation, mitigation of losses or enhancement of the fish and wildlife resources are followed, and provided that adequate public access and recreational facilities are incorporated into the project to provide realization of the predicted fishing and hunting opportunities. We shall continue to work closely with the Corps of Engineers and the Canal Authority to achieve the program on which this statement is based.

Hunter Safety Program

The Hunter Casualty Report, prepared and distributed by the National Rifle Association in cooperation with 40 states and seven Canadian provinces, is the only authoritative source of information on the causes and circumstances of hunting accidents. The records show that hunting accidents with firearms are due primarily to carelessness or ignorance of proper gun handling. It was on the basis of this finding that the NRA Hunting Safety Course was established in 1948 as a public service. To date, nearly two million hunters have taken this course, and this total number of field accidents has declined, even though the number of hunters has greatly increased. The NRA is a non-profit membership organization recognized as the governing body for shooting in the U.S.

Early Tool Hunting

The blue-winged teal, an early migrating North American duck, will be the subject of an experimental hunting season in the Central and Mississippi Flyways this year, according to the Department of the Interior announced January 15, 1965. A nine-day season, scheduled for September as a research project, will require close cooperation between Federal and State wildlife agencies and individual hunters, said John Gottschalk, Director of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He pointed out that the bulk of blue-wings normally migrate before opening day of the regular waterfowl season and, therefore, shooting pressure on them is light. "Since a relatively small portion of the blue-winged teal population is taken by hunters, the natural mortality of these birds is obviously quite high, judging from our annual counts," Director Gottschalk said. "We hope to determine if a greater kill will take birds that would die anyway, or whether it would add to the overall annual mortality rate and how much."
force in its mechanical backlash reel which employs centrifugal control. The idea is that the faster the line is pulled out, the less likely a cast will be too fast to keep in the water. That's why an educated angler doesn't have to thumb at all except just enough to keep the line from going overboard.

Reels on the market now—or the version that becomes so perfect that you can launch a lure with but you can do away with the Click. It takes practice.

There are times when this condition becomes so perfect that you don't have to thumb at all except to just keep the line from going overboard. Some reel manufacturers adjust the backlash trouble altogether if you want to clamp an anti-backlash device down tightly. The angle of the shaft may make a difference.

Just what causes an outboard propeller to pick up floating grass—or pass it by—is sometimes difficult to say. Generally a 2-bladed prop collects less. Sometimes a certain speed seems to get through better. The angle of the shaft may make a difference.

Floating grass is sometimes a real problem along shallow Florida coasts. I've stopped 25 times a mile, which gets a bit tiresome. In one case I noted that a 75-horsepower motor went through while a 28 booger could not. I did not notice the flights of ducks and geese, from horizon to horizon, that I had once seen in that area; or that the clicking and spring shooting were common. I realized that what they had not seen or experienced was no loss, nor even vaguely entertained.

Just what causes floating grass or any of the light-spool casting lines to be so light a spool the thumbing be­comes too fast. That's why an educated angler doesn't have to thumb at all except just enough to keep the line from going overboard. Some reel manufacturers adjust the backlash trouble altogether if you want to clamp an anti-backlash device down tightly. The angle of the shaft may make a difference.

Just what causes a outboard propeller to pick up floating grass—or pass it by—is sometimes difficult to say. Generally a 2-bladed prop collects less. Sometimes a certain speed seems to get through better. The angle of the shaft may make a difference.

Floating grass is sometimes a real problem along shallow Florida coasts. I've stopped 25 times a mile, which gets a bit tiresome. In one case I noted that a 75-horsepower motor went through while a 28 booger could not. I did not notice the flights of ducks and geese, from horizon to horizon, that I had once seen in that area; or that the clicking and spring shooting were common. I realized that what they had not seen or experienced was no loss, nor even vaguely entertained.
When selecting ultra-light tackle for panfish, there's a tendency toward very short rods, both in fly casting and spinning. In a tackle store, those sticks feel wonderfully dainty but, as in other kinds of fishing, the very short rod amounts to a handicap. If you really want to handicap yourself for fun, go ahead, but a 4-foot spinning rod is hard for me to cast with and I'll prefer a 5-foot stick at least. It happens that the spinning rod I'm now using for panfish is five feet long and has such a nice action I'll probably keep it but I believe I could cast better with another foot out there.

Note also that the added length gives the fish leverage and keeps you from man-handling him so easily.

Distance casting seldom has a place in panfishing and you can get a fly or plug plenty far enough with a 4-foot fly rod but it's a lot less work with a 7-footer and eight feet isn't too much.

Besides, in my case at least, the somewhat longer rods aren't such a long jump from the gear I use for bass or salt water fishing. It is hard to go from a 4-foot bug rod to a 5-footer for bream, especially if the latter is a little too stiff as short rods tend to be.

A friend of mine thought he had a light action panfish fly rod when he first bought it but now uses it for snook and tarpon. Don't be too sure until you've rigged it up and tried it.

If you're in Florida, it isn't far to panfish but if you want glory better fish for something bigger.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION**

It is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

**APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION**

The Editor, Florida Wildlife

Date: ____________________________

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the presented date listed below:

| Name (print) | Address
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<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
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</table>

| Species | Weight | Length |

| Type of Tackle | Bait or Lure Used | Where Caught | Date Caught | Catch Witnessed By |

| Registered, Weighed By | ____________________________ | At: |

(Signature of Applicant)

**CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK**

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

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<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MINIMUM WEIGHT</th>
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**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

| 8 pounds or larger |

**CHAIN PICKEREL**

| 4 pounds or larger |

**BLUEGILL (BREAM)**

| 1½ 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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