MARSH HAWK

A BIRD OF THE OPEN COUNTRY; USUALLY SEEN FLYING LOW, BACK AND FORM OVER MARSHES, PASTURES AND GRASSY, HARDY FIELDS IN SEARCH OF ITS MAIN FOOD OF RATS, MICE, AND RABBITs.

**The destructive cotton rat forms a large part of its diet.**

Common resident throughout the state from September to May.

**These noble, valuable birds are protected by law in Florida.**

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

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ROGE  TALLAHASSEE

JANUARY, 1965

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Florida State Room w/ Ocean Marine Laboratory  St. Petersburg, Florida

FLORIDA BIRDS OF FLORIDA

Sparrow Hawk

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

**A falcon known as "Killy-Hawk", to country folks because of its cry, "Killy-Killy-Killy".** A common resident of open country throughout Florida.

**Length 9 to 12 inches.**

**Wingspread 22 to 24 inches.**

**A handsome bird with rufous back and tail.**

**Male blue-gray wings.**

**Female rufous wings.**

Opposite: Florida's state bird, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The population of the bird is declining due to deforestation and other human activities. Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect this endangered species.**
CONSERVATION SCENE

"Waterfowl Tomorrow" hailed as most comprehensive volume on North American Waterfowl and their habitat

Who Has The Courage?

To Walk Alone

By ERNEST SWIFT
National Wildlife Federation

Althought an increasing number of people claim the sobriquet of CONSERVATIONIST, too many have become frozen into a pattern of conformity, be they recreationists, industrialists, scientists or teachers. And although able to withstand the displeasure of opposing groups, they too often lack the fortitude to walk alone among their own kind; in other words, to be independent thinkers. Too many need the security of approbation and so would rather lose their identity and run with the pack. Conservation needs a sound philosophy as a vehicle for techniques. It follows, therefore, that anyone with the temerity to challenge the dogmas of the mighty will be misunderstood and subject to suspicion.

Man's first concern is survival; creature comforts are secondary. There should never be any doubt about this premise, but neither should the motives of survival and comforts tolerate resource abuses. The basic truths that water, productive lands and clean air are still the raw-materials of life are not being met with a head-on impact. There are too many diversionary actions. They are being swept under the rug for more cheerful aspects of conservation, and so man continues to destroy and pollute his environment. Water pollution abatement has hardly gotten beyond the talking stage.

As man has achieved his security and cultural goals, he has lost contact with the elemental resources of the earth. Million now use these resources as converted products with little knowledge of their origin, or that raw materials are still the life-line of survival, whether mankind occupies a penthouse or a bark wigwam.

The well-being of ducks and geese in coming years depends on the man today, his willingness to accept and use knowledge gained over the past three decades and his determination to learn more and to apply his findings in the future, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. That conclusion came in the final report of a five-year study by Travelers Insurance Company which was undertaken to project to determine whether fertilizing oak trees will measurably increase acorn production. The study project is located on Riverside Island located in the Ocala National Forest.

Spratt has selected five plots, four acres in size and each having twelve turkey or scrub oak trees. One plot is being left untreated while each of the other plots receives a different formula of fertilizer. Acorns under the trees collect the falling acorns and the data are analyzed statistically. Final results will be known by 1966, Spratt said. At the end of this study it should be known if acorn growth can be stimulated and the data on use and in what amounts for certain soil types. As hardwoods are cleared to make room for pine plantings, the remaining hardwoods can be used to yield more food if the study indicates fertilization will increase acorn growth.

Private landowners and hunting clubs can use this information as well as the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in an effort to improve the habitat for white-tailed deer and other wildlife.

(Continued on page 30)

WILDLIFE RESEARCH
Progress Report

"OLD TAMIRO" and wildlife biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will tell you that mast crops, principally acorns and palmetto berries, are of primary importance as food to white-tailed deer in Florida. They further agree that the quality and quantity of mast crops affect reproduction, growth and antler development. Gordon Spratt, wildlife biologist for the Commission, recently undertook a project to determine whether fertilizing oak trees will measurably increase acorn production. The study project is located on Riverside Island located in the Ocala National Forest.

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Intoxicated persons are not allowed to hunt in any national forest or wildlife management area in Florida.

JANUARY, 1965

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

THE COVER

Red-bellied Woodpecker- An abundant resident throughout Florida, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is named for the strong wash of red on the abdomen. The female of the species, lesser noted in painting, does not have the splendid top of head as does the male. Length of this bird is from 9 to 10 inches, with a wingspread of 16 to 18 inches.

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**Hunting-Trials-Training**

Lack of bear hunting success due to shortage of experienced hunters and dogs

By JIM FLOYD

The special bear hunts in the Apalachicola and Okeechobee National Forests became history at one-half hour after sundown Saturday, November 7. Reports on the two areas indicate that a total of thirteen bear were harvested during the 28 special three day hunts. Five of these were on the Apalachicola area in Liberty County, with the largest weighing over four hundred pounds. Eight bear were taken on the Okeechobee hunt in Baker and Columbia Counties.

This is the story as it appeared in a press release, but the real story lies not in the hunter success, but rather in the lack of hunter success and the basic cause for this condition.

According to the directors of the two bear hunts there is a marked shortage of qualified bear hunters and an even more acute shortage of quality bear dogs. The majority of the bear taken during the special hunts were killed by experienced bear hunters and especially by the experienced bear hunters that managed their own pack of bear hounds.

Walter Larkins, area supervisor for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and in charge of hunting activity on the Apalachicola area, tells of not one but a number of instances where a bear could have been taken had the hunters been a bit more alert and possessed more knowledge on bear and bear hunting.

Regional Manager Brantly Goodson of the Commission's Northeast Region, of which the Okeechobee National Forest is a part, was quoted as saying, "We have bear running out of our ears and it looks as though we will have to ask the game management division to trap and move some of them before they begin to create damage."

There was a time when there was a good supply of quality bear hounds scattered throughout Florida, but today a good bear hound is about as scarce as the proverbial teeth of the chicken. This may be due to the single fact that there is not enough emphasis placed on bear hunting which in turn could be related to the fact that the bear are not as scattered throughout the state as they once were. The bear is a wilderness animal and Florida's wilderness is shrinking. The major stronghold of the bear remains in the National Forests and other large wilderness areas. Anyway it's cut, a hunter needs a good bear dog to be classified as a good bear hunter.

A quality bear dog is an exception rather than the rule because he has to meet so many requirements that aren't faced by deer, fox, oon or rabbit hounds. In the first place, "making" a good bear hound runs into direct conflict with Mother Nature herself. Florida bears of course are recognized fighters and killers. To a dog closing in on a bear at bay, a slap from bruin's paw means a vicious bear bite resulting in agonizing pain and very likely death. Realizing these facts explain why fearless, fighting hounds are few and far between.

It may not take too much intestinal fortitude for a hound to keep a bear up a tree; however, this is where Florida bear hunting differs from the Yankee-type. The Florida bear follow a different pattern. Instead of treeing, they instinctively strike for the thickest cover and the deepest swamp water. A bear on the run can cover some territory that would seem impassable in a remarkably short time.

The life of a bear dog is rugged and it takes an exceptional hound to pass the requirements. A good bear dog must possess a keen nose that will pick up and then hold to the scent of a fleeing bear. He must have the mental and physical stamina to stay the course for six to eight hours at a stretch, even though it leads through hide-eating brambles and swamp water. He must ignore any instinct to abandon the bear chase and enjoy the thrill and safety of hunting deer, oon or fox. He must have a voice that will carry the chase to the hunters. All of these requirements are hard to find in one hound and it's small wonder there are but few qualified bear hounds in Florida today. Beagles are far bunnies and not for bear as it takes a lot of hound to qualify as a bear dog.

From The Bookshelf

Richard A. Woffles, author of "Gun Dog" and "Family Dog" has done it again with his latest contribution to the development of better dogs. His latest words of wisdom, wit, and dog training information are directed to the nation's duck hunters and owners of retrievers. The new book "Water Dog" is written for the man with limited time who wants to train his dog himself. It provides the hunter with a speedy technique for developing a well-mannered, capable retriever by the time the first season rolls around.

(Continued on page 34)
The brisk trade in used guns offers excellent values for the sportsman

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

There is frequently wide difference of individual opinion as to the meaning of descriptions like "good condition," "brand new," etc. Often it depends on who is selling and who is buying!

Just recently, I answered the following misleading newspaper advertisement:

For Sale—Late Model Winchester .308 bolt-action big game rifle. (Name and address).

Since Winchester's only manufactured bolt-action big game rifle is the desirable Model 70, I made fast follow-up.

But the offering proved to be a war surplus Jap rifle on which the owner had done a modest bit of gussying and restocking work. When I pointed out that the advertisement said "Winchester .308 bolt-action big game rifle," the seller blithely answered, "Well, it's chambered for the Winchester .308 cartridge!"

Long ago, the National Rifle Association learned that it had to establish general requirements in connection with member-owned personnel-owned firearms to other members or to the general public. To avoid misunderstandings, the condition of every firearm advertised in The American Rifleman must now be described in accordance with the following definitions:

New: Not previously sold at retail, in same condition as current factory production.

New—Discontinued: Same as New, but discontinued model.

Second-hand articles take their own specific definitions, under the following NRA standards:

Poor—badly worn, rusty and battered, perhaps requiring major adjustments or repairs to restore to operating condition.

Two cardinal rules should be kept in mind when buying any firearms, new or used: (1) the particular type of shooting for which you plan to use the gun; (2) what you can afford to pay for what you want. If you're seeking a certain make and model, you should familiarize yourself with the gun's features and component parts by studying the manufacturer's catalog before entering the buying market.

What is a used gun worth? In dollar values, used guns in the Excellent to Perfect classifications are generally worth 75 to 85% of their listed catalog prices, second and antique arms excepted. The latter may be worth much more. If Very Good, a maximum of 75% is within reason. If Good, then around 50% is fair asking. Firearms in Fair or Poor condition are frequently not bargain-basement, unless you are mechanically gifted and tool equipped that you can do the necessary gussying at nominal above-purchase cost.

Used guns—whether they be pistols, rifles or shotguns—have certain common components, such as barrels, basic frames, firing pins, triggers, stocks and assembly screws. If you know what to look for, inspection of component parts can tell you much about a gun being offered for sale.

Existing headspace is also important. In non-technical language, headspace is the tiny space that exists between the face of an unfired cartridge or shell in the chamber and the face of the breech-bolt or breech-block. Factory-provided tolerance normally is only three or four thousandths of an inch. Within a narrow margin of safety, this provided headspace takes care of minor variations in head thicknesses of cartridges or shells used. Headspace increases with hard use and wear. It demands attention when it climbs to .006 of an inch or above.

Measurement requires a special gauge.

The only cure for excessive headspace is to have factory or competent local gunsmith re-seat the barrel closer to the bolt face or breech-block, a job usually involving cutting a thread off the barrel, re-fitting and re-chambering. It is, therefore, a wise step to have your local gunsmith make headspace check of your contemplated used gun purchase.

Whatever the type of firearms being offered for sale, the barrel should be spotless. Neglect or abuse is indicated by rusted, pitted, rough or ringed interiors. A full length barrel examination should disclose no bulges or rings, and the shadow line as the barrel is slowly rotated for inspection should be straight and unbroken. The muzzle face should not be marred. There should not be any noticeable rifling wear at muzzle end or the first four inches from the breech; wear at these points affects accuracy.

A barrel bent at the end is hopeless. Replacement will cost around $10 for a pistol; $30 to $50 for average rifles, and even higher figures for new shotgun and special target barrels.

Test a barrel for looseness in its frame or breech assembly by grasping barrel near the muzzle and twisting with an unwrenching motion.

Examine the stock carefully for any splits, hairline cracks and deep gouges. Where stocks are ornamented with checkering, the examination should be clean and sharp; if broken or worn smooth, you can surmise that the gun has had hard use.

Also check the stock for looseness where it joins the gun's frame. Maybe an inside edge has been broken off, or the stock screw needs tightening.

Rifle and pistol sights should be tight in their slots or mounts; not bent; their elevation and windage adjustment screws free of rust and unstripped in their threads.

(Continued on page 32)
A waterproof camera for underwater photography proves excellent for angling-photo trips

By CHARLES WATERMAN

I LOOK AT LITTLE like a premium from a box of soap flakes but I believe I now own the ideal fisherman's camera.

The name of this photographic bonanza is Nikonos and it is made in Japan by the Nikon folks who build very fine and very expensive equipment, specializing in 35 millimeter gear.

It has been advertised that Nikons are the most popular of all 35 mm. cameras among the world's press photos and I think it's true—but the Nikonos is popular of all 35 mm. cameras among the world's underwater photographers.

It was built for divers. It was built for divers. But it looks like it was built for divers.

It looks like it was built for divers and I think it's true—but the Nikonos is popular of all 35 mm. cameras among the world's underwater photographers.

It was designed to go down more than 100 feet below the surface for underwater photography. If it gets salty or muddy, the book says, you should rinse it under a cold water faucet before taking out the exposed film.

I didn't get a drip dry camera for diving because my ears pop when I so much as turn the shower on black plastic. The lens is f. 2.5 (that's fast enough for nearly any photo situation) and the shutter goes to second.

The Nikonos is a waterproof camera that should be sent to a lens shade or something. With all this free advertising, the Nikon people ought to send me a lens shade or something.

But don't expect to be impressed by its looks. I've seen four-dollar box cameras that looked sexier.

PARSON A BRACKISH water report in a fresh water column but it's too good to keep and it could have applied to bass as well as to a snook.

This was down in the Everglades mangrove country a while back. I was with Buddy Nordmann and Ted Smallwood. Ted was born and raised down in that country and has a national reputation as a guide. Buddy sells fishing tackle at DeLand.

It was getting late in the day and we'd found no fish so Ted finally announced we'd have to go where he had some staked out.

It was a last resort for Ted, of course. He never takes me to a place he's sure there are fish unless he has exhausted all possibilities of finding some by accident. Anybody knows it's better to find a new hole rather than to pestle fish you're saving for a lean day.

But we didn't find a new hot spot so we moved into a mangrove creek Ted announced was lumpy with fish. Water was high and the sun was hot. The snook (we took Ted's word for it) were 'way back under the brush.

Buddy and I fished the creek as carefully as we could, getting hung up only about a third of the time on our backcasts. The creek was a little narrow. We couldn't catch any snook.

Then Ted borrowed my rod, gave it to him re-bent over because he is a 200-pound rod-testing laboratory assistant. When Ted Smallwood starts fishing with a rod, I understand they close the factory for a moment of silence.

It isn't that Ted isn't a good caster. He is. He just figures there's no use reeling over to a mangrove to get unhung if you can pull up the mangrove or break the branch.

And Ted figures if a fish is back under there that's where he wants the fly, even if he has to snap it through a 6-inch gap. If it doesn't get through the first time, he yanks it loose and tries again until either the mangrove or the tackle gives out.

All of this makes quite a commotion and at a distance it sometimes looks like a man fighting snakes with a bull whip; but under certain conditions it attracts fish.

A smoozing snook back under the bushes 10 feet from open water takes little interest in a fly or plug worked out at the edge of his private forest.

But when his mangrove tree shakes a little and there are funny noises at the surface for several minutes at a stretch, he may come up just to see what's going on. Just as he comes out to look, Ted yanks the fly loose from a limb and splats it on the water. Then he lets it sink a couple of feet right in front of the snook's nose.

So the trip out shouldn't be a total waste, the snook opens his mouth and inhales and Ted, using a 12-pound leader, yanks 11½ pounds on the snook's jaw. He pulls the snook's head to the surface before the snook can find the reverse button and the fish is in the boat and released again before he is quite sure it wasn't just an especially strong minnow instead of a streamer.

Ted did that three times. The last fish was a 14-pounder. Ted pulled so hard I couldn't row away. I missed the water with an oar and fell off the seat, probably didn't do me any good. There have been several times when I've been under the weather and didn't blame it on the undoubtedly polluted water I'd been drinking.

There isn't an inch creek and lake water drunk in the South as in the North, simply because cold water tastes better than warm water and you'll shrug up cold stuff you wouldn't touch if it was warm.

But with more pesticides and people, backwoods water is riskier than ever. Nobody can identify pure water by looking at it. However, everybody is now so used to iced thermos jugs that there's much less inclination to scoop up a handful of creek water.

Halazone tablets are not expensive and are relied on by many campers—who've been told they aren't sure-fire in the South. There are other types of purification chemicals, however, and everybody recommends boiling.

There's talk about the differences between spinning rods and plug casting rods.

(Continued on page 32)
The table may be set but the gathering of the guests is uncertain. They may be early, late, numerous, few. Some may sample the food and drink on the way, linger, and stay. Others will be harassed or meet with accidents on their long trip. It is difficult to predict the overwintering duck population in Florida—or any other state, for that matter. The variables are too great.

Florida game biologists have worked and are working, however, in keeping the state as attractive to waterfowl as is possible under present conditions. Federal-aid money, through the Pittman-Robertson bill, has contributed substantially to our state’s investigations of ideal habitats, harvest and population figures, and currently, to the study of water control programs that are of benefit to waterfowl.

Primarily, these projects are aimed at creating a greater hunter success in Florida. Secondly, they are concerned with sending the visiting feathered guests back up north on their migrational homing in a vigorous, healthy condition.

Ducks are classified as “migratory” and are therefore wards of the federal government, with seasons and bag limits set by this body with the cooperation of the 29 States in Mexico may share the 10 Provinces in Canada, the 50 States in the U.S., and 29 States in Mexico may share in the waterfowl resource.

Florida waterfowl management is primarily concerned with improving hunter success. Waterfowl hunters are five times greater in number today than in the “good-old-days” prior to the 1930’s. Survival of waterfowl hunting depends on good management practices. 

Through natural and man-made situations, the supply of waterfowl varies from year to year. And, unhappily, the trend averages slowly downward. The uncertainty begins in the Canadian “duck factories” where frequently drought and man work alone or together to create unfavorable nesting conditions; drought by drying up the small but productive potholes and marshes, man by “reclaiming” these lands by draining or filling. One observer of the Canadian scene remarked that if man had set out to deliberately exterminate waterfowl, he could not have picked a better system.

Breeding grounds of lesser importance for the ducks that overwinter in Florida extend from the Canadian Northwest Territory down to West Virginia. In the fall, the adults and ducks of-the-year leave their breeding grounds, their departure dictated by weather conditions.

Ducks stream southward through four general routes, routes established by time and heredity. These migration paths are the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific flyways. Florida is in the Atlantic Flyway, with waterfowl pulled down from central and eastern Canada into a funnel along coastal Virginia, then along the coast into Florida. From the tip of Maine to the tip of Florida, the U.S. portion of the flyway covers about 1800 miles. It varies in width from 300 to 500 miles, passes over 70 million people and 32 million acres of wetlands, the latter so improved by man that only 4% is of any value to waterfowl.

The Atlantic Flyway is small compared to the Mississippi Flyway. About 15% of the continent’s ducks use it, 32% of the coot, and 28% of the geese. Most of the honkers overwinter in the tidewater area between Delaware and North Carolina. Further south, migrants from the Mississippi Flyway join the Atlantic group in substantial numbers.

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Through natural and man-made situations, the supply of waterfowl varies from year to year. And, unhappily, the trend averages slowly downward. The uncertainty begins in the Canadian “duck factories” where frequently drought and man work alone or together to create unfavorable nesting conditions; drought by drying up the small but productive potholes and marshes, man by “reclaiming” these lands by draining or filling. One observer of the Canadian scene remarked that if man had set out to deliberately exterminate waterfowl, he could not have picked a better system.

Breeding grounds of lesser importance for the ducks that overwinter in Florida extend from the Canadian Northwest Territory down to West Virginia. In the fall, the adults and ducks of-the-year leave their breeding grounds, their departure dictated by weather conditions.

Ducks stream southward through four general routes, routes established by time and heredity. These migration paths are the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific flyways. Florida is in the Atlantic Flyway, with waterfowl pulled down from central and eastern Canada into a funnel along coastal Virginia, then along the coast into Florida. From the tip of Maine to the tip of Florida, the U.S. portion of the flyway covers about 1800 miles. It varies in width from 300 to 500 miles, passes over 70 million people and 32 million acres of wetlands, the latter so improved by man that only 4% is of any value to waterfowl.

The Atlantic Flyway is small compared to the Mississippi Flyway. About 15% of the continent’s ducks use it, 32% of the coot, and 28% of the geese. Most of the honkers overwinter in the tidewater area between Delaware and North Carolina. Further south, migrants from the Mississippi Flyway join the Atlantic group in substantial numbers.

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During the migration, of course, the waterfowl are being hunted, one out of every five shots resulting in a kill.
Land-use effects on ideal duck grounds are under constant research. Drainage of our state's marshes results directly in a reduction of the waterfowl population. As far back as 1950, nearly 18% of Florida was undergoing some drainage program, mainly for reclamation or improvement. Dredging and filling of residential sites have taken many ideal duck areas out of circulation.

Banding is an important part of Florida's waterfowl work. Banding results, routes, destinations, harvest patterns, and mortality rates, adding to the 4 million case histories in the federal files. Bright eyes have also been utilized for sight reports of ducks as they migrate back to Canada.

Studies of geese in northwest Florida, the search for a strain of mallards which will become native, evaluation of hunter success on the Guana River Wildlife Management Area, waterfowl disease research, and work with the National Atlantic Flyway Councils are a few of the other phases of activity currently underway with waterfowl biologists.

And then there is our own native bird, a real deep-south quacker, the Florida duck (also called mottled duck or Florida mallard). This stay-at-home, contrary to the migratory actions of nearly all waterfowl, ranges the whole state. It is most numerous in and around Lake Okeechobee.

This bird is essential to the happiness of Florida duck hunters. Take a year in which the Canadian duck-producing areas have a mild, late winter. As long as the waterfowl there have open water and food, they'll stick around. But the Florida season opens in late November. The Florida duck is on hand to bear the brunt of the hunt. Under such conditions, the Florida duck has accounted for 45% of the early season kill, dropping to 12% at the end of the season. The usual average, however, is about 21% of the total duck kill, or 27,000 harvested per year.

The Florida duck resembles the black duck or female mallard, weighs in at about 1/2 pounds, and is at home in a variety of habitats, from fresh water ponds to brackish marshes. It was severely affected by the 1963 drought, but has recovered with the population now back near its normal number—about 50,000.

It breeds from March through July, nests from April through June. About 8-12 eggs are laid in nests located in the water or in palmetto clumps as far as 300 yards from water. The ridges of irrigated tomato fields are a popular nesting site. This duck's food varies through the year. In spring and summer, it eats a large percentage of animal matter (mollusks, insects, crustaceans, fish). In fall and winter, it turns almost entirely to plant material, with 75 species of plants and their seeds included in the diet.

Since it is a native, the control and welfare of the Florida duck rests upon those in-state factors which work for or against the local population. A far few farming practices are beneficial, such as the vast irrigated tomato fields in south Florida. Other trades farming and sugarcane farming enterprises have nullified any gain, however, as they have the often-discussed reclamations projects. Even converting Central Florida's Green Swamp into deep-water reservoirs, in the planning stage now, plus other plans for controlling those lakes and rivers within its range, will, by eliminating the shallow areas needed by these ducks, work against its continued well-being.

To aid in determining the Florida duck's population and subsequent season and bag limits, an inventory is conducted every July. Last year, Stephen B. Fickett, Game Biologist stationed at Brooksville, and Commission Pilot George Longford conducted the survey, flying a Commission float plane over the assigned transects, and making counts of all waterfowl by means of the naked eye supplemented by binoculars. The favorable 1964 figures resulted in an increase in the bag limit from two to four of these ducks. Even though the bird is "all-Florida," this increased bag limit still had to be cleared through the federal agency.

Florida duck domination the July inventory, but there are a few other species always tallied. Most of these are assumed to be cripples unable to make the northern flight. Wood ducks, in small numbers, appear to be going native, and the cost summers here in small numbers.

Fifteen or so ducks overwinter in Florida in populations large enough to be called "common." Among the surface-feeding ducks (the dabblers or puddle ducks) which prefer the small, shallow

inland lakes, ponds, marshes, are the mallards, black ducks, gadwalls, canvasbacks, baldpates, green-winged teal, shovellers, pintails, and wood ducks.

The divers, those that feed underwater, are represented by the redheads, canvasbacks, lesser scaups, ringnecks,ducklings, and mergansers. Goldeneyes and buffleheads are present in some numbers.

Cost represent about 1/5 of the overwintering population, and distribute themselves throughout a varied Florida habitat. Not as glamorous as the other members of the family, through it's less demanding nature, it may someday supply the bulk of the duck-hunter's sport as our more desirable wetlands disappear.

Canadian greese and blue goose comprise less than 2% of the wintertime waterfowl population. These birds stay in the St. Marks area although an occasional wanderer is seen in south and central Florida.

We can never turn back the calendar to the "good old days" of duck-hunting prior to the 1930's. Now, five times as many duck hunters crowd into the diminished wetlands after a reduced waterfowl population.

However, the picture is not all black. State, local, and federal agencies are fighting the waterfowl decline through research, management, and wetland acquisition. The perpetuation of quality habitat is being emphasized. Pittman-Robertson federal aid monies are being requested and used by states to help put more ducks in front of more hunters' shotguns.

Florida Commission biologists, through research and management, are doing their share in solving the complex problems in the waterfowl world.●
A youngster receives rifle training at the Conservation Youth Camp of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission in the Ocala National Forest. Graduates of such training are qualified from a safety standpoint, but this program is not available to all young hunting license applicants.

**A BILL FOR GUN SAFETY**

By CHARLES WATERMAN

SPORTSMEN ARE HOPEFUL Florida will have compulsory firearms education for juvenile hunters before long. A bill providing such a program was beaten in the last session of the legislature, where it was introduced by Representative Leighton Baker of Mt. Dora.

Baker says his bill was beaten for no good reason. He doesn’t think it was studied; he doesn’t think it was understood and he points out that there is no specific group or faction against it. The vote was 43 to 61.

Baker, who owns the Peterson Gun Shop in Mt. Dora (that name came from the founder, a famous builder of fine target rifles), is the logical person to show the young people how to handle guns. Baker has taught safety classes for many years (no pay) and his top score is a gun hunting license applicant needs is the money to pay for it.

Baker compiled a summary of objections made by opponents of the bill.

First on the list is the accusation that it is a "hasty thought up bill." He points out that it is a duplicate of a bill that has worked successfully in California. Hunter safety people wrote and studied a number of bills before deciding on the California version.

Second is the charge that enough instructors could not be secured, thus preventing many youth from getting their licenses. Baker win this argument hands down by citing the case with which instructors have been found for the present volunteer program and by quoting officials from other states where compulsory programs are now in effect. In some instances there has been an over supply of instructors.

The third objection is that compulsory safety education would infringe upon the responsibilities of parents. Some parents would feel, it is argued, that safety education should be taught within the home. It is the contention of the bill’s proponents that many parents are not qualified to give their children adequate training in the use of firearms. To rely upon parents for gun education is to assume that all parents are qualified. Some parents are not hunters. Some are not gun users. Others would consider the background and know-how to do a good job of teaching safety to juveniles.

Many Florida parents do not claim to be proficient teachers of calculus or botany, say the firearms education people. For this reason, there is a school system to do that job. Is there any excuse then to assume that all parents are versed in firearms or, for that matter, know a firing pin from a sling swivel? There are some teachers who know the arms of any sort for whatever purpose they may be used or intended. There are anti-fineploma propels appearing before legislative bodies of the country each year that make no distinction between hunting rifles and zip-guns. There was a rash of them following the assassination of President Kennedy. Gun safety advocates got some lumps a few years ago when an attempt was made to give brief gun safety course to all male students of a Miami high school. The program was set up, the materials were acquired and qualified instructors were ready to go. The sessions had been established in such a way that they would not interfere with regular school work but the experiment was nipped in the bud.

(Continued on next page)
There are by-products of gun safety education. Instructors, most of whom will be conservationists to a degree, at least, can get in some good licks about wildlife protection, obedience to game laws and current outdoor recreation problems and expansion.

Ardent pacifists, through misunderstanding, often associate any sort of firearms instruction with military training. Safety training, of course, has nothing to do with the military. From the standpoint of developing fighting men, the armed forces aren’t much interested although youngsters familiar with firearms might have some small advantage in basic training.

The main object of safety training is the avoidance of accident rather than the teaching of marksmanship although the National Rifle Association makes no secret of a little axo-whatting through its participation in safety training (many state courses are drawn word-for-word from the N.R.A.).

The brief course in safety may interest a youth in shooting to the point that he will inquire about marksmanship training, which may put him into a junior rifle club—a completely different activity with an excellent reputation for developing discipline as well as being a wholesome recreation.

This, of course, makes for more N.R.A. members and the N.R.A. is supported by members, it’s activities covering all phases of firearms use, not the least of which is lobbying for or against various firearms legislation.

Most safety courses require a little actual shooting at their conclusion. Twenty-two rimfire rifles are used and most instructors insist on bell-action guns because they are safe, simple and basic.

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General Hunting Regulations
1964 - 1965 Summary

South Florida
First District

DEER: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday except Dec 25, Hardade, Monroe, and Sarasota counties which will be open for deer hunting from Nov. 14 through Nov. 22, only.


SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 13 to March 28 south of State Road 50; March 27 to April 11 in Hernando County north of State Road 50. One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.


SPECIAL REGULATIONS: The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking deer or bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties shall be limited to bird dogs only. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA HUNTS:


Northeast Florida
Second District

DEER: November 14-January 3. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated.

SPECIAL SEASON: Gilchrist County—November 14-November 22 only. NO OPEN SEASON—Bradford County.


SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 27-April 11. Hunting permitted everyday one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon. NO SPRING GOBBLER SEASON in Alachua, Bradford, Madison, and Levy counties.

SQUIRREL: November 14-Febuary 28. Hunting permitted everyday except as indicated.

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Point Washington


SPECIAL SEASON: Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties—November 21-December 6; and December 19-January 3. NO OPEN SEASON in Washington and Holmes Counties.


NO fall season on Eglin Field, SPRING GOBBLER SEASON: March 27-April 11 one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.


SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA HUNTS:


NO Antlerless Deer Hunt, Jan. 9, 1965. Special Air Force permit required.

Point Washington Raccoon and Fox Hunts, Seminole Hills Tract in Bay County. Guns prohibited, Sept. 26 to Nov. 8, 1964; Jan. 16 to May 23, 1965. The tract north of State Road 30 to West Bay and east of State Road 79 closed Nov. 21 through Jan. 17, open remainder of the year.

LICENSING

(issued from office of County Judge)

Exemptions—Residents 65 years of age and older; all children under 15.

Costs Include County Judges’ fees.

Service men stationed in Florida, are considered residents of Florida insurable as licensees to hunt and fish are concerned.

GAME:

Series H — For hunting on licensed private hunting preserves only $ 5.50

Series I — Resident County $ 3.00

Series J — Resident, other than Home County $ 4.50

Series K — Non-Resident, State $ 6.50

Series L — Non-Resident, State—Dog Fines $ 25.00

Series M — Non-Resident, 10-day Continuous $ 11.50

Series N — Non-Resident, Out of State $ 25.00

Series O — Guided: for guiding hunting parties, issued from office of

Commission, Tallahassee $ 100.00

Allen Hunting—Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee $ 50.00.

TRAPPING:

Series N — Resident, County $ 3.25

Series O — Non-Resident, County $ 25.50

Series P — Resident, State $ 25.00

Series Q — Resident, other than Home County $ 10.00

Series R — Non-Resident, State $ 100.00

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

January, 1965
DIVING DUCKS

The Diving Ducks, on their name indicates, dive underwater for food, and also as a means of escape when danger threatens. They are primarily birds of open water such as bays, offshore along seacoasts, and larger lakes and streams at the interior. Most divers will putter across the water surface, above, before becoming airborne. "Fish Ducks" like the Red-breasted Merganser, at left, have slender, toothed-bills for seizing fish.

The Bullhead, lower left in photo above, is the smallest of the diving ducks. It occurs offshore along the coast with other divers such as the Canvasback and Scaup Duck, shown in the same photo. Famous for speedy flight, the Canvasback, at left, has been clocked at 72 m.p.h., and rates as excellent for table fare.

Fifteen "kinds" or species of diving ducks have been observed in Florida, some more or less common, some of rare occurrences. They are the Redhead, Ring-neck Duck, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scrape ducks, American Golden-eye, Bullhead, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers. The Redhead, in flight upper right, and center left, is a social species that gathers in large flocks offshore and often flies in high-press-like V-formation.

The Ring-necked Duck, right, a drake shown at left, and two hens at right, would be better named "Blue-billed" Duck. A chestnut ring of color around the drake's neck cannot be seen except very close up. It is a fast flyer, and favored food duck.

Photo Story
By WALLACE HUGHES

The Ring-necked Duck, right, a drake shown at left, and two hens at right, would be better named "Blue-billed" Duck. A chestnut ring of color around the drake's neck cannot be seen except very close up. It is a fast flyer, and favored food duck.

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I物料 for special bear and archery hunts. Special hunt permits are obtained in the state. Special Hunt Permits, as outlined elsewhere in the summary, are issued for the state's designated hunting areas and their kill when leaving, at designated checking stations on Wildlife Management Areas. Possession of loaded guns on days other than Sundays is prohibited, except under special permit issued by an authorized representative. Dogs found in refuge areas will be picked up by Wildlife Officers and cared for under the special rules governing particular areas. Legal game, unless otherwise specified, may not be dismembered or divided in any Wildlife Management Areas, except as otherwise specified in this summary.

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Florida’s Wildlife Management Areas

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting 31 Wildlife Management Areas as shown below. In addition to a regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the Management Areas.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

A $5.00 Public Hunting Area Permit, in addition to regular hunting license, is necessary to hunt on most Wildlife Management Areas. Such Permits are issued by any County Judge, or authorized sub-agent, in the state. Special Hunt Permits, as outlined elsewhere in the summary, are required, in addition, for hunting in state designated hunting areas, except for those areas designated "closed to public hunting" in this summary. Highway hunting is not permitted on public hunting areas. Special Hunt Permits are obtained on a limited basis in those areas designated by this permit. Hunters must check in when entering, and check out and report their kill when leaving, at designated checking stations on Wildlife Management Areas and their kill when leaving, at designated checking stations on Wildlife Management Areas where such stations are maintained. On all other areas, hunters are requested to have their deer and turkey checked at the hunt headquarters. Public Hunting Area Permit and hunting license must be in a hunter's possession as long as he participates in hunt, and must be displayed upon request of a Wildlife Officer or other commission personnel.

Guns, either assembled or disassembled, or dogs are allowed only during the season designated for each particular wildlife management area except under special permit issued by an authorized representative of the Game Commission. Possession of loaded guns on days when hunting is not permitted and after shooting hours is prohibited.

Dogs may wear collars with name and address of owner attached. Dogs found in refuge areas will be picked up by Wildlife Officers and cared for.

All legal methods for taking game will be permitted, unless prohibited under the special rules governing a particular area. Legal game, skin and season bag limits, and possession limits will be the same on Wildlife Management Areas as for the District within which the areas are located, except as otherwise specified in this summary.

All dates shown in this summary are inclusive.

Fishing permitted on Wildlife Management Areas throughout the year, unless otherwise specified. Frogs may not be taken on Management Areas unless otherwise provided.

Deer or bear shall not be dismembered or divided in any Wildlife Management Area, except as provided in the state hunting regulations, or as further restricted in this summary.

Camping permitted at designated camp sites on the hunt areas, or in those areas designated by Hunt officials, unless otherwise provided for particular areas. Any camp may be searched at any time by Commission personnel. Fees for campsites are prohibited at all times.

Wild dogs are classified as game animals, and may be hunted as such. See the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fishery Regulations,49th Edition, (1964) and Chapter 583 of the Florida Fish, Game and Fresh Water Fishery Regulations,49th Edition, (1964)

The trapping of fur-bearing animals is prohibited in all wildlife management areas unless specifically permitted by regulations governing a particular area. Instructed persons will not be allowed to hunt.

Tobacco is not permitted on public hunting areas. Pets other than dogs are prohibited under the special rules governing particular areas. All regulations pertaining to fresh water fish and wildlife shall apply to Wildlife Management Areas, except as otherwise specified. Copies of regulations for each hunt, and maps of each area, will be available at checking stations and at the Tallahassee and Regional Offices of the Commission, and at the offices of the County Judge in counties containing management areas.

1. Blackwater Wildlife Management Area, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties, November 21 to December 6, and December 19 to January 3. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail, Gobblers and \"gobbler only\" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

2. Eglin Field Air Force Reservation, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties, in two phases, November 21 to December 6, and December 19 to January 3. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Deer, Quail.

3. Ray E. Qualls Wildlife Management Area, Callahan, Bay and Gulf Counties, November 21 to January 12. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail.


6. least-visited Wildlife Management Area, Apalachicola National Forest, Leon and Wood-Counties, November 21 to January 17. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Duck, Quail.

7. Apalachee Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties, November 14 to January 17. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season, March 27 to April 11, Taylor County only. Best Hunting: Duck, Turkey, Quail.

8. Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area, Dixie and Lafayette Counties, November 14 to January 17. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 25-January 7, special turkey \"gobbler only\" season March 27 to April 11, 1965. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.


11. Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area, Levy County, November 14 to January 3. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season, March 27 to April 11. Best Hunting: Turkey, Best Hunting: Turkey, Quail.


13. Guano River Wildlife Management Area, St. Johns County, November 14 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 25-January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

14. Okeechobee Wildlife Management Area, Okeechobee National Forest, Martin and Palm Beach Counties, November 18 to January 3. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, shall be closed except during the first 9 days and November 25-29, and December 25-January 3. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

15. Florida River Wildlife Management Area, Flagler and Volusia Counties, November 14 to January 3. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season March 27 to April 11, 1965. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

16. Fountain Wildlife Management Area, Volusia and Brevard Counties, November 14 to January 3. Special turkey \"gobbler only\" season March 27 to April 11, 1965. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Quail.

17. Citrus Wildlife Management Area

Florida’s Wildlife Management Areas

Controlled Hunting

General Information 1964-1965

All Regulations Subject to Change

in Case of Emergencies

NEW MANAGEMENT AREAS

29. St. Regis Wildlife Management Area, Escambia County, November 21, 1964 through February 28, 1965. Legal to take Quail and Squirrel only.

30. Paint Washington Wildlife Management Area, Bay and Walton Counties. Special dove and Fox hunts only, in portions of Bay County. See special regulations for this area.


FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1965

(Continued on next page)
WATERFOWL HUNTERS
Make certain you have a 1964-65 Federal migratory waterfowl hunting stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of $3.00, the stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older.
Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before using it.
The Hawaiian Nene Goose, shown at right, is featured on the 1964-65 stamp, from a drawing by Stanley Stearns.

(Continued from preceding page)

18. Croom Wildlife Management Area, Hernando and Sumter Counties, November 14 to January 3, hunting permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Gamefish, Gopher.
19. Richmond Wildlife Management Area, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco Counties, that portion of the Area North of State Road 50 and West of Slaughter open to every day hunting November 14 to January 3. Recreational use of the area (East of Slaughter) open 8:00 a.m. December 14 to January 3. Best Hunting: Turkey, Waterfowl, Gopher.
21. Carlos M. Wild Life Management Area, Charlotte County, November 14 to February 28. First 9 days open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, closed at all other times. Best Hunting: Quail, Deer, Turkey.
22. Lee Wildlife Management Area, Lee County, November 14 to January 3, hunting permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Best Hunting: Deer, Turkey, Gopher.
25. Bud's Garden Wildlife Management Area, Hendry County, November 14 to January 3, hunting permitted only on Saturdays and Sundays. Best Hunting: Turkey, Gopher, Squirrel.

Hunting Season Notes
GUNS—A gun is defined as any device mechanically propelling a projectile, shotguns, rifles, pistols, revolvers, air guns, gas guns, blowgun, bow and arrow, or devices.

SOUTH AMERICAN C A D I A N of any size, other than the Black Caiman, may be imported and sold when not advertised or represented as alligators. Wherever Caiman are advertised as "Baby Alligators" the words "South American Caiman" must be used. Other terms sometimes used are Baby Alligators, or represented as alligators. No alligator or American crocodile may be sold. Dealers are subject to inspection and must possess invoices or documentary evidence that such caimans were imported.

BOATING

WINTER CRUISING

By ELGIN WHITE

When winter winds come down like icy blasts out of the frigid northwest, blanketing America's northerly land with snow and temperatures hovering near the zero mark, they sometimes send a chilling finger into Florida.
But it doesn't call a halt to boating.
In the Florida Keys, a jeweled-like series of islands set in an incredibly green sea, genuine cold weather is unknown. Key West, at the foot of the Keys, truthfully boasts it has never known frost.
Small powerboat spencers have never had to stop.
Many people forget that Florida is more than 500 miles long from north to south—it's actually more than 900 miles from Pensacola, in the northwest end of the state, to the Florida Keys. It adds up to a lot of latitude, and when temperatures drop in the norther part of the state, influenced by nearby blizzards just a state or three away, the sun still shines warmly in the sub-tropical section. The islands still glitter in the sun.
The northern outboard skipper who trails his boat south can find memorable boating adventures in the Florida Keys. The Opening 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.

BEAR HUNTING—The bear is a game animal and may be taken only during the open season for taking of deer, and during managed bear hunts. No open season in Ocala National Forest.

WILD BOOG—Declared as game animals in specified Wildlife Management Areas, and in Palm Beach and Allegro counties. Wild hogs may be taken during the open season for taking of deer, and during managed bear hunts. No open season in Ocala National Forest.

SUNNY Coves for fishing and idling away a day abooto in privacy. Those who are expert boat-owners, knowledge of how to use compass and charts, can explore distant islands and shallow banks, some islands have delightful, rarely visited beaches and some of the banks have truly fabulous fishing to offer.

The resolution points out that "Boating accident statistics..." (Continued on next page)
fail to show that involvement in accidents is, in fact, related to factors which any system of licensing would substantially reduce or eliminate.

Instead of licensing the resolution recommends greater emphasis on boating safety education and intensive enforcement of existing boating laws in furthering boating safety. This writer agrees. We have seen a fine start made towards proper enforcement of the laws here in Florida by the efforts of the Florida Boating Council. The only lack the Council’s patrols has is small numbers. The Boating patrol is needed elsewhere operated but is simply not large enough to patrol the vast water areas in Florida that must be patrolled, particularly the heavily populated urban areas.

Licensing won’t help in the prevention of accidents on water any more than it does in an automobile. But good law enforcement will. We have good existing laws . . . some need up-dating and revamping, true, but in essence our enforcement policies are basically sound. The fact that some cowboy has a license to operate doesn’t make him any less a cowboy on the water.

So you’re cruising along, particularly in waterways where there is federal jurisdiction, have you ever run across some sights that are downright mystifying?

Bob Brewer sends along many examples . . . barrels or logs atop poles in the water; latticework structures of many and unusual shapes and colors; metal or plastic craft they can remain that way all winter. Many boat owners seem quite unconcerned about putting boating equipment into winter storage. Many boat owners seem quite unconcerned about putting boating equipment into winter storage while it’s still damp. This invites rot, stains, corrosion and mildew.

For those of you who are party poopers and don’t really care about boating in the winter-time (and what treats you’re missing, especially here in Florida!), here are some hints on winter storage of boating equipment:

- Keep the canvas top raised so it will not mildew.
- Keep the anchor line normally from the water and surmounted by a board on which an arrow is painted. It means that the channel is on the side toward which the arrow points. Head such daymarkers, especially during periods of low water.

- For those of you who are party poopers and don’t really care about boating in the winter-time (and what treats you’re missing, especially here in Florida!), here are some hints on winter storage of boating equipment:

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- Since the anchor line normally comes home soaking wet, it is quite apt to be put away in this condition. This is why many a boater has found his line to be full of “mysterious” weak spots months later.

- If it is salty or muddy, rinse in clear water, coil loosely and hang where it can dry thoroughly and remain that way all winter.

Unless your boat is stored under cover during the fall, dead leaves may collect in it. If not removed, they’ll pack down and form ideal breeding places in the spring for rot in wooden boats. In metal or plastic craft they can cause localized corrosion and discoloration to the finish.

Incidentally, don’t park your boat under a pine tree this winter. Droplets of pitch will cover the topsides. These droplets come from spots where the needles have fallen off. This care should be taken especially by boaters in northern and central Florida where pine trees are more prevalent.

When you’re storing your boat, you diffuse the damage! Keep the canvas top raised so it will not mildew.

Hang life jackets and buoyant seat cushions on a clothesline to dry well, just as you do with your anchor and mooring lines.

And here’s a little reminder . . . the Coast Guard ruling now in effect says that after January 1, 1965, buoyant seat cushions whose kapok isn’t enclosed in plastic bags will not be acceptable. Better check ‘em now to see if they pass.

Our good friend Woody Kepper of Miami said from early indications the 1965 Miami International Boat Show at Dinner Key Auditorium should be the greatest in history.

Last year’s attraction drew more than 154,000 boating enthusiasts, and Miami show now ranks with the New York and Chicago exhibits as the three largest in the world.

Boat Show president Bob Gardner stated that reports from exhibitors indicate tremendous sales and traffic satisfaction over last year’s show, and more than 300 displays are anticipated for the 1965 extravaganza.

Your reporter has been to the Miami shindig every year for the past five years. It is true enough, they get bigger’n better each time.

In fact, in the past two showings, a special circus tent (king size) has been erected alongside the auditorium to handle the overflow of exhibitors and crowds.

Those new 120-lb. “Evin’ slivers” manufactured by Haines Products of Winter Haven are really a barrel of fun. I have handled these l’il contraptions at those press shindigs the Merc folks hold every year, and they have a range between the various writers to see who can really claim to be a boat-handlin’ hot-rod. I must admit, rather shame-facedly, that yours truly has never won one of these events, but I always have a good excuse — the boat I get is always the slowest in the bunch. Hurrumph!

Seriously, they are a lot of fun, and you will find they are very safe, easily portable, and can transport two adults at speeds over 20 m.p.h. with a small 10 horse motor.

An experienced fish hook detector can pull both head and neck inside his shirt without moving his feet: it is only mildly oppressive of head whittling play.

Anglers Menaced

O ur Florida fishing guide operated in a construction worker’s hard hat.

Even the construction helmet isn’t good enough for real, experienced sideliners. He has more scars than an eighteen century duelist, dodges faster than a featherweight champion and can duck his whole head and neck inside his shirt without moving his feet. But he says one can’t get away from all of them.

“I’m not as young as I used to be,” he says. “I use more tact than when I first started.”

After the first near miss, he mentions to his customer that if he should get badly hooked he’d have to go to town for a tetanus shot and the day’s fishing would be ruined.

Sometimes he jumps overboard to avoid a whistling lure hoping the other way he is less likely to notice he has a guide or fellow boatman on board.

Trickiest of all is the caster who simply swings his lure back over his shoulder. Since he is facing the other way he is less likely to notice he has a guide or fellow fisherman on the line so to speak and will follow through strongly. This is especially disturbing when the victim is hooked in the nose.

Anglers can prepare themselves for emergencies by watching medical shows on television. Along this line a proposed “Ben Casey Hook Removal Kit” may eventually be marketed, along with a lead bullet for the victim to bite while work is in progress.

In the meantime, agility, Blue Cross and the spirit of a good loser will have to suffice.
PELLING CONCLUSION Emerges from
and their habitat.

An excellent new book, "Waterfowl Tomorrow," the most comprehensive volume ever written on North American waterfowl and their habitat.

Composed of 69 chapters and containing 784 pages, "Waterfowl Tomorrow" is the cooperative undertakings of 183 authors from all parts of the continent. Each chapter is the product of writers intimately familiar with their subject, and the text is illustrated with 194 photographs plus additional sketches and maps. A project of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the attractive book was edited by Joseph P. Linduska, director of public relations for the Remington Arms Company, and Arnold Nelson, assistant to the director of the Bureau, served as managing editor, and the more than 800 pencil drawings are from the board of Bob Hines, well-known wildlife artist.

This monumental story of the past, present, and future of North American waterfowl is presented in 11 sections: The Introduction, a panoramic view of waterfowl on this changing continent; The World of Waterfowl, a detailing of the many species, their habits and needs; Duck Factories—the Big Three, a review of the main breeding grounds of Canada and Alaska; Goose and Swan Factories, an account of breeding and wintering grounds and migratory routes; Down the Flyways, an inquisitive look at the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways; Nature at Work, a description of the forces, beginning with glaciation and continuing with climate, vegetation, diseases, and other factors important to waterfowl; Men at Work, a review of man's influences, good and bad, and ways to aid ducks and geese; Places to Hide—and Seek, an account of refuges and other places reserved for migratory birds; A Helping Hand, the thrust and burden of waterfowl management; and Waterfowl Tomorrow, a commentary on the values and uses of waterfowl in the future and international planning.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. at a bargain-basement price of $4 a copy, "Waterfowl Tomorrow" also may be purchased in any quantity by sportsmen's and conservation clubs, wildlife agencies, and others for resale purposes at a 25 percent discount. Letters accompanying orders should specify that the books are intended for resale purposes in order to obtain the authorized discount. Canadians may order the book from the Queen's Printer in Ottawa.

"Waterfowl Tomorrow" is not intended solely for the hunter. Rather, it is intended for all persons interested in the tremendous migratory waterfowl resources, whether they capture a duck, a goose, or a swan with camera, binocular, unaided eyeball, or any other means. It is a book that is designed to frank and full discussion of opportunities and obstacles confronting the desire of most men to perpetuate a valuable continent-wide resource in face of man's sometimes wasteful exploitation of the land and water on which that resource depends. It is, in short, a book for all North Americans, because it is a report on the past, the present, and the future of a part of their natural heritage.

The outlook is not black. "Hab-

nests, or does any damage to man or game.

A sharp slitting knife and a pair of tin snips to cut through belly muscles, breast and pelvic bones, and to shear off the feet and head, are the only tools needed to dress an armadillo for the table. The shell is easily removed once the under-belly skin is cut near the bony plate.

Hunters are told by Frank Winston, wildlife biologist, that properly cleaned, dressed and cooked, the armored-plagued and insect-eating mammal has a table flavor of pork when barbecued, baked or fried.

Looked upon as a pest by some, the armadillo has drawn the scorn of hunters, landowners and gardeners, yet Winston says that extensive studies made by game biologists in Texas, New Mexico and Florida have disproved many of the charges made against the armadillo.

Since it digs and roots for insects, it makes holes in lawns, flower beds and pastures. Yet, by eradicating harmful insects and ants, the armadillo pays dividends for his digging privileges. In making its den, it uses natural cavities, rarely ever digging the holes that injure livestock, as often claimed.

Winston also said that the eggs of armadillos are a good delicacy. Armadillos also may be fried as pork, or stuffed with sweet potatoes and baked, he said.

"Making a Home for Wildlife on the Land," a 4-color book that tells the story of the use of soil and water conservation practices in rural areas, is the newest of a series of educational cartoon-type publications of the Soil Conservation Society of America. It emphasizes that conservation treatment of agricultural lands can improve the habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and fish.

The color illustrations faithfully portray the many species of wildlife found on farms. The story of soil conservation is woven into a narrative about the experiences of an urban family at a vacation farm. Conservation farming, which involves proper land and water use, they find, can benefit wildlife.

Copies of "Making a Home for Wildlife on the Land" are available from the Society, 701 North East any Airway, Ankeny, Iowa, at 20 cents each in quantities up to nine. A sliding discount scale is provided for larger orders.

Homes For Wildlife

"MAKING A HOME FOR WILDLIFE ON THE LAND," a 4-color book that tells the story of the use of soil and water conservation practices in rural areas, is the newest of a series of educational cartoon-type publications of the Soil Conservation Society of America. It emphasizes that conservation treatment of agricultural lands can improve the habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and fish.

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I'll defend the guy who says they're the same thing. Depends on what kind of a plug casting rod he wants. If he likes it whippy with a small tip, the chances are that the spincast rod is just what he'll buy if out after a new baitcasting outfit.

But there IS something in the name. The manufacturer generally considers a plug add a little stiffer.

The glass bone with no metal in the ferrules are still working. Far as I know, only one firm makes them—Fenwick of Long Beach, Calif., and only the ones I've seen were fly rods.

I guess they had some troubles at first but I haven't heard of any sticking lately. I've used two of them.

A plug hooked on a big plug isn't likely to run far. Hell! Fight hard enough but covering distance is pretty tough.

Plug-hooked bass, for example, usually have the plug in such a way that the line has leverage on their jaws. The fish can't hold a straight course because the pull comes from one side. So he resorts to short sprints. Plug-hooked fish are often strong on aerial display, being more work for me than I used to. Those "special purpose" stocks aren't nearly as special as they once were and if you took away all but one of my rods, I'd be pretty well about as well. It's 81/2 feet long.

LONG-SHAFT outboard motors are increasingly popular for fishing in big waters. That means, of course, that the boats have higher transmissions as defense against following seas.

Outboard motors are made, you know, in two standard lengths. The short-shafer won't work on a high transom and the long shaft is a nuisance on a low transom.

What's the problem? For fishermen who aren't strong on swimming and have extra fear of the water, these little dinguses aren't awkward to wear and might be wise equipment in addition to regular boat motors.

There are several types but one particular brand that comes to mind is the Res-Q-Pak, hardly larger than a pack of smokes.

Check each chamber for rust and pits; see that none is swelled from firing an overcharged cartridge.

Aside from customary barrel inspection, look for tiny cracks at the thin, breech-end near the cylinder. The metal at that point is thinner and more subject to cracking than at other points.

Double-action revolvers should be smooth; the backward movement of the hammer should be without roughness, jerkiness, rasping or grinding sound.

Clean away rust, functioning of the ejection rod and the strength of the mainspring and firing pin indentation on fired cases.

Examine the recoil plate forming the hole through which the firing pin plunges; it should not be loose or cracked.

In a shotgun, whether it is a pump-action, a double, or an automatic, keep the gun from going maximum or full-automatic. It should not be a sad mistake that they do its job of making you squeeze and release the trigger for each shot fired.

While the only true proof of a wise secondhand gun buy is in its post-purchase performance, the fact that it cost you $100 less than the new one will help you acquire a used firearm worthy of your investment.

_FISHING_ (Continued from page 11)
The book "Water Dog" offers fresh information on how a retriever learns, and how his master can best make use of this information.

Mr. Wolters system of training on the whistle will sound familiar to Florida dog owners, who are acquainted with David D. Elliot and Jack Lawler, both outstanding dog trainers who have trained the muskrat population reached a low point in the area. They can only escape when the area becomes overcrowded.

The city guest would learn the fundamentals of America's rural economy and the importance of land and the people who occupy the land. They would learn firsthand where milk, butter, eggs, meat, vegetables, and bread come from. Old and young would benefit from simple jobs such as hoeing the garden, gathering eggs, picking berries. They could take the cows to and from the pasture; they could become familiar with domestic and wildlife firsthand.

They would discover to their astonishment that some people work more than 40 hours a week and no overtime; that nature can be cruel with droughts and too much rain; that in the last analysis, nature is unforgiving when man presumes to violate her laws.

Such vacations would be of value to city folks. They might eventually learn that recreation is a privilege and not a right, and that all things man desires, both spiritual and material, come from the land.

COUNCIL MEMBER

TO WALK ALONE
(Continued from page 5)

He was positive that he could make a fortune. However, when the muskrat population reached a low point, the animals began to kill one another. The killing ceased only when the population was drastically reduced. He then tried beaver, and they also killed one another when the area became overcrowded. I cannot help but wonder if the human population is not approaching the same frustrations as did the muskrats and the beaver.

The industrial monster has become so sacred that our conservation leadership is afraid to probe it. Its vital diseases; but, even with recreation as a temporary escape valve, people may become so numerous as to destroy their outdoor recreation. They will destroy it if they are not taught a sense of individual responsibility. Then where do they escape to?

More and more have our rural populations left the land and traveled to the cities, and many of them have never been out of the city. They are anxious to get back to the country. They can only do so if they are given the opportunity to do so. The book "Water Dog" will surely produce some screams, especially among the school that believed in waiting and not pushing the pup into training. The book does not advocate pushing a dog but rather advances early training based on a sound and proven program.

The book, selling for $5.95, is available from E. P. Dutton & Company, 281 Park Avenue South, New York 5, N. Y., provided you can locate it at your favorite book store. Regardless where you get your copy, you surely should add it to your library, especially if you fall in the category of being a dog owner this holiday season. The text of "Water Dog" is clear, informative, readable and humorous. It contains 385 outstanding photographs which illustrate step-by-step training procedures. In every way it is a book that you should have.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S
FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and to immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing record 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.

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

Application for Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation

The Editor, Florida Wildlife

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the prescribed date 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, Weighed By _______ At _______

(Signature of Applicant)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS . . . 8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL . . . . 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM) . . . . 1% pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER . . . . 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE . . . . 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST . . . . 1 pound or larger

Guardian Ad Litem

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.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Camping sites and guided tours are available at Flamingo, the southernmost settlement on the peninsula Florida, and major outdoor recreational area in the Everglades National Park.

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