Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

Some Florida Catfishes

Catsfish have large mouths, gummy barbels, "whiskers", and no scales. They are equipped with sharp dorsal and pectoral fin spines that can inflict painful wounds.

**Channel Catfish**
- Average weight: 2 to 5 lbs. up to 10 lbs. • Found in large rivers and feeding south to Lake Okeechobee, fine food and game fish.

**White Catfish**
- Average weight: about 2 lbs. • Up to 4 or 5 lbs. • Fine food fish. • Swims large bodies of fresh water south to Lake Okeechobee.

**Yellow Bullhead**
- Also called butter catfish. • Weight: about 4 lbs. • Swims all kinds of waters through Florida. • Nourishing mud and weed-filled waters.

**Brown Bullhead**
- Also called speckled catfish. • Weight: to about 4 lbs. • Smells all kinds of waters through Florida. • Nourishing mud and weed-filled waters.

**Catsfish**
- Salt water species. • Weight: 1/2 to 1 lbs. • Fun • Sells in the market and found on the bodies of salt water.

**Saltwater Catfish**
- Salt water species. • Weight: up to 5 lbs. • Eats mud. • Sells in the market and found on the bodies of salt water.

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**THE COVER**

The Bobwhite Quail, with a nesting season that extends from early May through September, is one of Florida's more popular game birds, found throughout the state. See page 13.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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REGIONAL OFFICES

Northwestern Region
J. A. BROWN, Manager 1714 NW 43rd Terrace, Gainesville, Florida

Southwestern Region
JOHN C. SUTZ, Manager 908 11th Street, Defuniak Springs, Florida

Southeastern Region
BRANTLEY GOODSON, Chief Law Enforcement Division 324 W. South St., Defuniak Springs, Florida

Northern Region
JOE T. SCOTT, Chief Low Enforcement Division 100 N. State Road 758, Wauchula, Florida

Lake Region
ARTHUR COPELAND, Chairman 1507 1st St., Lakeland, Florida

Central Region
WILLIAM COPELAND, Chairman 1303 S. 9th St., Wauchula, Florida

ERIC B. MARTIN, Chief Law Enforcement Division 4th Avenue, Wauchula, Florida

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CONSERVATION SCENE

Gun Handling Instruction Scheduled For Camp Perry

Eighty-eight sport fishermen made money during February in the sixth annual 1966 Schlitz Florida Fishing Derby by returning Schlitz tagged fish to the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the State Board of Conservation for scientific research.

A tabulation of February Derby results showed that 55 catches were fresh water variety, and 33 were salt water types. The Derby is running statewide all year, open free to the public, to provide fish tagged and released each year since 1961 by the state agencies for fish life studies to improve Florida fishing opportunities.

To date, more than 8,000 Derby fish have been captured in the world's most extensive fish tagging project, with more than $300,000 paid to fishermen for their cooperation. This event is financed by the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co.

Fishermen's awards this year range from $25 to $300, graduated according to the time Schlitz tagged fish have been at large.

Gun club shooting has always been an important part of the Derby. It brings $300 each; 1962 fish, $200; 1963, $100; 1964, $50; and 1965, $25.

Participation requires only that Derby fish be caught with hook and line, and in compliance with state fishing regulations. Awards are claimed by delivery of Derby fish with tags intact as soon as possible after capture to the nearest Schlitz wholesaler who will return them to the state agency concerned. Locations of Schlitz wholesalers may be found in telephone book yellow pages.

New Fishery Program

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall recently announced plans to start a new Federal program to conserve and develop the Nation's anadromous fishery resources. Anadromous fish, such as striped bass, salmon, and shad, live in the ocean and return to fresh water during the spawning season.

The program could provide funds for research, stream improvement, and construction of fishways, spawning channels, and hatcheries.

The Anadromous Fish Act of 1965, authorized by Public Law 89-394, will be administered jointly by the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Although funds have not yet been approved by Congress, the Act authorizes the appropriation of $25 million through June 30, 1970. The maximum Federal funds authorized for one year are $5 million, and no State may receive more than $1 million in one year. Federal funds would finance up to 50 percent of approved anadromous fish projects.

Every Parent Should Know

It's as natural as growing up for a boy or girl to be interested in sporting firearms and shooting. The lucky youngster has parents who enjoy recreational shooting. But whether the parents share or not, one day the kid asks, "When can I own a gun—a real gun?"

This is a question nearly every parent must answer. What should the parent do about getting a pellet gun, 22 rifle or small shotgun? To help parents make a decision, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has prepared an eight-page booklet—"What Every Parent Should Know... When a Boy or Girl Wants a Gun."

Single copies are available free by writing: National Shooting Sports Foundation, Riverside, Conn.

Duck Stamp Booklet

The department of the Interior has announced availability of a new edition of its "Duck Stamp Data," describing the 32 Federal hunting stamps issued to date.

The 48-page booklet, which pictures all the stamps, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20404, for 25 cents. It is known as the Fish and Wildlife Circular 111 and is the fourth edition to be printed. It is intended to philatelists, sportmen, and other conservationists.

Conservation Outlook

At The Local Level

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

I' has often been said, "Repeat a statement enough times and people will believe it." There are certain instances where this has proven true, but indulge in old adages it has also been stated, "You can't fool all the people all of the time." Many people with perception are beginning to wonder where resource husbandry fits between these two rather opposing observations.

My own experiences have ranged from years as a field man in conservation to administration at the state and federal level, and then back to the community atmosphere of a small town where collectively logging, small farms, the summer resort business and a few small industries sustain the economic base.

I have tried to take advantage of my experiences all along the way, and I now look upon this return, after thirty years, as a complete cycle in my conservation education. I recommend this refresher course to conservation leadership in general.

The rural areas are not quite the same as when I left them, they are far more sophisticated, but still with remnants of individualism of a passing era. I find the people still much preoccupied with local problems, but there are also issues of an insidious nature which they tend to ignore. The problems are not too big to overcome, but it is easier to brush them aside. Some attitudes on conservation are little different than when I left the field, but underneath there is more of an awareness of potential difficulties.

Now federal and state planners have moved in on the country folk in every respect of living as never before. Too many of these planners have only a metropolitan background and assume that country folk are not capable of running their own business. They must be brainwashed and regimented into the larger scheme of national existence.

As of now the planners seem to have the whip hand because people are busy with their own affairs, but their individualism is being chiseled away in small fragments. If they allow this they are in great part responsible for not facing up to the things which need to be done.

While the planners, with the power of law and lots of money, advance their land-use schemes for forestry, recreation and farming for the benefit of a bucolic public, the local Rod and Gun Clubs continue their monthly meetings.

Summer resort areas have many problems vital to that business, and the general attitude is that what is good for the resort business is good for conservation. Secondly they argue the merits of a nine or twelve day deer season, and someone invariably attacks the unholy alliance that would shoot whoose. The grouse season is debated in the light of the tourist dollar; and because the bird population was down the previous year a bounty should be placed on coyotes and fox. Fishing regulations are a priority

(Continued on page 34)
FISHING

A SATISFACTORY METHOD of repairing broken glass rods (hollow) was demonstrated the other day by Buddy Nordmann, DeLand tackle dealer and fishing instructor.

He says the plan may not work on very small tips out close to the end of the rod but he's had good service from a number of his splices in the larger part of the blank, some of them in use for a matter of years without failure.

For a test he refastened a 6-inch section that was broken from the tip of a light fly rod and I'm trying it out. The splice is barely noticeable.

He trims a short piece of glass, about 1 1/2 inches long, to fit inside the two broken sections and proceeds to leave the broken edges uneven as they're never established a price on it but thinks he could do them all day for $2 each and show a profit. It doesn't take him long to do the work although dry- ing time is considerable.

Some of the more highly prized salt water game fish manage to get a long way from the sea in Florida

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The first popular worms were black, followed by successive periods of red and blue supremacy before purple took over. The plain black ones look pretty drab beside later models which have all colors in delicate stripings. Some of these are not worms at all but snakes with realistic heads and, of course, there are all the lizards and other squirmy plastic teasers.

Then, there are the flavorings. In a tackle store the other day, I was surprised to see the tail of a plastic worm disappearing into the mouth of a small boy and inquiry revealed the proprietor loses a lot of profit to worm slurping juveniles. He guesses it won't hurt them seriously but doesn't recommend it.

SATISFACTORY METHOD

The south is full of beautiful cypress lakes which, in turn, are full of fish—they say.

Perhaps it's coincidence and perhaps stupidity but I've never done a very good job of fishing among the cypress knees. Oh, I've caught a few fish but nothing to write home about and I must confess to more success along the less picturesque grassy and bonyetty shores.

Cautionrly I have inquired of other bass fishermen and have been relieved to learn that my experience isn't unusual, my interviews adding up to the conclusion that cypress bass are a bit more pernickity than others.

BOOK REVIEW DEPARTMENT again: Joe Brooks, the famous fly fisherman and TV fish catcher, has a book called "Complete Guide to Fishing Across North America," recently published by Ovemoor Life (Harper & Row) which is the most comprehensive where-to-go fishing book I've ever seen, 600 pages of concise listings, maps and description. Brooks, who has been gobbling away at this one for more than five years, bears down on the information with a minimum of flowery phrases. With the amount of dope he sets forth, there's no time for fancy flows of rhetoric.

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The south is full of beautiful cypress lakes which, in turn, are full of fish—they say.

Quite a few bass fishermen use 18-pound test braided line in plug casting and some go clear up to 25-pound or stronger.

It is hard to see how anyone breaks line that heavy on a fish that probably weighs less than ten pounds but it gets done pretty regularly. Of course it usually doesn't break at anything like it's advertised strength, generally being worn at the lure end and possibly weakened by inferior knots.

Although something around 12-pound test casts better than heavier tests, I've never seen much advantage in going smaller with braided line. The little stuff just isn't wide enough and can't make a nuisance because it's easily cut or frayed. It's also more prone to tangle in case of a backlash.

I don't know the percentage but more and more casters use monofilament line on baitcasting reels. It can be used in smaller size and the original criticism of excessive stiffness has been pretty well taken care of in manufacture. Generally it is not so easily thumbed, accuracy isn't quite as good as with braided line and it requires a reel without gaps at the spool ends. Tightly compressed monofilament puts terrific strain on a reel and will break or bend all but the sturdiest spools. Although mono wears longer than braided line, it can be nicked and greatly weakened by something that would cause only minor fraying with braided stuff.

Much baitcasting line is damaged when a loose surface plug fouls the reel but a line or two feet too fast that came from extensive hand work and those aren't fishing reels.

The reason mono generally requires a little spool tension is simply that it isn't "sticky" and can easily spring off the spool at high speed.

When I get too ecstatic about a product it generally falls apart immediately but I'm going out on a limb about a landing net I bought the other day. This one has a 2-foot handle and the frame is

(Continued on next page)
made of aluminum tubing, filled with Styrofoam so it won’t sink. The hoop part is made rigid by some irregularly shaped hoop isn’t quite as easy to stow net I’ve ever used. It’s moderately priced. polyethylene can be cut, of course, but it’s pretty straightenings but usually they eventually break. I believe this new one is rigid enough to last. It’s produced by Ed Cunings, Inc., 2395 Branch St., Flint, Michigan 48568. I bought mine at Ramsey Brothers in Daytona Beach.

FISH GET A LONG WAY FROM home, on purpose, ac-

centually, or just for the heck of it. This is most interesting when it involves salt wa-
et fish in fresh water or the other way around and it is complicated by the activities of anadromous fish who ascend fresh water rivers from the sea for spawning. The most famous of sport fish that leave the salt for fresh water are the Atlantic salmon and the Pa-
cific steelhead. In Florida the shad get top billing in "fresh" water, mainly on the St. Johns River sys-
tem. Our shad spawn well over 100 miles from the ocean. There are some other salt water gamefish that get a long way from the sea in Florida. Tarpon are caught, at times, anywhere across the state in the canals that enter Lake Okeechobee. They are occa-
sionally found in Lake Monroe at Sanford more than 100 miles from Jacksonville by water. Snook get up that far too although catching either fish is a bit un-
usual. The flounder is also found "way upstream but it is possible to have one as part of a life cycle and I'm no flounder expert.

Although there must be arbitrary lines for law enforcement purposes, it's hard to say just where "fresh" water begins. We do know that many salt water fish can live happily in what's commonly called fresh water more than 100 miles from the sea and have nested there. Some species will reproduce. Striped bass have done well in land-
locked waters.

Other side of the picture, black bass can live in very brackish water, competing in the clove line right along with snook, tarpon, channel bass, sea trout, sheepshead and all of the other inshore residents. However, they evidently don't reproduce in water with heavy salinity and, when forced into the salt by a low water table they seem to disappear after a few weeks, probably as prey to salt wa-
et species, possibly as victims of too much salt. I am not saying that they don't reproduce in some-
what salty water—simply that there's a limit. In either case, fresh to salt or salt to fresh, a gradual change seems to be necessary. In other words, a fish can adapt itself to a gradual change of salinity that would knock him out if he had to take it suddenly.

SHOOTING AT FISH with firearms, a dangerous prac-
tice that's generally illegal, isn't often success-
ful although many offshore skippers will pull down on a surfacing shark that seems to be about to at-
tack a hooked fish—and surfacing sharks have been collected by commercial sharkers through the use of rifles. A fish can be killed, of course, if hit on the surface or very near it. For a time there was a controversial sport of fish shooting with shotguns in one of the northern states, the marksmen sitting in a tree. Round shot doesn't seem to punch much al-
though a rifle bullet will glance off water even at a fairly steep angle. Those who have dispatched crib-
pled ducks on water (or ground-sliced them dur-
ing a bad day) will note that most of the charge seems to stay down. Although a pistol or rifle bullet loses its steam quickly in water and simply sinks after short pne-
ture, there can be considerable concussion in the immediate vicinility. Many years ago when it was legal to hunt frogs with pistols in a Western state, another fellow and I found that we could knock a floating frog colder than a wedge by simply shoot-
ing at it. However, a bullet would only kill the frog, but if you were to throw a rock or something at the bull-
et on our whole sacks of frogs would come to life, giving a very interesting effect indeed.

Water is evidently a terrible agent of concussion as I remember many underwater demolition men flattened by near misses during World War II. That, of course, was shells—not bullets. I am guessing that a rifle bullet wouldn't stun a man-sized creature no matter how close it came to him in water.

The exact angle at which a bullet would glance from or enter water would depend, I suppose, upon bullet shape and velocity. Anyway, water and gun-
fire are dangerous combinations in settled com-
munities.

FISHING VEST aren't stylish in Florida although they're just as handy for carrying a batch of gear here as they are in Maine or Michigan. It would seem that they'd be perfect for pier anglers as well as any sort of wading fisherman, even though they were developed for fresh water trout seekers. A good vest will last indefinitely because there are no real wear points. A vest made from less than $10 to around $30. Sure beats flies in your hat, leaders in your pockets, both hands full of cheese sand-
wiches and essentials left at home.

SHOW TIME Attractors are brilliantly reflective skirts for adhesive attachment to lures or lines. The stuff is "metalized mylar," each metallic strip being about as wide as the plastic stripes making up the conventional "rubber skirts." It can be stuck to a plug, line or jig and seems to be flexible and has been success-
ful in both fresh and salt water as an added flash and glitter. These skirts are about 20 cents each, come in several colors and I've had good luck with them.

We tore up one and used the strands as fly dress-
ing. It seemed to be somewhat lighter than con-
ventional tinsel and generally use it for glitter. When we included strips in streamers it worked better with each strip split. Otherwise it fluttered and set up extra casting resistance.

This isn't a forecast of doom and recommendation of sunbonnets for everybody but touchiness where the sun is concerned is a serious warning and I know some veteran fishermen who have to be thor-
oughly sun-proofed before every trip, which means the trips aren't nearly as frequent as they used to be. Maybe we shouldn't be critical of Florida's main product but it goes best in moderate doses.

BOAT WAKES continue to be a sore point between fishermen and pleasure boaters. In some parts of Florida great care is taken and on other waters it's quite jolly to justle a fisherman in a very small boat. Some deliberate "doughnutting" of fishermen has actually led to occasional fatalities. Speed, of course, isn't the whole problem. Most boaters know that a sudden leed from a high speed plane is likely to stir up a wake worse than anything the speeder could do. The slow pull on top. Dropping off plane is a courtesy gesture, even if it does more harm than staying up. You never been scared by a wake as long as the maker keeps a reasonable distance away and there's generally room for him to turn out a bit for you.

I really got the works on a recent weekend, how-
ever, when I was fishing boats. In some parts of the St. Johns All of the jolly boys were out and there was plenty of foam in the channel but they couldn't bother me back on the flat—I thought. The boat I was using was 10 feet long and required a lot of room for navigation and there's nothing the speeder could do. But some fishermen have to be taught to keep their distance.

QUITE A FEW fishermen run afloat of too much Florida sun. Week-end anglers generally get noth-
ing worse than a painful burn but guides and fishing regulars can get into real trouble and the "healthy tan" isn't so healthy if it's overdue one year after year.
As a matter of fact, the Governor is now and has been a member of the Miami Beach Rod & Reel Club and holds the all-time club record for amberjack. He nailed a 100-pounder about two years ago, and the MB R&R boys and girls have been after him ever since. Burns is a tall, rangy man, and gives every appearance of being a solid outdoorsman. He has caught many tarpon weighing substantially more than 100 lbs. and also boated a 12' 10" blue marlin that tipped the scales at 600 lbs.

"This was a team effort," the Guv smiled. "Mildred and I both had this baby on, and in spite of crossing lines, the jumping of the marlin, and the hectic time that followed, we were able to bring him in in about 45 minutes."

That's pretty good time, even without crossed lines, I'd say. I had a chance to see Burns in action last year when we went on the Legislative Boat-A-Cade on the Suwannee River. He had a new Thunderbird Formula Junior with him for the trip, and that baby could move on out.

The Governor is no mamby-pamby boatman. The Governor is now and has been a team effort," the Guv smiled. "This is a beautiful trip. I think I like to hot rod it."

Who wouldn't? When you get one of those double-hulled Thunderbirds under you, it's like getting into Dick Petty's blue Plymouth for a run around the Daytona Speedway. You don't paddle along and watch the scenery! Pressures on time in the Governor's office have limited Burns' boating activities a great deal, but when the opportunity does arise, he and Mildred make the most of it. One Sunday afternoon not too long ago they got into his 17' pet and dropped in the water at Jim Woodruff dam and cruised all the way to Apalachicola and back. "We must have averaged about 28 M.P.H. for the run," the Guv stated, "and that was one beautiful trip. I think every boatman ought to take a run down the Apalachicola. Sure pleased us, I can tell you."

Guest it is only natural that many Florida leaders, from the Governor on down, spend a lot of recreational time boating around our state's many fabulous waters. I reckon when Burns has completed his tour of duty as Florida's Chief Executive, he'll take his Thunderbird, Mildred, and some children and grandchildren and spend a lot of time on the water—just catching up.

Reflections on a Visit to the Miami Boat Show: This year's show, as usual, was bigger 'n better than ever. I don't know where they are going to hold next year's panorama of boating, but they're running out of room at Miami's Dinner Key Auditorium. Peg Leyshon, who has ran-rod this event for years, and steps down after this year's temenous show, said they had to turn down 75 exhibitions for lack of space. There are more boats, more people, more money, and less space than ever.

Visiting this splendorous extravaganza, as they would say in Hollywood, makes one's mouth drool at the fantastic number and different types of boats, motors, rigging, accessories, trailers, electronic gear, fishing equipment, and beautiful girls in boating attire.

The queen of the show was the big and luxurious Matthews 85' cruiser that you can pick up for peanuts—if your peanuts are in the shape of diamonds! It is a costly rig but one of the most magnificent yachts ever seen under the roof of the Miami Boat Show. If you have a few hundred thousand dollars lying around and feel the urge to buy a boat, you couldn't go wrong on this baby... she is a beast!

I saw some classy charters and yachts tied up at Pier 5 that even had fireplaces in them! Nothing like the comforts of home, even when you're at sea! And these fireplaces work, too, George!

John Wilhelm, who entertains visiting writers and editors coming to Florida for story material aboard the "Florida Outdoorsman" trailer, came across a fine little gadget in a recent outing with Jim Rutherford that canoeists ought to flip over.

It is a solid unit, pontoon arrangement, made of aluminum, that snaps amidships on any canoe and keeps the fidgety craft as stable as a battleship. This is especially convenient when you're utilizing a small outboard on a canoe and want to make some time.

The pontoons, designed and distributed by Piedmont Pontoons of Charlottesville, Virginia, are so designed as to offer an outrigger effect, but with a minimum of weight, and situated amidships to offer... (Continued on next page)
very little resistance to water as the Ol' Indian invention skims along. These are excellent canoe accessories, and you can get plenty of info by writing the firm direct.

AND WHO WAS THE WAG who said boating hadn't grown into competition with fishing as an outdoor recreational pursuit? Check these figures, recently released by the Outboard Boating Club of America:

"More Americans spent more on boats and boating in 1965 than ever before, according to two marine associations.

"In their annual report on the boating industry and sport, the Outboard Boating Club of America and the National Association of Riggers and Boat Manufacturers said $2,605,000,000 was spent during 1965 for boating equipment, fuel and related products and services, an increase of $78 million over the previous year.

"The nation's pleasure craft fleet now totals 7,865,000, an increase of 165,000 over 1964, the associations stated. The report said 39,255,000 persons went boating more than twice in 1965, up 825,000 from 1964."

From these figures, you can see boating, or people engaging in boating, now compares favorably with fishing in this Ol' Ol' country, which claims 8,000,000 anglers.

RAM ACROSS AN EQUIVALENT to the famous Mrs. Malaprop of fictional fame, who gained reknown by murdering the Queen's English. It was during a look-see at the line-up of boats at the Miami Boat Show, and this sweet young thing, gorgeous in "salty" talk with a group of boating enthusiasts.

"We really have our boat in good shape, now," she enthused to any and all who would listen, "but we had to change propellers oh, I don't know how many times to stop the cavitation." I got lost there until I recalled she was probably actually talking about cavitation. Sure enough, she was.

"Well, that little gal would make any propeller "captive," I believe, but she did bring up a point that a lot of boatmen have occasional trouble with, and some boatmen have a lot of trouble with."

Bob Brewster of Mercury has some salient points to make about cavitation, should it be one of your particular problems.

Brewster allows that if you're having cavitation troubles, the culprit is probably the propeller, all right. Seemingly insignificant nicks or bends in the blades may be so located as to upset the smooth flow of water and encourage cavitation. Smoothing out these rough spots may remedy the situation.

Also, a propeller, though in good condition, may be the wrong size or design. Changes of propeller blade shape or dimensions, too small to be detected by the eye, can have an appreciable effect on performance.

For example, if each blade is made just one-eighth of an inch shorter, the propeller's diameter is reduced by one-quarter of an inch. A swath one-quarter of an inch wide around the circumference of the propeller represents an appreciable reduction or increase in the volume of water thrown back on each revolution.

If you have ever looked at an outboard racing enthusiast's trailer, you've seen, in addition to his rig, a box for tools and parts, and a surprising array of propellers. A racer will usually test several props before choosing the one he deems best suited for each particular race.

While the last fraction of top speed isn't as vital to the pleasure boater as it is to the racer, remember that in the family boat field there's a wide range of hull sizes, weights, shapes and loads, so it makes sense to start out with a propeller that suits your rig best.

IT WAS REPORTED in this column in the March issue of Florida Wildlife that gasoline supplies were available for boating tourists running out to old Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas. Found out this isn't the case. The National Park people on the Fort, who do a tremendous job in boating tourists who visit the old structure, advised that gasoline is there, but it is not for sale to the general public, as there are quite a few needs of the Park Service folks that must be met daily.

So, re-evaluate your petrol supplies should you contemplate a journey to the land of one dollar bricks. Be sure you have enough aboard to make the 135-mile round trip journey from Key West to the Tortugas and return. And I repeat—it is a fabulous trip, don't miss it if you get the opportunity to go.

The quail hunting season in north Florida extends from early-May to the first of October, with the peak in June and July. Hunting in south Florida begins and ends two to four weeks earlier. The white-throated coot and bald-throated heron share in building the nest, a perfectly domed structure made of grass located on the ground, and usually near fences, roads or moist areas. The hen lays an average clutch of 14 white eggs. The male assists the hen in incubating the eggs.

Photo By Wallace Hughes

The incubation time is 23 days.

Photo By Karl Halsorwski

The quail quails are up to 8.25 inches long, weighing anywhere from 10 to 12 ounces. The male is grayish brown above, white below, and the female is dark brown above and lighter brown below. They are found throughout Florida and are quite hardy. Their main food source is grass seeds and insects. They are not shy and are commonly seen in large flocks.

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The quail quails are up to 8.25 inches long, weighing anywhere from 10 to 12 ounces. The male is grayish brown above, white below, and the female is dark brown above and lighter brown below. They are found throughout Florida and are quite hardy. Their main food source is grass seeds and insects. They are not shy and are commonly seen in large flocks.

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The incubation time is 23 days.
A little underwater "planting" can improve your fresh water fishing

By ART HUTT

PISCATORIAL PAMPERING

I'm asking a 3-ounce sinker across the scalp—or a dorsal spine in my hand—in comparing women and fish, but I'd still maintain that they both respond to an offering of shelter and food.

Most women, that is.

And most fish.

With fish presumably being foremost in our minds, let's take a look at what can be done.

But don't worry. You'll never make your fishing a chore, but I'd still maintain that they both respond to an offering of shelter and food.

You can go about it in either of the two ways or combine them for the ultimate effect. By appealing to these two basic and natural instincts, shelter and food, you can more consistently count on a bulging size bass or two.

All you have to do is to build these fish a reef home. If you want to be a real sport and have a few dollars to invest, feed them. Or, if your lake is salt water, is to concentrate any fish species which may otherwise be scattered all over the lake. While such a reef in fresh water will magnetize more fish in a lake barren of all sunken and shoreline vegetation, this same reef will still collect fish in a lake which has these attractions.

Before it sounds as though a reef will take the intrigue out of your fishing, be reminded that except in the fishing-lure advertising world, there is no one formula for consistent limit catches—a circumstance you should be happy about. The spice of sport-fishing lies in its uncertainty. Your only gain will be in knowing that a reef will tend to collect your fish and that your chances are bettered by fishing near it.

For a change you'll know where to drown your wigglers or crickets or where to exercise your shiner or casting arm for the highest potential.

Artificial reefs originated in salt water back in 1900 when broken masonry materials were dumped in deep water near Long Island and called the McAllister Grounds, followed three years later by 14,000 concrete-filled beer cases submerged off Fire Island by charter boat captains.

Since then, salt-water materials have become more sophisticated, running the gamut through old streetcar and auto bodies, refrigerators, broken tiles and blocks up to the pre-formed, hollow-core, concrete units such as those used in the Walter Hudson Reef off Cocoa Beach.

In fresh-water, among the variety of materials are Christmas-trees-in-January, limbs from trees, tires, concrete or tile blocks—there's no limit on ideas, except you wouldn't want to turn your lake bottom into a dump. Use your own good judgement, but make sure the water is deep enough so you won't snag a skier or punish a prop.

As an example, last year the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, headed by Biologist Ed Zagar, and working with the South Lake Sportsmen's Club, used 1,600 old tires at $10 each to build a reef in Lake Minneola at Clermont. After punching holes in the tires so they wouldn't trap air, the workers wired a quartet of the tires together and deposited the units in a pre-investigated spot in the barren-bottomed lake. The reef was "fed" 40-50 lbs. of pelleted fish food per day for over a month. It is too early for any resounding results but the implications are that tires may not be the best reef materials. As long as the food lasted, catches of panfish and catfish picked up. When the food was exhausted, the fishing declined.

(Continued on next page)
Larry Blatt, left, lures out a variety of commercial fish food, cafeteria style. Block at left is mixture of cottonseed and soybean meal, to use the pellets in center. Heavy blocks and tiles, lower left, wired to trees or brush are needed to sink and hold in place reef materials. A heavy bag of weighted trees, below, should be made to water that is deep enough at reef site so materials will not sway afloat or punish a prop.

(Continued from preceding page)

Currently at Lake Juliana near Lakeland, a Commission crew under Biologist C. L. Phillips is testing various materials for reefs while up in northwest Florida, Biologists Frank Arrendale and Phil Hester have suggested that cedar trees, where available, are advantageous because of their thick foliage and decay resistance.

These biologists are testing cattle food with 20% crude protein manufactured in pellet form, soybean cakes, and loose bulk soybean materials. These foods increase microscopic plankton which attracts forage fish which in turn attract the larger game fish.

After the big freeze of December, 1962, when the annoying whine of chain saws filled the air, a sportsmen’s group at Clermont took advantage of these cedar trees, where available.

Happily, through the development of fish foods in fisheries research programs during the last decade, you don’t have to visit the local chicken plucking plant for a bucket of entrails or the local abattoir for a jar of dried blood. These materials amount to garbage in the lake and while they will attract catfish, they’ll also attract an undesirable number of turtles and rough fish.

You can feed simply, like retired Dr. V. W. Brink-erhoff at Clermont who uses oatmeal. Or you can go to the local feed store and have them order special pelleted fish foods—usually mixtures of cottonseed or soybean materials. Or pelleted cattle food can be used. One huge meat-packing company offers a 25-pound block of materials which can be placed in the burlap bag supplied and suspended from a line or tied over the area to be fed. This block, cottonseed or soybean cake, and the other foods, too, can be placed on an underwater platform close enough to the reef that you can see when more food is needed. The food erodes off into the water through water movement.

Bob Dinsmore at Lake Yale Resort near Eustis has used the 25-pound blocks tied off the end of his fishing pier with some success for his customers.

Foods apparently do two things. Broadcast into the water, some of the smaller pellets are consumed directly by panfish and catfish. In the water a few minutes, they pull up and can easily be sucked in by these fish. Others that deteriorate more slowly attract the previously mentioned micro-organisms to form the base of the food pyramid—with the angler sitting on top.

Feeding attracts the panfish and catfish directly, the bass indirectly. Once you’ve started, you should continue the feeding or the fish will once again wander.

If you have any qualms about the legality of using such fish attractors, relax. Quite unlike the federal laws covering dove hunting over fields which have food placed on them and in which a trip to the local judge is a certainty, the Wildfife Code of the State of Florida contains no law against such activities. Therefore, concentrating fish by food or reefs is entirely permissible. As stated, neither of these systems, combined or singly, will work miracles for you. You’ll still have your bad days.

And remember, too, anything you put out in the water is fair game for anybody to use. It may be your efforts and your money supplying the feed, but that doesn’t exclude any fisherman from taking advantage of your efforts. You may have a moral right to ask anybody to “lay off” but you don’t have a legal right.

The other day a former neighbor of mine when we lived in town commented that he and a friend had been trolling in our lake, mentioning also that they had caught three nice bass. I told them about my project out front, pinpointing the reef’s location, and inviting them to make use of it.

His eyes brightened as he exclaimed, “We trolled all around the lake but that’s where we caught the fish, right in front of your house!”

Sounds like a lived-happily-ever-after fish tale, but that’s what shelter and food will do.
A decade of continuous population decline has brought forth the all important Florida question . . .

Where Has The Wild

Florida hunters may wonder where the wild goose goes, or where it has gone, as there has been a steady decline in the Canada goose population in Florida since 1956. In the winter of 1956, Florida's Canada Goose population numbered approximately 29,170. Four years later, less than half that many spent the winter in Florida.

By 1964 the flocks had halved again and at the present time there are probably less than 6,000 geese that winter in Florida. If the decline continues at this rate the last goose to be shot by a hunter in Florida will be bagged before 1970, if an open season can be justified until the last are gone.

When the downward population trend became pronounced in 1959, wildlife research was undertaken by the waterfowl research project to learn whether hunting pressure was the cause of such a decline. This study revealed that the population continued to decline while the harvest remained approximately constant.

At the same time a large wintering goose flock was building at the newly established Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge at Decatur, Alabama, where geese had never wintered before, and at other places to the north made attractive to geese. These facts strongly suggest that the real cause for the Florida decline is the "stopping off" farther north of birds which traditionally came to Florida.

At one time, when most of the eastern United States was forested, most of the eastern Canada geese wintered somewhere along the southern coasts—from Maryland to Louisiana. Only these coastal areas furnished in any quantity the three basic requirements for wintering geese—large expanses of open, unfrozen water; treeless land areas for resting and loafing; and food. Now this situation has changed. Large water areas such as the TVA impoundment have been created by dams, and food and open spaces have been provided by changed agricultural practices. Particularly important among these from the goose standpoint is the planting of winter pasture—oats, rye and clover—and the development and widespread use of the mechanical grain harvester which not only leaves a great deal of grain on the ground but also tends to knock down the vegetative growth so that geese can and will enter the fields. Add to this the use of a rotary mower after the harvest, and a banquet is spread before the hungry goose.

At a meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Tallahassee, December 3, 1965, the members of the commission expressed great concern for the diminishing goose population and urged the game management division to step up its study of the Canada goose in Florida and to explore every possible method of returning this game bird to the Florida hunter.

Florida does not stand alone in the present day Canada goose dilemma and other southern states along the Mississippi flyway have reported a similar decline in population. Where once the Mississippi Valley goose were known to use practically the entire length of the river as far as the Gulf Coast during their annual winter migration, ninety percent of these geese that leave the breeding grounds in northern Canada are now concentrating in southern Illinois. Most of the remaining ten percent (Continued on next page)

As part of a special research program aimed at returning Florida's "gone geese," more than 300 Canada geese were captured this past winter, marked for future study and released. Detailed information recorded by biologists of the Game Management Division will help in "tracking" migration habits of the "honkers." Dale Cleder, right, measures the bill of a goose. The weight of a large gander, lower right, is checked by Gordon Speltt. Before the geese are released, below, they are each tagged with a special numbered aluminum leg band.

Goose Gone?

By HAROLD W. ASHLEY
Commissioner, Central Region

Photos By Jim Floyd

MAY, 1966
spend the winter months at several locations in low the age old migration routes to the Gulf C oast. T ennessee, I ndiana and Kentucky rather than fol­

The use of drooped hoist, a new and axle method of capturing wild game, provides "sleepy" geese for the program's re­search done. The geese are easily handled on a portable bed­
dressing table, left, designed and built by Commission biologists. Alt­er or proceeding, the geese are transferred, below, to recovery pens.

One of the objectives of the wildlife research study is to determine if the Florida goose popula­tion is being "short-stopped" and if such is the con­dition it can probably be proven within one year.

Heading the accelerated Canada goose research project is Dale Crider, waterfowl biologist. Crider has outlined the research project as including seven basic objectives: 1. Adapt experimental drug cap­ture techniques to wild geese to accelerate present banding programs. 2. Test methods of marking geese so that they can be identified at a distance. 3. Inventory the Florida goose population each year. 4. Estimate the annual productivity of geese wintering in Florida. 5. Learn the distribution and movement patterns of geese in Florida. 6. Learn the origin of the geese now wintering in Florida and determine whether the major sources are the same as in the past. 7. Determine whether "leadership" qualities in geese have potential application in dis­persing large northern winter concentrations south­ward.

For years this migratory waterfowl was hunted without any basic research or study, and now that there is a need for this type information the biolo-

gists will have to start at the beginning to obtain it. To make the assignment more complex there is a time element and Florida wildlife research person­nel will have to accomplish in a few years what might, under ordinary circumstances, require ten or more years.

Should research indicate that Florida's Canada goose population is being "short-stopped" at areas further north an extensive effort will be made to encourage the more northern states to alter their existing feeding programs and to plant feeds other than hard grains. With the absence of hard grain it is anticipated that the geese will soon deplete the existing food supply and move further south in search of additional feeding areas.

Under the accelerated Canada goose research program the game management division of the Commission captured over four hundred birds for banding, marking, identification and release. In ad­dition some of the captured birds were moved to the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and released. This move is to determine if these same birds will return to Florida next fall or if they will stop off in Alba-
No matter what the weather conditions are or the time of the year, someone is always catching fish in Florida.

**GO FISHING ANYWAY**

By CHARLES WATERMAN

Despite some popular opinions, it rains, blows, turns cold and gets hot in Florida. When these things are going on it would be nice to stay home and go fishing only when conditions are ideal but things are going on it would be nice to stay home. Over Kentucky and headed this way on a cold January 2 when they learned from a fellow year. "Some friends of mine were in an airplane somewhere over Kentucky and headed this way on a cold January 2 when they learned from a fellow across the aisle that they were wasting their fare. A lot of fishy things happen in that distance and mighty few fishermen know all about the whole works. I know northern bass fishermen who make special arrangements to be on hand for the "best" bass fishing. Among the months they choose as "best" are October, January, February, March, April, May, June and September. For the information of those who haven't tried them, the other months can be good too—somewhere in Florida.

"Snook fishing in Florida:" be asked sympathetically. "Why the snook aren't running at this time of year." And my friends, first time visitors to Florida, went me at the Miami airport with long and unhappy faces. It took me an hour and two cups of coffee to explain you can catch snook the year around in the mangrove Everglades country and that the "run" of snook which occurs on some parts of the coast at well-established times is something else again.

It is almost a thousand miles from Pensacola to Key West. A lot of fishy things happen in that distance and mighty few fishermen know all about the whole works. I know northern bass fishermen who make special arrangements to be on hand for the "best" bass fishing. Among the months they choose as "best" are October, January, February, March, April, May, June and September. For the information of those who haven't tried them, the other months can be good too—somewhere in Florida.

If you want to catch fish the year around you'd better be "loose" and don't get hooked on one more phase or one fishing method. Successful fishermen are opportunists who know the fish are somewhere and that they get hungry, even if the weather is bad and it's the wrong time of year.

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Despite some popular opinions, it rains, blows, turns cold and gets hot in Florida. When these things are going on it would be nice to stay home and go fishing only when conditions are ideal but not many of us can manage it that way.

Some friends of mine were in an airplane somewhere over Kentucky and headed this way on a cold January 2 when they learned from a fellow across the aisle that they were wasting their fare.

"Snook fishing in Florida:" be asked sympathetically. "Why the snook aren't running at this time of year." And my friends, first time visitors to Florida, met me at the Miami airport with long and unhappy faces. It took me an hour and two cups of coffee to explain you can catch snook the year around in the mangrove Everglades country and that the "run" of snook which occurs on some parts of the coast at well-established times is something else again.

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(Continued from preceding page)
bass, being caught on the same tackle with very minor changes in technique.

When it is hot, cloudy weather is a good time to be out. Running water has more oxygen in it than still water so hot weather fish often prefer current. Many fishermen lose a summer's day by going early and then staying out during the poor fishing time only to find they're too fagged to last through the late evening. Happens all the time at fishing spots.

Take cold weather, another cause of poor fishing. Anglers bass get sluggish and are often caught deep where the water is now warmer than on the surface. Air temperatures aren't water temperatures.

Even though we might have a real orange popper in midwinter, it takes a little while for a sudden cold snap to really chill the depths and you can shiver through some good bass fishing before the cold really sets in. When the cold gets to him, a bass generally stops eating but a chill that will turn him off today might find him in a different mood a week from now once he gets used to cold water. All of this goes for panfish too, and even for salt water species. Sometimes there's a feeding binge just before the cold snap hits.

I don't know just how cold water can get before it definitely knocks off all bass feeding. I've seen them strike in mid-Florida when the water temperatures were in the forties but that's a very rare thing and most authorities assume a Florida bass hibernates then. In the North, largemouth bass will strike when there's ice around the edges but then they've had a different fishing up even though about the same fish as the Florida bigmouth.

When it gets cold, head for the springs again. I went over to Crystal River on the West Coast last winter during a cold snap. Crystal River begins in a cluster of springs and we found some bass. The water was warmer than in most lakes and as we slipped along a sawgrass shore we found the bass hard on wrists, willing to jump and explosive in the striking department. They hit flyrod popping bugs.

I like to bore my friends with the story about Dan Bailey, the Montana fly builder who came down here to go snook and tarpon fishing. He arrived at Everglades on the coldest morning they ever had as far as I know. There was ice all over the dock and it stayed cold for several days.

For some reason the small tarpon which usually squat grumpily in the mud when it gets cold were on their best behavior and slammed Dan's flies with an abandon that had him choking on his pipe. The snook, usually indisposed when it gets just a little chilly, were peering hungrily out of the mangrove roots and ready for anything, especially plugs and streamer flies.

Now I did confine our operations to some of the deeper holes in some of the deeper creeks. Other than that I take no credit for the good fishing which was a surprise to me. The water temperatures were in the very low fifties most of the time. Dan and his wife, Helen, went home convinced that I was the world's greatest guide.

You might as well try it, anyway, no matter how dark things look and a few hours of driving may take you to a spot where the fish haven't learned fishing is poor.

Late winter is the most popular time for crappie (speckled perch) and many Central and South Florida fishermen discontinue their bass fishing and seek the specks when it gets chilly. But cold weather has an effect on specks too, even though they can be caught when the bass are off their feed. As water gets cold, crappie move toward deeper water, some-

DeLand fisherman Winopy Steerman shows a nice snook to Dan Bailey, of Montana.

That morning it was the "coldest on record" at Everglades.
On Lake Okeechobee, my wife Debie and I motored disconsolately across coffee-colored water through waves that banged the aluminum boat and soaked everything aboard. If we'd been nearer home we'd never have fished but here we were with the motel room paid for, the boat launched and a long day ahead of us. We'd lift on one of the swells, then drop into the grass and the motor would clump up. I'd get the junk out of the prop and be all set for another 200 yards, muttering about what the same people were doing that day and pulling my hat down so tight I got a headache.

We bobbed through a line of reeds which broke the waves somewhat, spluttered across a turbulent bottom three feet down and Debie managed to soaked everything aboard. I must say that the spoon made several

It was chilly weather when these homes were caught in the St. Johns River. They were taken on plays.

eventful trips but suddenly the grass shook, the water behind a broad streak threw a quart of water and Debie had more bass than she knew what to do with. He made it into thick grass and we lost the battle after fruitless prodding with a long-handled net. We didn't load the boat but we had a wonderful time all day, shouting back and forth in the wind and losing several good ones. We boated some too.

The moral is that brief windstorms seldom roll an entire lake. Almost invariably there are clear areas protected by vegetation. Now a week of 40 mile winds is different and you should seek smaller water.

Not only are small, sheltered coves easier to fish in high winds but fish may actually concentrate there to stay out of the wind and the downwind side of water shrubbery often collects bait and consequently bass or panfish. Same goes for smock and Rocky Weinstein of the Everglades country used to make a career of fishing the downwind side of mangrove bushes for smock, the higher the wind the better.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Fifteen years ago when I first came to Florida I spent a night in a Sanford hotel and walked over to the dock at Lake Monroe about 9 p.m. There was a guy with a short, cane pole and a No Alibi jig heaving on bass that wouldn't quit. He had a string of nice fish and was breaking off the big ones. His system was to simply walk slowly along the dock gently moving his pole tip with the jig about five feet down.

I suffered a severe attack of fish fever but had no tackle with me. When calm reason began to assert itself I finally realized the fish weren't always lined up against that dock but that this orgy was occasioned by a very hard wind that had battered schools of bait against the pilings. Dead and injured minnows were all around the place. I don't know whether the guy with the jig had figured it out or had just lucked into the jackpot. I like to think I was the one who understood the situation and that he was just lucky. But he had the fish.

When there's been some high wind—better check the seacoasts too. Sometimes there's good fishing right after a storm but, of course, the whole beach may be a mad pie.

Too much boat traffic, a chronic illness of many of our waterways, can alter your operation. Water that's actually stirred by boat wakes becomes unpopular among the more astute bass and panfish as well as brackish water fish (with the possible exception of shad who don't seem to give a damn). On rivers with a lily bonnet line out from shore, fish are likely to lie behind the bonnets even when water skiers are churning the main stream. That area is apt to be relatively calm but when a few yachts plow through pulling real task force wakes the shore fishing is generally done for and you may as well hunt a quiet backwater or little creek. Many of my friends refuse to fish on weekends, claiming that the "jolly boys" (local term for high-speed pleasure boats) ruin the whole thing. Well, they're right where main river channels are concerned but it's usually only a few yards to protected water. Unfortunately, fish sometimes prefer the deepest bottoms to those fishy little side channels.

Although some of the fish camp operators may hold public burnings of this issue, I'm afraid the one-spot reservation for a Florida fishing vacation is something of a gamble. Fishing only one part of Florida can be pretty dreary when local weather conditions fail up. Sometimes a tourist who goes home disappointed could have cashed in if he'd driven just a little further and accepted just a slightly different kind of fishing.

One-spot fishing leads to flat statements such as, "Fishing is better in Illinois than it is in Florida. We just come here for the weather."

One-spot fishing leads to flat statements such as, "Fishing is better in Illinois than it is in Florida. We just come here for the weather."

Unusual weather or water conditions sure ruin things for the narrow minded soul who has fixed ideas of what fishing (and everything else) should be like.

After 50 years of intensive coverage of the Florida fishing scene by thousands of writers, there are still many anglers who say you can't catch Florida bass on anything but shiners. There are many Florida fishermen who think all salt water fishing involves dragline-type tackle.

Such pilgrims are easily discouraged by a bit of poor weather and sob their disappointment on the way North or back to their retirement homes.

Best examples of fishermen who meet adversity are the working anglers who get off only a day or two a week, go whether it rains or shines, whether it freezes or broils and "catch fish right on" as the saying goes.

Somebody somewhere in Florida is catching a fish right now and I don't care what the weather or what the time of year.

When the wind is blowing out to the Gulf you can go back into the cypress swamps for brackish water fishing. These fishermen use plug coddlers.
MUZZLE FLASHES

There are still problems but stainless steel could some day be the accepted standard for gun making

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

Back in the early Thirties, an enterprising, well-to-do sportsman friend had the Ford Motor people produce, for him, a stainless-steel version of a modern Land-Rover, from stainless steel. He still has and uses the vehicle; stainless steel of good grade has long life.

If there is a moral to the story it is to make or buy sports' equipment of stainless steel if you want it to last indefinitely. The better grades have remarkable resistance to corrosion and erosion. Why not firearms, or at least barrels and receivers, of stainless steel? Many shooters have advanced to get maximum service life from a rifle barrel of stainless steel were experimentally used by European barrel makers more than forty years ago. Subsequently a few American manufacturers produced firearms with stainless steel barrels, and there are also some current offerings.

Back about 1908, the Marlin Firearms Company, an old American gun maker, marketed the since discontinued Marlin Model 455 bolt-action sporting rifle with stainless steel barrel 24 inches long, rifled with shooter's choice of .270 Winchester, .381 Winchester or .30-06 Springfield caliber.

The stainless steel barrel was fitted to an FN Mauser type action with an adjustable Sako trigger. Marlin gave the stainless steel barrel of the Model 455 a beautiful blue finish—by first copper-plating the barrel's exterior and then bluing the copper coat.

With its fine Lyman 48 receiver sight and ramp sytle front sight, the Marlin Model 455 rifle was a good one, but it lost out by being a manually operated bolt-action on the market at the time of a growing public craze for autoloaders.

In the same calendar period, Winchester marketed the original Model 70 bolt-action in .243 Winchester and .30-06 Springfield calibers, with optional choice of stainless steel barrel. The Model 70 in .229 Swift caliber was another stainless steel barrel offering.

Today, there are numerous sporting firearms on both the European and American markets that feature stainless steel as a basic material.

Remington, Winchester and others recognize and attempt to minimize the barrel wear problem in "hot" calibers by using stainless steel barrels.

The Remington Model 700BDL in 7mm Remington Magnum, .300 Winchester Magnum and .308 Winchester Magnum calibers have stainless steel barrels. The Remington Model 700, as represented by the 7mm Remington Magnum and .308 Winchester Magnum calibers, also incorporates a stainless steel barrel. The Savage Model 110 bolt-action, available with either right or left hand bolt, in 7mm Magnum caliber, is also of stainless steel.

The firm of Smith & Wesson (recently purchased by Banger Punta Sugar Corporation, an investment holding company of Bangor, Maine) has just introduced its Model 110 "Chieftain" .38 caliber revolver with every part—barrel, frame, cylinder, screws and springs—made from stainless steel. The only components not stainless steel are the two handle grip halves, which are walnut.

Some firearms makers now chrome soften steel barrel interiors, to give rifled bore or shotgun tube the wear resistance of stainless steel. But the deposited chrome film must be uniform in thickness and fine smoothness, and permanent in bonding quality. Not all firms can do a good job. The Italian makers of the Franchi line of shotguns, and the Marller Machine Company, Charleston, Illinois, are two firms that seem to have mastered the process.

Gunsmith O. P. Ackley, 2235 Arbor Lane, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Snapp's Gun Shop, Royal Oak, Michigan, undertake relining reamed-out barrels with stainless steel liners rifled to popular calibers. Relining should not be confused with chrome-plating; the two methods are separate, quite different gurnamithing procedures.

It is the substantial presence of chromium and nickel alloys in stainless steel that makes the metal difficult and expensive to machine, and especially so in the manufacture of firearms.

Accuracy in a rifle requires almost perfect drilling and rifling of a barrel blank and final straightening. If not perfectly done, these manufacturing steps must at least be uniformly done. This uniformity is hard to achieve when the working material is hard, high grade stainless steel. Easier to machine are high grade chrome-moly steels, possessing a chemical content of carbon, manganese, chromium and molybdenum. "CM" grade steel is an example. It is well known to custom barrel makers. Some of the Timken-produced steels are actually equal or superior to stainless steel as rifle barrel material. One particularly, the manufacturer's "Graph-Mo" tool steel, has proven unusually tough and long wearing, yet not discouraging to machine. (A very hard steel, "Graph-Mo" has a chemical analysis that includes considerable graphite as well as rich alloys of chromium and nickel.)

The various alloys comprising steel have to be evenly distributed throughout the metal to be machined uniformly. There should not be any "soft" or "hard" spots as a steel barrel blank is machined and/or heat-treated for qualities of hardness of desired Rockwell designation, strength and wear resistance.

In stainless steels, especially the more common "18-8" (18% chrome, 8% nickel) varieties, alloy distribution within the metal is frequently uneven. Applied drills are apt to run off-course when encountering discrepancies, and barrels may have soft spots that can make them very difficult to give final, necessary straightening.

Consequently, in manufacturing stainless steel barrels there are unavoidable discrepancies, with resultant high labor cost for those barrels that are eventually finished and acceptable for firearms assembly. This is why stainless steel barrels, where available, generally cost more.

The average shooter knows very little about barrel characteristics and barrel and receiver assembly as related to accuracy, and how to properly test and evaluate a barrel for its true accuracy. But bench rest shooters do.

Their shooting is a constant challenge of matching and perfecting shooting equipment to the point (Continued on next page)
where it delivers peak performance. They strive for the utmost in rifle precision, the realization of putting every one of a string of five or ten shots in the hole made by the first fired bullet.

Contrary to popular belief, firing a rifle from benchrest does add to the true accuracy of the rifle used. The method merely enables the shooter to determine if a particular combination of rifle and ammunition is accurate.

In the opinion of serious bench rest shooters, rifles that will not group ten consecutive shots in an area as small as a dime at 200 measured yards aren’t exactly accurate.

Of record are ten shot clusters as small as .388 and as far as an inch, respectively, calibrated from the centers of the two widest spaced shots in each group. At 160 yards, five shot groups as small as .982 of an inch have been recorded, and as small as .186 of an inch for ten shots. This is match winning accuracy, in a highly competitive field of activity.

Adam will a factory production barrel deliver such accuracy. To obtain the best accuracy possible, most bench rest shooters have custom barrelmakers, like G. R. Douglas, Clyde Hart and Sum May turn out rifled tubes for Remington Model 722, Mauser, Springfield and Enfield bolt-actions, and occasionally for a Sako or Winchester Model 70 action. Many of these custom barrels are of finest attainable grade stainless steel.

Where a stainless steel barrel is used—like one of the more common chrome-molybdenum barrels—best accuracy is invariably obtained only after enough shots have been fired through it to give the bore and rifling what is known as "bubbling polishing."

The late Colonel Townsend Whelen, long con-

sidered America’s foremost authority on sporting firearms, did a lot of experimenting with different types of rifle barrel steels. He never waxed en-
thusiastic about stainless steel as a barrel material, simply because of the metal’s inherent unreliable composition characteristics, although pointing out that a top quality stainless steel barrel gives remarkably long life to a high power rifle. His last known report was published in 1954. There have been many new developments in steel making and machining rifle barrel manufacture since then.

There is no reason why stainless steel could not ultimately be the logical, accepted material for gun making, as I see it, as thousands of makers—Timken, for example—and the gun manufacturers need only to combine research effort on as yet unsolved tech-
nical problems. Right now, the main problems are lack of uniformity of composition as raw material, and the painstaking labor and accompanying costs necessary to produce stainless steel barrels to stand-

ards observed by reputable firearms manufacturers.

(Continued from preceding page)

Florida

Central Florida Region: J. W. Bickensett, Manager
Office: 2250 East Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida
Telephone: 629-2802 and 629-4900

Area #9—Citrus, North Lake and South Marion Counties
Doyle Tindale, Area Supervisor
Ocala, Marion

Officer
Vernon Pennington
Crystal River, Citrus
Gary Phillips
Inverness, Citrus
Gus Phillips
Lecanto, Citrus
Kenneth Pickle
Mount Dora, Lake
Vannness Seckinger
Ocala, Marion

Area #10—South Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties
Rascoe Hamilton, Area Supervisor
Ocala, Sumter
Officer
Ramer Albritton
St. Cloud, Osceola
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Apopka, Orange
William DuPre
Orlando, Orange
James A. More
 Clermont, Lake
Earl Sullivan
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Citrus, Marion
Officer
J. W. Arnold
Hastings, St. Johns
Harry Knox
Silver Springs, Marion
E. W. Popp
Bayard, St. Johns
Robert Phillips
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John Gill
Salt Springs, Marion

Area #12—Brevard, Flagler, Seminole and Volusia Counties
E. G. Fiaema, Area Supervisor
Deland, Volusia
Officer
J. L. Bramham
Cocoa, Brevard
Kenneth Bucber
Astor, Lake
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Oak Hill, Volusia
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Bunnell, Flagler
Alton Clifton
Deland, Volusia
Robert Johnson
Lake Mary, Seminole
Glenn N. Overstreet
Mims, Brevard
Jon Spangler
Bunnell, Flagler

Florida’s Wildlife Officers have the tremendous task of enforcing the game and fish laws applying to approximately 39,000,000 acres of land and water within the confines of the State of Florida. With the second largest woodland area in the United States, and with over 30,000 named fresh-water lakes, countless rivers and streams, and an estimated 38,000 square miles of territory to patrol, the Florida Wildlife Officer is faced with a task that is all-important and never ending.

Our Florida Wildlife Officers are engaged in a tremendous task that is most important to the welfare of the State of Florida. The importance of each individual Wildlife Officer cannot be over-empha-

ized.
CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

tionists, the booklet reviews the origin of the Duck Stamp, reports on investment of money resulting from the sale of various stamps, and explains how a new stamp is selected each year. Of particular interest to collectors is mention in the booklet that early issues (1934-1941) of these stamps are exceedingly rare.

Stamp clubs and individuals will be given a 25 percent discount on the purchase of 100 or more copies going to one address.

The 32 Duck Stamp is required of all persons 16 years of age and over hunting migratory waterfowl. It originated with passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Act in 1934. The first stamps were sold Aug. 14, 1934.

Money from the stamp sales has been used to acquire, develop, and manage national refuges for migratory waterfowl and for related wildlife management. Since 1960, the funds have been used exclusively for acquiring land for waterfowl.

Cruising The U.S.A.

How many locks are there in the Champlain Canal? Where is the Susquehanna River? How long is it? Is it navigable for small boats?
The answers to these and literally thousands of other questions can be found in a compact and concise descriptions of the scenic, historical and recreational highlights of each. Suggested reference books for boaters who want more detailed information on a locality are given, along with sources for charts and short synopses of weather characteristics.

The 85-page booklet was written by Norris D. Hoyt, Don G. Cullimore, H. Clay Stier, Arthur N. Thompson and Kenneth J. Pellet, under the direction of Morris Weeks Jr., editor of the Complete Boating Encyclopedia.

The Champlain Canal, incidentally, has 11 locks. The 179-mile-long Susquehanna river flows south from its source in Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp to the Gulf of Mexico. It is navigable 139 miles upstream to Ellicott, Fla., and is a favorite of outboard cruisers.

Free copies of the booklet can be obtained from any Mercury outboard dealer, or by writing the Kiekhaefer Corporation, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Food For Freedom

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Stewart L. Udall recently re­leased two statements from the National Academy of Sciences describing as "safe, nutritious and wholesome," a new and inexpensive, purified marine protein concentrate made from fish by interior researchers.

The product could be used to correct nutritional deficiencies common to the billions who lack even the most basic form of protein. Have you ever thought you'd like to be a qualified rifle instructor so you could teach yourself to shoot? Have you ever thought it wise to teach marksmanship to the young hunter before he goes into the field? During the first two days the instructor trainees receive special instructor training—the fundamentals of instruction, how to teach rifle marksmanship, club organization, target analysis, fundamentals of coaching, NRA program information and participate in shooting and coaching exercises. During the remaining four days, the trainees work directly with the junior shooters.

Instructor Training

HAVE YOU A YOUNGER in your home, neighborhood, your club who would benefit from the best rifle training available? Have you ever thought you'd like to be a qualified rifle instructor so you could teach yourself to shoot? Have you ever thought it wise to teach marksmanship to the young hunter before he goes into the field? During the first two days the instructor trainees receive special instructor training—the fundamentals of instruction, how to teach rifle marksmanship, club organization, target analysis, fundamentals of coaching, NRA program information and participate in shooting and coaching exercises. During the remaining four days, the trainees work directly with the junior shooters.

The Instructor Training Phase begins this year at 8:30 A.M., Sunday, August 7 and continues through Friday, August 12. It is open to those 18 years of age and older. During the first two days the instructor trainees receive special instructor training—the fundamentals of instruction, how to teach rifle marksmanship, club organization, target analysis, fundamentals of coaching, NRA program information and participate in shooting and coaching exercises. During the remaining four days, the trainees work directly with the junior shooters.

The Shooter Phase of the school will begin at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, August 9 and continues through Friday, August 12. It is open to any junior from 12 through 18 years of age. Advanced registration is required.

Instructor training for adults and basic training for youngsters are combined into the longest gun handling-hunter safety school, to be held at Camp Perry by the National Rifle Association, August 1966.

Bird Treaty Stamp

A NEW 5-cent postage stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty that provides uniform protection for migratory birds in the United States and Canada was issued on March 16, 1966.

The 85-page booklet was written by Norris D. Hoyt, Don G. Cullimore, H. Clay Stier, Arthur N. Thompson and Kenneth J. Pellet, under the direction of Morris Weeks Jr., editor of the Complete Boating Encyclopedia.

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subject; fish are bread and butter for resorts. Strangely enough, conservative. They struggle, rather attempting to gain an economic advantage.

oppose the idea until some sage river. At this point a real estate where one of their local streams has river lots for sale and the was to be set aside as a wild tax base; but more important, he canoeists don’t leave any money so as not to offend anyone. circumspection. Resort and cot-
tackling this job. Industry is a safe
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rassing problem by profoundly
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erations hold the attention of
loved subject close to the hearts
of all gun clubs is game and fish
seasons.

34

Other member has read where one of their local streams was to be set aside as a wild river. At this point a real estate takes the floor and opposes the idea because it will effect the tax base; but more important, he has river lots for sale and the government probably wouldn’t give him his asking price. A re-sort man gets up and states that canoeists don’t leave any money in the country. The matter drifts off into a vague mist of indecision so as not to offend anyone.

The subject of lake and stream pollution may be brought up with circumspetion. Resort and cottage owners are not famous for tackling this job. Industry is a safe target providing there are no mills in the area; if there are mills, members who are employ-
ees have no stomach for bating the hand that feeds them. Some-
one will finally solve this embar-
rassing problem by profoundly stating that, “The government ought to do something about it.”

Of course the picture varies by shades and degrees from com-
munity to community and state to state. In the West, public land grazing, fencing and logging operations hold the attention of some clubs. But still the much loved subject close to the hearts of all gun clubs is game and fish seasons.

After forty years of attending this type of meeting I have yet to see any interest in tax formulas for private forest lands or public recreational areas. There is also a growing demand for public de-
velopment of recreational land, but the term soon becomes faceless and meaningless with discus-

All of these attitudes of local self-interest are as natural as death and taxes. They are com-
mon to us all. What I wish to emphasize is the seemingly im-
possible task of bringing the in-
terests of federal and state plan-
ners and those which occupy so much local concern to a point of balance; a blending of purposes where both are looking down the same gun barrel through the same sights.

This undertaking of coordination begins with understanding people. There are planners with a farm and rural background who have great proficiency in this art of public relations.

Rural people are far from igno-
rant, the mill-run are highly intelligent, but their interests community-wide are far more im-
portant to them than what is
happening on the other side of
the mountain. Furthermore, they
have to live with their neighbors, and do not wish to be cataloged as chronic crusaders.

Planners must learn about people, their ways of life and envir-
oment. A diploma in land-hus-
bandry or sociology is not en-
ough, and if they tend to look down their noses at rural attitudes they will find themselves bated by some country shrewdness.

A particularly interesting Afri-
can snake is the egg eater. This snake is able to swallow and crack heron’s eggs, and sometimes pigeon’s eggs, the skin being stretched to breaking point. When the egg is cracked, the swelling collapses with the swallowing of the yolk and the shell is ejected.

YOUTH CAMP SUMMER SESSIONS SCHEDULED

The parents of youngsters 10 through 14 years of age may begin to make plans for the fifteenth annual camping session at the Youth Conservation Camp in the Ocala National Forest.

Applications are now being ac-
cepted for the following camping sessions for boys: June 12-18; June 19-July 2; July 3-9; July 10-16; July 17-23.

The camping sessions for girls begin July 31-August 6, and Au-
gust 7-13. Girls may attend either one or two weeks.

Applications and information regarding the Youth Conservation Camp may be obtained from offi-
ces of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Panama City, Lake City, Ocala, Lakeeland, West Palm Beach and Tallahassee. Applications and camping fees are filed with the office of the Youth Conservation Camp, 2202 E. Sil-
ver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida.

The weekly schedule for the 1968 Youth Conservation Camp will include an improved pro-
gram on fish and fishing, archery, firearm safety and hunting, a study program on conservation and wildlife, as well as camping, boating and other outdoor sports and recreation. This year’s camp will include an advanced pro-
gram for boys who have previ-
ously attended the Youth Conser-
vation Camp.

Camping fees are $30.00 for the one week sessions and $60.00 for the two week sessions.

Polar bears have been known to stalk and kill humans in winter —either because of extreme hun-
ger or total ignorance of man.

Antelope fawns develop much faster than young deer and, when only a day or two old, are ab-
ly able to run about 25 miles an hour for short distances.

Florida Wildlife's Fishing Citation

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 listed below. Subscribers are covered for the two week sessions.

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 Magazine, 303 West Orange Ave., Ocala, Florida.

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

Name (please print) ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City, State ____________________________

Species ____________________________ Weight ______ pounds or larger

Type of Tackle ____________________________

Bait or Lure Used ____________________________

Where Caught ____________________________ County ____________________________

Date Caught ____________________________ County ____________________________

Catch Witnessed by ____________________________ At ____________________________

Registered, Weighed By ____________________________

(Full Signature of Applicant)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

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