Aim High For Big Bass
The Young In Heart

Florida WILDLIFE
Fishing • Hunting • Conservation • Outdoor Recreation
JANUARY 1966
The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen
25 CENTS

JANUARY
1966

V. 19
No. 8

Scanned by:
The Research Information Center
of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Florida's Pheasant Future

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The colorful Flamingo has not been known to nest in the wild in Florida since 1900. They have hovvered, nested and raised their young successfully in captivity. See page 18.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes
A recent conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, wildlife biologists from 14 southeastern and several other states were told of a spectacular new method for capturing wild animals. The method, adapted by Florida biologists from a European technique for controlling pest birds, employs a powdered anesthetic which is placed on baits. After eating a small amount of the prepared bait, an animal falls asleep and does not awaken for several hours. In about one year of experimentation, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioners have captured more than 25 species of wildlife with one drug. The list includes wild turkeys, deer, bear, bob, geese, and ducks.

Biologist Lovett Williams, who is in charge of the research, reported to the technical conference that the new technique is "operational" in Florida for wild turkeys. More than 260 were captured that way last winter. Williams predicted that more turkeys will be captured in Florida this winter, thanks to the new technique, than have ever been captured in the United States in any one year. Most of the turkeys will be used to restock suitable wild turkey ranges.

Research is underway to find a similar drug for capturing large numbers of deer. The deer will be used to establish new herds in Florida where suitable range is found.

Youth Audubon Chapter

The first Audubon Chapter for youth in this country was organized recently by students of Forest Lake Academy at Forest City, Florida. With an initial enrollment of 27 charter members, Stephanie Vaughn, chairman of the membership committee predicts a chapter of forty members before the close of the school year. The Forest Lake Audubon Society is a three-way affair, with every member belonging to the Florida and National Audubon Societies and working under a charter approved and presented by the Florida Society.

All officers and members are students, with Lindsay Lilly as President, David Hoskins and Frances Oaks as Vice-presidents, and Jean Meister as Secretary-Treasurer. Under the official charter certain committees are required, so that in addition to Miss Vaughn as membership chairman, there are committees on Field Trips, Public Relations, Fellowship, and Bald Eagle, headed by Don Lynd, Eddie Meeks, Jane Meister, and Mike Lilly respectively. James Tucker, Biology Teacher at the school, and President of Orange Audubon Society, is advisor for the newly formed charter.

Elder L. C. Stannard, the new principal of Forest Lake Academy who has had long experience in education for young people, is strongly back of the formation of the Audubon Chapter. "We are delighted to welcome a chapter of the Florida Audubon Society to our campus," he said. "We feel that the benefits of the Audubon conservation program will penetrate to many of our courses, in geography, English, art, and others in addition to biology. Our students who participate in this program, and even others who are just observers of the activities promoted, will have a better understanding of the living world about them."

Outdoor Recreation Grants

Twelve States have established their eligibility for a total of $28 million in matching Federal grants for acquisition and development of State and local outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Each of these States has submitted comprehensive outdoor recreation plans adequate for initial qualification for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, Secretary Udall stated. They are the first States to become eligible for full participation in the program.

The States are: California, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. They may now apply for grants for 50 percent of the cost of acquiring and developing State, county, city and other public outdoor recreation areas that are in accord with the State's plan.

Edward C. Crafts, Director of (Continued on page 34)
A little practice will show that the mechanics of playing a fish are relatively simple

By CHARLES WATERMAN

With a 100-pound tarpon securely hooked to a baitcasting outfit, I rowed and motored for more than an hour, keeping a steady pressure on the fish, as he swam slowly about a small bay.

When the hook finally came out and the fish was gone, the guy with the rod reeled in his plug and we both sat down to mop our brows. It was the break of the game, we said, and we'd done our best. After all, we'd kept the steady and relentless pressure you're supposed to play a fish with.

But after this performance had been repeated several times and I kept hearing of record fish landed with similar tackle by other anglers, I began to wonder if we might be doing something wrong.

That was ten years ago and we were doing something wrong all right. We'd been using something like two pounds of pressure on a 100-pound fish and that isn't enough to really get his attention, let alone put him in the boat.

The truth is that the dainty touch is out of style with big fish and those who make the record books.

The firm but gentle touch won't get the job done with really big fish, mainly because the hook or hooks will eventually work out if a fight is prolonged for hours. Guides with lots of big fish experience say the chances of landing a fish get slimmer as time wears on and "after the first hour you're generally whipped."

Generally the procedure is to let the fish have his own way with only slight pressure for a very few minutes. Then, after the first run or two, you put the pressure on him and leave it there, relaxing only when the fish jumps.

The idea is that the fish is too tough to control anyway at the beginning but the edge wears off very quickly.

Large fresh water bass are usually lost within an instant of the strike while the fish is still fresh and the fisherman excited. The combination of a hard yank by the bass and a vicious jerk by the fisherman is too much for something. Actually, most fresh water bass are caught on line of 6-pound-test or greater and a 10-pound bass couldn't begin to break a 6-pound line unless there's a jerk (of one kind or another) involved.

If there is an exception to the rule of giving the fish his head at the beginning, it is in the case of bottom fish. A grouper, for example, is likely to get his head into a bottom cavern unless he's on his way to the surface immediately.

The larger a fish, the bigger he is when landed. A panfish, for example, is generally boated while still full of fight. He's simply overpowered by the tackle.

The contrary, a sailfish may be so done in he may even go down, even though released.

I am quite confident that all of those who were reading this column five years ago have long since turned to the baiting or dog piece for their entertainment so I'll briefly review something I wrote then.

In my version of a scientific experiment I learned that a 225-pound athlete could not make a steady pull of more than three pounds from the tip of a stiff, 9-foot fly rod when using only one hand and pulling at right angle to the direction in which the line was fastened. This would come under the classification of useless information except that it gives you an idea of what it will take to bust a 12-pound test fly leader.

The shorter and more limber the rod, of course, the more the pressure you can apply. Most of the anglers catching truly large fish on fly rods use both hands. This is not necessary if they "give them the butt" or turn the rod tip toward the fish but this last is a delicate operation at best and should be attempted only by experts (so maybe a hand-line is the most refined method of all).

Of course the danger of working your tackle to the limit comes when the fish takes a sudden lunge (or jumps in the case of a tarpon), adding the extra strain that causes something to snap.

What separates the men from the boys in this instance is the ability to give the fish immediate slack. That's what they call "bowing to a tarpon" and involves actually leaning toward the fish and sticking the rod tip straight toward him so that he jumps only against the drag.

Now I've always contended that the mechanics of playing a fish are relatively simple and that once you've perfected the systems of lure presentation and casting the actual landing operations can be picked up in a short while. Maybe I should qualify that a little when it comes to real record fish on very light tackle but five minutes of practice with your line fastened to a fence post will go a long way toward putting the show on the road.

The Rapala-type casting plugs are extremely light in weight and, in fact, that's why they have a unique surface action.

Admittedly among the best of lures, these plugs don't generally work well on plugcasting rods and are generally tied to spinning outfits. I have used some that weighed around 1/4-ounce and cast well but they were a little too big for most bass fishing.

One reader asks what a confirmed plug caster is going to do about it if he prefers plastic worms and baits-wood plugs.

Well, he can go to ultra-light tackle, whippy rods and fast action reels with which he can do a good job on lures down to 1/4-ounce. Lures smaller than that are not very practical for baitcasting tackle and the average fisherman with average tackle should stick to baits of 1/4-ounce or heavier.

Since I have always preferred conventional baitcasting tackle to spinning, I've tried some pretty

(Continued on next page)
light plugging outfits. For me, a quarter-ounce plug is the lightest practical weight for conventional casting reels—and I'd rather use something heavier.

Scout Florida's on-again-off-again black bass fishing should get a shot in the arm from recent high water. Some of the finest bass fishing I've ever had was in areas where there are no bass at all now. Drainage will prevent the fishing from ever getting to where it used to be but a comeback in the water table always means a pickup in the fish population through the Everglades.

In writing about fishing equipment, it's hard to avoid using trade names from time to time. Generally I classify tackle without using manufacturer's handles but it isn't always possible. In mentioning new equipment I generally use the trade name because I don't have to answer so many inquiries.

This doesn't mean the particular brand I mention is better than others but it means I've found it to be good.

In Florida Wildlife we have no advertisers to placate, a very convenient position.

Late winter is my choice of times for catching big black bass— ... not necessarily on spawning beds, but on flats near to them. The big fish are females (a male that weighs five pounds is a buster) and begin feeding up late in winter. Now is the time for big lures and big baits.

Actually, fishing the spawning beds is still an oft­ted procedure, partly because it isn't always possible to get some females ready to deposit their eggs, and partly because it sometimes results in destruction of nests through wading, or use of outboard motors.

Some fishermen work a plug deeper by sticking the rod tip under water, a useful stunt if you want to make use of the deep-goer right up to the boat. The same operation will also help hold down a jumping fish if that's what you want to do, sometimes preventing a fish from throwing a plug. Most sports fishermen like to see the fish jump all it cares to.

The rod tip under water is often a practical way of getting a fish out of hanging up the back of a boat and I've done it frequently with smokin' with varying success.

You also put the tip under water to save tackle when a fish goes under a boat.

Although not the most stylish maneuver, it has its uses.

Rubber, inflatable boats have many uses in fishing small waters. They're not the most comfortable rigs and most of them tend to leak a little in the passenger compartment.

They're especially safe in swift streams, seldom damaged by rocks and are, of course, famous for their use as life rafts.

There have been a number of commercial models recently, many of them built in Japan. For the most part these imports aren't as sturdy as the military surplus life rafts but the military rafts were originally quite expensive, costing more than sportmen would care to pay.

Don't go overboard on the idea unless you've tried rubber rafts. They're hard to manage in wind and tend to turn lazily as they drift. They don't row very fast.

Small outboard motors can be fastened to rubber or plastic boats, making a mighty compact unit for handling. Rubber boats are generally cheaper than folding boats and take up approximately the same amount of room. Their shape, however, is usually less than ideal.

I've used one off and on for some years but I'd recommend it only for specialized uses.

(The rubber boat, light and sporting of plenty' space, is a specialized craft with very limited use in picnic waters.)

Manufacturers are bringing out special shotgun models designed to handle rifled slugs

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

The shot gun has always been a popular firearm in the South—and rightly so, because of versatility of application at ordinary hunting ranges.

The smoothbore, long especially popular with Southern deer hunters, is now getting international adoption and appreciation as a short-range, big game weapon. Just the other day the newspapers carried a brief story about a hunter who bagged a tiger in India using a 12 gauge shotgun, and rifled slug.

Here in the United States, shotguns may some day take dominance over rifles for deer and bear hunting, because of finger-pointing by lawmakers to our fast expanding population and the heavier concentrations of hunters every season in the open-to-hunting areas. Already, the restrictive term "shotguns only" is appearing more frequently in printed game regulations. Legal loads are usually specifically described as "buckshot not smaller than (designated size), or rifled slug."

Florida is still a relatively "open" state, as regards weapon choice, but even so some areas are restricted to use of shotguns. Eglin Field, for example, prohibits high power rifles during open deer season. There you must use a shotgun firing either buckshot or rifled slug.

The special bear hunts held annually in north-west Florida are also restrictive as to weapon and ammunition that can be legally used.

While the overall objective—improved hunting safety—is good, the practicality of the attempted solution (outlawing high power rifles) is debatable. . . .

Most big game rifle fire is directed at low level, in a sighting plane seldom higher than three feet above ground level. Existing gravity and bullet trajectory together work quickly to cause fired bullets to hit the ground much closer to the gun than projectiles released at high angles. Further, in average big game hunting country, trees and hillsides invariably partially fill probable bullet paths; these also tend to reduce the possible distance travel of a released bullet.

Actually, most rifle bullets, fired low and parallel to the ground, won't travel far amid thick brush—but I feel the danger to other hunters in the brush is increased by the number of buckshot in a released load!

In a 15 gage shell loaded with Size No. 1 buckshot, for example, there are 16 lead balls, each 30 of an inch in diameter. In Size 00 buckshot loading, there are 9 balls, each .33 of an inch in diameter. These big lead balls pack a punch and in the Size 00, particularly, each can be expected to take diverging flight paths.

Chances of hitting another hunter within potential flight range are 16 to 1, and 9 to 1, as compared to the 1 to 1 chance of contact of a big game rifle bullet or a rifled slug.

Personally, I'd rather see the hunting safety crowd outlaw buckshot. Not much is to be gained safety-wise, from prohibiting use of large caliber rifles, if we consider dangerous-ranges set by the ammunition manufacturers on buckshot and rifled slug. The Western Ammunition Handbook says buckshot are potentially dangerous to humans up to 300 yards, and rifled slugs up to 600 yards—ranges for greater than their practical hunting application . . .

Whatever our individual feelings, there is significant handwriting on the wall as regards group (Continued on next page)
For use with rifled slugs, an adjustable muzzle choke should be channeled or forended Cylinder, or to the setting recommended by the gun's manufacturer.

(Continued from preceding page)

opinion of lawmakers, and the gun manufacturers have been quick to see it. In self-defense, they art fast bringing out special shotgun models designed specifically to handle rifled slugs, alone or in tandem with preceding or follow-up shells loaded solely with buckshot. Another reason for manufacture is that many long popular shotgun models do not handle buck-shot or rifled slugs well, or are not suitable for the mounting of front and rear sight combinations needed to get the maximum potential accuracy from now popular rifled slug loads.

Currently, five leading firearm manufacturers—Remington, Browning, Ithaca, High Standard and Mossberg—are producing special shotguns for shooting rifled slugs. Marlin so far has abstained, but does factory drill and tap receivers of Model 55 series shotguns for consumer installation of rifle-like sights.

Like buckshot, rifled slugs—being of soft, easily swaged, lead—can be safely fired through a Poly-Choke, Cutts Compensator, Power-Pac or similar adjustable choke device. Most adjustable choke devices have special, indicated settings for recommended use with rifled slugs. If in doubt, set the choke control device at Improved Cylinder constriction marking and start rifled slug patterns testing with that degree of choke. There will be one choke setting that will give the tightest grouping to fired rifled slugs. Each shooter must find the best setting for his particular gun and load.

Although a lot has been printed about the rifled slug, very little mention has been made of a rifled slug's mid-range trajectory over average hunting ranges, and how much it is affected by gravitation-pull during flight over various distances. A Remington 12 gauge, 2½ inch shell case, rifled slug will have a mid-range trajectory of 6 of an inch about half-way of 50 yard range, and will drop about 2 1/2 inches from gun muzzle level while traveling 50 yards. Over 100 yards, it will have a mid-range (at about 50 yard points) trajectory of 3.1 inches and will have dropped 10.4 inches below point of aim by the time it has reached the 100 yard mark. Obvi­ously, the shotgun's sights either have to be raised, or the shooter must hold high on target to com­pensate for this fixed-factor drop, when firing over 50 and 100 yard ranges.

With an adjustable type rear peep sight, it is a simple matter to make needed compensation when sighting-in over a known range, holding high by eye alone along with a guesswork. Through many shooters familiar with the trajectory of a given load can guess pretty accurately.

Just how much to hold front sight high or low to compensate for bullet rise or drop, without chang­ing rear sight setting, is something one learns only from experience, whether using big game rifle, or shot gun with rifled slug.

Florida has a large resident population of wild turkey flocks. In fact, it tops the country in the number of native birds available for hunting, ranking well ahead of Texas and Pennsylvania, two other leading turkey states. About 26,000 birds are taken in Florida every year. That more are not bagged by hunters is not because they are given maximum harvest, but simply because the wild turkey is so characteristically smart! As any veteran turkey hunter can tell you, nothing can be guaranteed when hunting turkeys! Next to hunting turkeys, turkey hunters enjoy reading about hunting turkeys. They are also ever alert for the best callers to be had.

They can now take delight in the available liter­ary works and callers of both Leon Johenning, of Lexington, Virginia, and Tom Gaskins, of Palmdale, Florida. Both are recognized as being among the best turkey hunters in the country. Both make highly ef­fective callers, but of different working principle. Both have taken to the typewriter long enough to record helpful turkey hunting information and personal anecdotes.

Johenning publishes “The Turkey Hunter’s Guide,” a 71-page paperback devoted to the art of turkey hunting. His writing is mostly in serious style. The book’s illustrations include some excel­lent camera shots of wild turkeys amid natural habi­tat. His caller is of the mouth-operated type. A small box incorporates a thin rubber diaphragm that vibrates as breath is drawn through the caller. “(Formation of a turkey hunter’s teeth has no influence, because caller activation is pri­marily lip, breath and tongue produced.)” To aid be­ginners in mastering the unique caller, Johenning has made a two-sided 45 RPM phonograph record of several songs.

Tom Gaskins’ booklet, “Tom Tells Turkey Tales,” has a comic cover and back sandwiching 36 pages of illustrated text, written in easy to read, and fre­quently amusing, Crackers-boy style. The booklet’s sub-title is “62½ Tips On Hunting Wild Turkey.”

The Palmdale expert, winner of numerous champ­ionships, touches on many field findings that only long experience can develop. Among many inter­esting comments, Gaskins says, “Just forget about trying to walk up on a wild turkey; (instead) let him walk up to you.” “Different turkeys have different tones, and different pitches of tone.” “During the mating season, I have never known a hunter to call a turkey with anything except a yelp, putt, pert or whistle.” “Turkeys love a place where there are acorns.” “Water doesn’t bother turkeys; they had soon wade it a few inches deep as not.” “Color, smell, noise—except the noise of a barking dog—mean nothing to tur­keys.” “Wild turkeys that live near people ad­just to the noise and won’t fly or run as far as turkeys that see few people.” “Turkeys don’t seem to mind passing cars and highways (so long as people that see few people.” “Turkeys don’t seem to mind passing cars and highways (so long as people that see few people.” “Wild turkeys that live near people ad­just to the noise and won’t fly or run as far as turkeys that see few people.”

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Two OVERLY-ANXIOUS bird dogs, Jake and Joe, were trailing at a good clip, occasionally stumbling over dry cornstalks and shouting censored phrases at the dogs. “Careful there Jake, whoa Jake. What’s the matter with those damned dogs?” inquired one hunter. “Never saw them act like that.” “Don’t know,” replied the other, “must be some of them Mexican quail.”

At the end of the field a large, long-tailed, cackling bird bounded thirty feet into the air, flew for two hundred yards and went into a long glide. The bird disappeared. “What was that? Never saw anything like it!” exclaimed one. This was a wild pheasant, a bird that is a total stranger to most hunters brought up in the South. But in the Northern states it is no stranger. In fact it is the most common game bird in states such as South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa.

The bird in the North and Midwest is the Chinese ringneck pheasant. Its Rebel cousin is the Iranian pheasant, very similar in appearance. Introduction of Chinese ringnecks into the South has been unsuccessfully attempted for the past thirty years. The birds did not reproduce successfully in the wild and only wandered and disappeared. Today they are reared in considerable numbers by commercial game bird breeders, in a semi-domesticated condition, for shooting preserve use. There are many kinds of pheasants throughout the world. A decade ago the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service began looking at some of these birds in an effort to produce enough birds for large-scale experimental releases in suitable open lands of North and Northwest Florida.

Inexperience in game bird breeding resulted in the program being discontinued in 1965. Successful hatches were noted in both instances. Production under contract continued to be good. In 1964 production was turned over to a commercial game bird breeder under contract to the Commission. A total of 422 birds were produced and released, at the age of 6-7 weeks, on the Apalachee Wildlife Management Area and in selected sites in Holmes County. Successful hatches were noted in both instances. Convinced that the bird showed definite signs of establishing itself as a new game bird for Florida hunters, additional releases were planned for 1965.

Production under contract continued to be good and in 1965 a total of 702 pheasants were released in the cornfields of nine Florida counties; Suwannee, Calhoun, Jackson, Gadsden, Walton, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Holmes and Washington.

Game Management continues to be encouraged by the results of the program to date and plans to continue the program for at least one more year. The program is still considered experimental, however.

It is known that the birds reproduce in the wild in North Florida and show little tendency to wander. To give these birds every possible chance of making it, all pheasants have been placed on the protected list in Northeast and Northwest Florida. It is illegal to shoot them in the Second and Third Conservation Districts except on licensed shooting preserves.

All hunters and landowners are asked to protect the birds and thereby cooperate with the Commission in this important experimental project. Commission biologists would also like to know of any observations of wild birds in the field, particularly of nesting activities. Another way sportsmen may assist with this program is to report the band number and location in the event a dead bird or one’s skeleton is found anywhere in the wild. All released birds bear Commission leg bands.

Full protection from the hunter’s gun now means that in the not-too-distant future old Jake and Joe, or their descendents, will become accustomed to the scent of pheasants in fields where once there were none.

Perhaps, too, Florida bird hunters will see the day when a bounding, cackling, long-tailed bird is no longer a surprise. A limited season is likely in a few years if these excellent game birds are successful in establishing themselves.

Time alone will tell.

By ROBERT W. MURRAY
Game Management Division
Although the loss percentage
in this type bass
fishing is great, the
challenge adds to the fun

AIM HIGH for
BIG BASS

By GEORGE RUSSELL

A new innovation in modern design is Ernie Lee's push-button transmission, but the fancy control panel was no help during our last jaunt "way back in" to a swamp-encircled Florida bass pond.

We had bounced for seven miles over a road which alternated between treacherous, slick, clay ruts and deep sand dunes. We had opened and closed five gates—with the permission of the rancher who held the key to this particular tiny rancher which alternated between treacherous, slick, clay ruts and deep sand dunes. We had opened and closed five gates—with the permission of the rancher who held the key to this particular tiny

The heavens opened up—and as they say in Florida's big bass country—"hit rained a gullywasher."

As the pasture drained, the rear wheels of the Dart settled down comfortably to the axle. What had been an afternoon dash to an untired fishing hole—another chapter in our joint program to seek and find Florida's biggest bass—turned into an overnight camping trip. Fortunately we usually camp and always keep the tent in the trunk, and high ground wasn't too far away. Ninety minutes later, the rain stopped and we went directly to the boat for a try at the forbidding canal.

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We learned another lesson that trip—always carry two paddles. The single paddle was completely inadequate for this narrow ditch, through which we paddled, poled, slid, pulled, and pushed the tiny boat for a quarter mile, determined to reach the virgin water ahead. It took two tremendous yanks on my part, grasping and pulling on clumps of saw grass to propel the bow of the boat, and Ernie, through the opening of the pond—which appeared to be less than two acres in size. As I gave us a final shove through the muck, Ernie, of course, had his first cast in the air.

You guessed it. The surface exploded in a shower of spray and after a particularly savage fight Ernie had the first bass in the boat—a whopping twelve po1111der shown here with the balance of his early morning catch from musky, nearly impenetrable lake.

Ernie Lee lends the attack on "waters way back in," with a husky twelve pounder shown here with the balance of his early morning catch from musky, nearly impenetrable lake.

Ernie tossed his "cedar stump" across the tip of a rocky point in Dale Hollow and came up with a sensational 14-pound smallmouth, the mounted

(Continued on next page)
It took the Jeep of neighbor Randy Bryan to reach this wilderness pond, the checked ponds. Bryan wades in to fight a losing battle with 8 bass which surfaced through the "soup" to grab his spoon, only to become hopelessly entangled and break the line.

(Continued from preceding page)
remains of which are now gathering dust in his garage. He decided he was a bass fisherman.

I came to the same conclusion about myself after lucking into a brace of largemouth bass between five and six pounds, real bunkers by Garden State standards.

Bass fever, for both of us, reached the acute stage. Tales of Florida's giant mossocks of twelve pounds and up were more than we could bear, and, unbeknownst to each other, we came to the sensible businesslike conclusion that Florida was the promised land for ambitious young men in our respective fields. We packed up our families, and of course, our fishing gear, and headed for St. Petersburg, Florida, where our ambitions-and our bass-man were more than we could bear, and, I was "going places" as a New Jersey newspaperman; as a successful country music television star, and I have found a niche, such as it is, in a small ad agency of my own.

Ernie was well known throughout the midwest as a successful country music television star, and I was "going places" as a New Jersey newspaperman when we succumbed to the lure of the Sunshine State. Today, Ernie has his own daily Tampa television show, and I have found a niche, such as it is, in a small ad agency of my own.

During the past ten years we kept busy getting through the "soup" to reach the most inaccessible water-for most of Florida's bass-filled swamp lakes and farm ponds are hard to get to. We have no Jeep, and these bone-rattling, rut-riding, foot-slogging, bass-wading expeditions have become enjoyable adventures, cushioned by anticipation of the big ones way back in.

We have become opportunists, all week long, about asking land owners for permission to fish their acreage, farms and ranches. The privilege is usually freely granted if a friendly, sincere request is made. We now have a backlog of places to try and all we need is more fishing time.

A trick or two developed from all of this concentration. Try visiting around a country store, talk fishing, then suddenly ask, "I heard about a pond around here that is supposed to have a 20-pound bass in it-it's got quite a few 67-pounders in it. Where is that?" Seven times out of ten, you'll get a response like, "Oh, you must be talkin' about Churchyard Lake"-followed by directions. There's a legendary lunker near every hamlet in Florida's bass country, and usually the legend has some basis in fact.

In the summer, the big fellows stay deep, and it pays to fish out which is the deep end of a small lake or farm pond. Find a native old-time, a farm or ranch hand, and he'll usually remember the last drought-poinpointing the deep hole for you. We usually cast the deep hole first for big boys, leaving the shoreline unmolested until the depths have been thoroughly checked out.

As to baits, we experiment freely, but curb the impulse to get impatient with a lure, changing only after working over a body of water thoroughly. We have found artificial worms of the best quality, with a single weedless hook, the best producers for deep water fishing under most conditions, and the best way to test a new body of water for the presence of bass. Even if they are not biting, and will not take a hook, a thorough working over with a black or purple wiggler will usually produce a telltale tug or two if bass are present.

For openers in the early morning, as the first rays of light surge through the "soup", bass are used with good results. In the evening, we have taken more fish, just as darkness falls, on noisy surface baits of the popping, chugging, and spinner-tail variety.

Heavy growth underwater, fruits, thick grass, and lily pads are our cue to switch to weedless spoons with pork chunks and strips. A strike in the "soup"-seeing the telltale "V" streak toward your spoon, is, in my opinion, the most exciting brand of bass action. We have settled on the frog finish Rex spoon as being particularly deadly, and on a fast retrieve it stays out of every kind of trouble except big bass trouble. I don't know why it took me ten years to learn what every good Florida bass fisherman knows—that plenty of bass action is waiting in the thickest soup. I've finally gotten the message, and I'd toss a weedless spoon into a moss-draped brier patch if I thought there might be a quart of water under it.

Well, there it is—most of our secrets have been revealed, and I have probably lost a guitar-pickin' fishing buddy. I'm just getting even with him for telling everyone at a recent outdoor writer's convention where we got those ten and twelve pounders. Want to know? In Ernie's own words—"Just north of here a ways, and off the road a little way..."
The FLAMINGO

The FLAMINGO nesting colony in captivity at Sarasota Jungle Gardens.

There is no definite record of the Flamingo nesting in the wild in Florida in modern history, although it is generally believed to have done so prior to 1901 in the vicinity of Sugarloaf Key near Key West. Thousands of wild Flamingos were observed in the Cape Sable area in 1902. Today, the sighting of a Flamingo in the wild in Florida can be labeled as very rare.

In captivity, a different story can be told—the Flamingo is a prolific nesting bird! The nesting photographs portrayed here were made at the Sarasota Jungle Gardens. Although these birds had built their unique “mud-pile” nests there for many years, it was not until 1964 that eggs hatched and young were raised. The first Flamingos nesting successfully in captivity in Florida occurred in 1937 at the Hialeah Race Track near Miami, where 60 or more young are now raised each year.

Anyone seeing a Flamingo for the first time will readily admit this is an odd-looking, but interestingly beautiful bird. And, no one can doubt that it plays an important role in attracting human visitors to Florida. The nesting success of this colorful “Florida Press Agent” has led to speculation about attempting to establish it as a wild, nesting resident in favorable areas in the Florida Keys.

Wild Flamingos are vermilion-scarlet in color with black wing tips. Birds in captivity fade to almost white, unless fed a diet of ground-up shrimp, crab shells and other seafoods. This special diet keeps them in the “pink,” but still far from the “rosy-red” of their wild kin.—Wallace Hughes

Photos by JOE SELTZER and TED NEWHALL
Sarasota Jungle Gardens

FLAMINGO eggs hatch in 31 days.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1966
Florida’s two most popular small game hunting targets offer long open seasons for leisurely shooting thrills afield

FOR THE YOUNG at HEART

BY EDMUND McLARLIN

BEYOND ALL DOUBT, deer and waterfowl hunting are great sports. But the toll they take is not necessarily confined to the game hunted. No matter what the degree of individual enthusiasm and participation, there eventually comes a time when, for many, associated demands are too much to meet. Whatever the hunter’s personal wishes, Father Time has a way of quietly slipping up—perhaps seemingly a bit more quickly on weather-worn deer hunters and waterfowlers.

Deer hunting and waterfowl hunting are sports that invariably involve considerable hardship. As birthdays pile up in succession, many otherwise devoted hunters have to face the fact that physically they cannot continue to meet the hard going and discomfort characteristic of the sports. Arthritis or heart performance limitations, for example, can put an end to deer and waterfowl hunting days.

Fortunately, there are two fine hunting sports that young and old can enjoy without much physical effort—quail hunting and squirrel shooting. An exceptionally deadly quail shot was a friend of the author’s for whom palsy ended deer hunting days. He claimed that his “jitters” helped to keep him “loose and better able to get started on the next move.” (If in the hereafter, there is a Quail Hunter’s Paradise, then he and Havilah Babcock have long ago become a hunting twosome.)

Another fine shot was a thin, 14 year old farm boy who was deadly on squirrels with a rusty single-shot Stevens .22 rifle, the like of which modern youth probably wouldn’t look at twice. . . .
son of financial circumstances and/or home care conditions, can own but one retriever.

In some areas, dogs especially trained to retrieve quail can be rented for a day's hunting, or will be furnished as part of a local guide's professional service. In all probability, a veterinarian serving the particular area hunted can refer you to the proper parties.

The only way to learn to shoot quail is to shoot quail! Nothing develops skill like experience and analysis of misses and hits. There are, however, a few tips worthy of summary.

Keep in mind that flushed coves and singles will head for the nearest protective cover; learn to quickly analyze existing conditions and anticipate probable lanes of flight. . . . Walk boldly to the point of impending action, gun balanced in the hands and ready for any type of shot. . . . If you think the point represents a covey, walk in from the side of the pointing dog rather than behind him when activating the flush. Side approach tends to bunch birds into a tighter flight formation and enhances your chances of scoring a "double". . . . But when a covey flushes, select one bird and concentrate your attention and fire on that single target until it either falls or escapes; don't fire blindly into a rising covey, no matter how numerous the birds may appear. . . . Don't make the frequent mistake of shooting too quickly, either; wait until birds level off after first flush swerves before touching off the shot. . . . If pointed birds are flushing well ahead of the gun, before you have time to make a reasonable approach, hold them on the ground a little longer by sounding a hawk call. If possible, team up with an old-timer; study his field performance. . . .

Wild quail ask man only to grant them adequate food and shelter needed for survival, and to leave enough basic breeding stock for propagation of the species after an open hunting season. Given that, the bob whites will year after year provide the coves that delight a hunter's heart.

Although only one brood is raised each year, 85 per cent of a clutch of 11 to 17 eggs will hatch under normal conditions; also, the nesting instinct is such that quail will repeatedly attempt nesting until a brood is successfully produced—even though it be only one chick. Another influencing factor is the Spring and Fall break-up of existing coves, when birds wander afar to mate, and establish new coves come the nesting period of May to October.

Weather can tip the scales favorably or unfavorably for nestlings. There cannot be too much rain.

"Wheat's new policy," says Mr. Parnell, "is that anyone who fires a shotgun at any quail will be fined $25."

Photo by Bill Hurley
Squirrels will usually hide on the far side of a tree or limb away from the hunter. The best way to move them into view for a shot is with the aid of a squirrel-wine dog.
(Continued from preceding page)
over one fitted with metallic sights, for squirrel shooting. The scope's magnification is a great help in pin-pointing half-hidden targets. It also helps you make the all-important first shot count, since you can generally aim more precisely.

Sight-in a scope equipped 22 rifle to hit point of aim at 50 yards. Using a 22 long rifle high speed ammunition, this gives a scope sight setting that can be effectively used, without correction, anywhere between 12½ yards and 55 yards. For longer shots—say, up to 75 yards—simply hold a trifle high on targets, to compensate for the 1½ inches of bullet drop between 50 and 75 yards.

Metallic sight combinations should be adjusted to give the same 50 yard point of aim bullet impact, but due to differences in sight height and plane of aim there will be variations at other ranges. Velocity of ammunition used is also a factor. The following tabulation tells the story:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range in Yards</th>
<th>High Speed .22 L. R.</th>
<th>Standard Velocity .22 L. R. Ammunition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12½</td>
<td>On the nose</td>
<td>1/4 of an inch high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>1/2 of an inch high</td>
<td>On the nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>2 inches low</td>
<td>2 inches low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Scope Sightings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range in Yards</th>
<th>12½</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the nose</td>
<td>1/4 of an inch low</td>
<td>1/4 of an inch high</td>
<td>1/2 of an inch high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 inches low</td>
<td>2 inches low</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Scope or metallic sights, the bullet will intersect the line of sight at two points—one close to the gun and the other at the common 50 yard zero. Sighted for a 50 yard zero, intermediate discrepancies (high or low bullet impact) are inconsequential, so far as practical shooting is concerned, between 12½ yards and 55 yards.

Squirrels don't like dogs; whenever they can, the little animals put themselves on the far side of a tree, away from dog and hunter. A couple of dog biscuits in a hunting coatpocket will solve such perplexing situations. Let the dog sniff a food biscuit, then throw it to the squirrel's side of the tree; chances are that the hidden squirrel will move when the dog scampers after its treat.

If you are alone, there are other tricks you can try to get a squirrel to move to your side of the tree.

The coat trick is an old one. You remove your hunting coat and drape it over a bush where a concealed but peeping squirrel can, surely see it; then you very quietly retreat a reasonable distance and begin a cautious approach to the opposite side of the tree. Most likely you will spot the squirrel—still intently studying your discarded coat.

Another old one is to tie one end of a ball of fishing line to a leafy bush on one side of a tree in which a squirrel is known to be hiding, then pass the other end of the line to the opposite side of the tree, be perfectly still for a few minutes, then jerk the cord to agitate the bush. The unexpected commotion will probably startle the squirrel and cause it to move into view.

A squirrel call will usually work—if you find a spot where the animals are known to feed, and sit quietly.

If you slow-stalk your game, first slip a pair of old, oversized, thick wool or cotton socks over your shoes. Even when walking among dry leaves, your footsteps will be more muffled. Resist any urge to shoot into nests. A shotgun, particularly, will usually kill any housed animals and young without chance of retrieve. Such is not sport. Also, most times you probably will be firing into an old nest, wasting expensive ammunition and alerting any squirrels that might be in nearby trees.

Use a slingshot and glass marbles to flush possible targets from a nest. Three or four glass balls lobbed in the direction of the nest will get action if there are any squirrels at home. Be ready to make a fast shot on appearance.

As you pointed out, neither quail hunting nor squirrel shooting requires the hunter to be robust of health or possessed of physical endurance; both are easy sports to enjoy. You need be only young at heart.

Feathers' Frustration

"A nyplace marsh" was cold and misty. The foggy air was fanned by the whisken wingbeats of ducks overhead. I stood by a clump of willows at an old 'gator den and heard the man pole his boat from the rim of cypress across the corner of the marsh to his blind. I heard his retriever "whine" as the decoys were set in the opening. While the hate thinned, I watched him and wrote his story.

A huge flight of unknown ducks shied away while he was fumbling for his little Guide to Watertou identification book among the shells and feathers in his coat. If he had learned to identify pintails in flight, he could have shot at them. Before he could brush away the loose feathers stuck to his benumbed hands, still cold and wet from setting out decoys, a flock of 12 "some kind of ducks" attempted to drop into his blind. He now realized he had left his identification book at home, but be found his duck call which he nervously dropped on the floor of his blind. He recovered the call, but as the "birds" tipped their wings for the fall-in, he made an alarming "off quack." This was not the first time trash under the reed of a duck call spooked an attentive flock. His baffled condition grew into severe worry, as a group of five speeding feather balls darted over his head. "What kind are they?", he thought again to himself. As they completed a half circle, he gath­ered his wits and prepared for the air raid. Excite­ment overcame his identification worry as he burst through the reeds covering his blind.

Three birds fell to the chilled marsh water and for a second he did not care what kind they were, the smell of burnt powder was overpowering, but when his lab dashed into the water to retrieve the thrill passed and the blind began to shake as he trembled inside.

(Continued on next page)
He asked himself, "Are they the two-a-day or the four-a-day kind?" As he reasoned with himself, he shouted, "Come back, Coot. Put that duck down, doorway over the blind quickly parted as additional scolds echoed from the cypress surrounding the marsh, last unknown. The slough grass again parted, as a He asked himself, "Are they the two-a-day or the His retriever de­ quently分成

(Continued from preceding page)

He asked himself, "Are they the two-a-day or the four-a-day kind?" As he reasoned with himself, he decided not to have but two retrieved to avoid the risk of being caught in violation. His retriever de­

posited two ducks he had never seen before in the doorway of the blind, but before he could catch the dog he plunged back for the third unknown. He shouted, "Come back, Coot. Put that duck down, Coot." His voice was hardly audible—muffled inside the blind. The clusters of slough grass arrangements over the blind quickly parted as additional scolds echoed from the cypress surrounding the marsh, but O! Coot disheartedly continued to retrieve the last unknown. The slough grass again parted, as a pair of disguised eyes peered over the marsh in search of an approaching wildlife officer. Suddenly, he noticed the chestnut red neck and head and long sloping bill. He had bagged three canvasbacks, and the limit was only two. He quickly leaned to the opening in the blind and heaved the third duck into the brush behind the blind. He caught Coot just before he dashed out of the blind for the recovery. He uttered, "No, Coot, set back down!" Coot was sadly puzzled. He could not understand why he had been scolded for a job which usually received a pat on the head. The hunter was sadly puzzled. He could not understand why he had been scolded for a job which usually he had been scolded for a job which usually

resembling birds in order for the regulation to effec­

tively prevent overharvest of the endangered speci­
es. The resembling species need not be in­

cluded in the regulation if the hunters could differ­

entiate between the various species of ducks.

Question: How do biologists determine whether or not the hunter is able to identify birds in flight?

Answer: Annually, spy-blind surveys are con­
ducted by State and Federal employees to ob­serve hunters in their blinds and to identify the birds he shoots at. The hunter is asked to fill out a card stating the kinds of birds he thinks he shot at that day. By comparing the notes made by the spy-blind observer with the card filled in by the hunter, a good estimate of hunter identification accuracy is obtained.

Question: Why can only two mallards, canv­asbacks or wood ducks be taken daily when all other ducks have a daily bag of four and over?

Answer: Because mallards had poor nesting suc­cess this past spring and summer due to adverse weather conditions in the nesting grounds. Wood ducks and canvasbacks have never recovered from their populations' drastic decline of recent years.

Question: Why is the daily bag on mergansers five?

Answer: Usually mergansers have less hunting pressure because of poor table qualities.

Question: Why does scaup have a daily bag of six in certain areas in Florida?

Answer: Certain coastal areas winter tremen­dous numbers of scaup. This species of duck suffers very little from gun pressure. In certain coastal areas where the closely resembling ringneck seldom reaches a high percent of the total duck population, the hunter is less likely to mistake the ringneck for scaup and exceed the legal bag of four on ringnecks. In these areas the hunter can take six scaup. Hunt­ers in these areas should take advantage of this higher bag limit opportunity.

Question: Where are the areas where the bag limit is six?

Answer: Two scaup in addition to the daily bag for most other ducks, for a total bag of six, may be taken: All open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from the bridge on U. S. Highway 41 to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Boca Raton to the mainland; all open waters of the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. John's County; all open waters of Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 516; all open waters of Tampa Bay; all open waters of Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne; all open waters of Mosquito Lagoon from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

Question: Why does Florida close their water­fowl season so early in January, when much good hunting could take place if the season extended to February 1?

Answer: The Fish and Wildlife Service limits the framework within which the states must set their season to allow time for the birds to condition themselves for the northeaster migration and to pre­vent overharvest.

Question: Why don't the shooting hours start 30 minutes before sunrise instead of at sunrise?

Answer: Because most hunters have difficulty identifying the ducks before daylight. If 30 min­utes before sunrise shooting was legal, many cripp­les would be unretrieved and bag limits ex­ceeded.
The Peninsular State offers over 8,000 miles of coastline for year-round underwater exploration.

Florida’s Underworld Activities

It has been estimated that if the state’s underground water was placed on the surface, it would cover the entire state to a depth of 90 feet.

The salt waters border on 36 of the Sunshine State’s 67 counties with the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast and the Gulf of Mexico on the west.

Besides the usual occupations of fishing and sightseeing under the depths, more attention is being drawn to underwater photography (Cine Diving), trapping of shell fish and shell collecting. The photography is usually for self pleasure, but the rarity of the shells and fish often yields financial dividends.

For the competitive driver, Florida offers numerous underwater tournaments. Two of these—the Fiesta of Five Flags Fishing Rodeo in Pensacola and the Southern Open Skindiving Derby in the Keys or elsewhere in South Florida—are considered major events for the area.

So if any phase of diving interests you, cruise, drive or fly on down to the Florida peninsula. Your underwater activity might not include a bout with Al Capone, but a big grouper or a valuable shell might serve to soothe your disappointment.

Suppose it was about nine years ago when I had one of my first assignments as sports editor of the Florida Development Commission, that I took a trip down the Apalachicola River.

The time was May. The event was the first annual (at that time) Apalachicola Rivercanoe. We started at Bainbridge, Georgia, came through Lake Sequin, down through the locks of the Jim Woodruff dam at Chattahoochee, and down the ol’ Apalach to Apalachicola, with a stop-over at Blountstown for refueling and getting in out of the rain.

Man, did it rain. What a lousy expedition that turned out to be. Boats got rocked, the weather was terrible, the scenery was muddled, the river was muddy, and the whole project was just all wet, that’s all.

The only enjoyable thing about the cruise was the magnificent sea-food court those folks in Apalachicola gave when we all arrived at the end of the struggle.

Lake I say, that was nine years ago. Many times in making other cruise suggestions to magazine editors, they would say, “Have you ever been down the Apalachicola?” I would change the subject.

But E. T. Bales, sports editor to the Chattanooga News-Free Press, with whom I have made many journeys, told me that he wanted to bring the Chattanooga camera “nuts,” the same crew, sans one, who made the memorable jaunt through the Tennessee and Georgia streams I had traversed back in 1957. This time the Apalachicola I would change the subject.

The Apalachicola wasn’t the same old muddy stream I had traversed back in 1957. This time the sun was shining, the water was pretty, the river was a twisting and turning maze of gullies that delighted our eyes and made those camera nuts the same color as the tree envy.

It was a beautiful run to the Chipola cut-off, where we were met, right on schedule by the We uważ boys, and they took us to Coop’s Restaurant for an old-fashioned fried cat-fish dinner. Following that scrumptious repast, we toured the Dead Lakes in their boats (we couldn’t get ourselves across the road to the lakes) and a more beautiful sight cannot be seen anywhere in the world.

You see, you have to take a boat run through the Dead Lakes if you want to see water country that is absolutely breath-taking in its still, quiet beauty. I can’t describe it. Pictures can help, but you have to see it for real to believe it.

Of course, this side jaunt into the Dead Lakes really made the journey. We didn’t do anything back in 1957—well, we didn’t do anything back in 1957 but wet—and this really put the icing on the cake.

From the Dead Lakes to Apalachicola is another beautiful run, one made near dusk and the scenery is absolutely gorgeous. I just didn’t see all this the first time, ‘cause I was wringing out socks all the way down.

Amidst the waters around Apalach and seeing the historic sights of that old city made the trip complete. We were hosted by such civic leaders as Billy Spikes, manager of the Apalach Chamber of Commerce.

Northwest Florida’s Apalachicola River offers a dream

By ELGIN WHITE

Blountstown, this time, rather run from Bainbridge and through the dam. “Been through dams before,” E. T. said, “and when you’ve seen one, you’ve seen ‘em all.” Besides, he was rather anxious to start at Blountstown and stop at the Chipola River cut-off for a run through the famous Dead Lakes.

We left Blountstown and I was all set for a “blah” run down the Apalachicola to our cut-off at the Chipola where we were to be met by a group from the Wewahitchka Development Board, guided by the enthusiastic leader of the clan, David Carl Gaskins of Wewahitchka.

How surprised I was! The Apalachicola wasn’t the same old muddy stream I had traversed back in 1957. This time the sun was shining, the water was pretty, the river was a twisting and turning maze of gullies that delighted our eyes and made those camera nuts the same color as the trees envy.

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Todbre hunting is just one of the many phases of scuba diving enjoyed in Florida’s ideally suited fresh and salt waters.
A couple fellas called me not long ago and asked, "How do you read these wind and weather marine forecasts that the meteorologists come out with? I mean, what are considered light winds, and what are considered moderate to heavy?"

I'm no meteorologist, but boat expert Bob Brewe,er of Mercury motors came up with some answers.

"Alas, as described 'light' are breezes from 4 to 8 m.p.h. Leaves rustle and wind vanes move. Waves can build up to a foot in height and are glassy."

"Winds of 1 to 3 m.p.h. are called 'light'. Smoke drifts, leaves are in constant motion and flags and banners are noticeable extended. Waves can build to two feet or more and their crests begin to break."

"Something between 13 and 18 m.p.h. is called a 'gentle' wind. . . . that is, leaves are in constant motion and flags and banners are noticeable extended. Waves can build to two feet or more and their crests begin to break."

"Winds of 19 to 24 m.p.h. are called 'fresh.' Small trees sway, and crested waves form on sheltered waters. Open water waves build up to 10 feet."

"At between 25 and 40 m.p.h. winds are called "strong" and small craft warnings are hoisted. Large limbs and whole trees begin to bend and this is no time, friend, to be on the water . . . in anything."

"Today's large and medium outboards are quite able to operate when the going gets somewhat rough. Don't fear whitecaps created by gentle to moderate winds, for the typical outboard hull can "squash" them as it rides over wave crests. But do have a very healthy respect for curling tops of short, steep waves! They are dangerous as Jose Jiminez might say!"

"Don't sneakier at January when it comes to talking about boating, either. This is a fine month for it, especially when us'n's live in sunny Florida. And not just in southern Florida, either, where, of course, we may enjoy our aquabatics all year round. But I have seen some magnificent days in northern Florida in January where a fella can take his craft out on the lakes or rivers and get in some boating of any kind."

"Grit a report from Ed Spanke about the Marine Trades Exhibit and Conference held in Chicago last month, and folks in the boating business are more optimistic than their automotive counterparts."

"The pleasure boating industry launched its 1966 season with an 11 per cent increase in buyer attendance at the annual trade show which unveils new products and the concern among manufacturers is that next year's sales will be at least five per cent higher than 1965. This could very well be a fact. At the recent 1966 showing for Florida writers at the Port St. Lucie Country Club (site of the 1966 OWAA convention in June) Johnson Motors had its 1966 showing for these dealers and you would believe it . . . they sold every cotton pickin' motor they had in 1965. They even had some back orders, and from the look of Johnson's fine line in the coming year, back orders will be backing up back orders.

"Boating public in public will be seeing more and more new products associated with boating that they have never seen before.

"For example, new type storm gear and rain suits will be on the market, featuring extremely light weight and easy portage. The new suits are made of material called Krene, which is an extremely light weight bakelite material of superior strength.

"Another new product has been introduced by the Union Carbide Corporation. It is a new style plastic planing board, designed for a variety of water recreation activities. These small boards are used as swimming aids, surfboards, small sleds towed by a boat, or as an excellent swimming aid for children.

"Even the "Sterno" folks of outdoor cooking stove fame have come up with a portable single or double burner job that is ideal for picnics, camping and boating trips. This thing folds up like a pocket knife and folds down to just one-half inch in thickness. You can carry it in your pocket.

"For you aquanauts who get lost on occasion, and which of us hasn't? they have new signal aids. All you do is flick a button of the Penguin Survival 7 (no relation to sport 467) and a brightly burning flare can be launched 300 feet into the air. That's a handy gadget that can be seen for long distances. The "rope whip" comes in a kit with seven burning flares that may be fired without removing them from their handholder. The cartridge will burn brilliantly for about nine seconds."

"The Gale Division of Outboard Marine has come up with a new light-weight auxiliary outboard motor bracket that is so simple to install on your boat transom even I can do it. And these are practical devices, fellow sailor, believe me. I am a firm member of the society of never going to sea with just one motor, LTD. With these small brackets attached to your boat's transom, you can carry a small auxiliary outboard along in case the big baby gets cranky and refuses to a-go-go.

"OMC also is introducing a new single control lever that can be mounted on either port or starboard side of your craft.

"And Plymouth Cordage Company of Plymouth, Massachusetts has come up with a little gadget that will end frayed line worries forever. It is called a rope whip, and you just slip this small sleeve over the end of your frayed line, heat it with an ordinary cigarette lighter, and it will shrink into the line like a hungry kid grabbing a doughnut. Real fine little gimmick.

This same company offers new silicon bronze boat nails that are rust proof and sea proof, too. The nails come in three sizes of 14 gauge and five sizes of 12 gauge.

"These are but some of the many new products finding their way to marine stores throughout the nation. You'll find them at your favorite dealer's, and you can add many new hours of pleasure to your boating routine by latching on to some of these new products.

"A 10 assorted application of heat is now solving your frayed line problem. The "rope whip" comes in three sizes, and will shrink 50% of its original size due to its special molecular structure.

"Our two-faced last friend, last, obviously isn't in trouble. All is well with your map, boy. It is a smattering of the best of the best, and she had to extend her stay, and, if you remember, she had to extend her stay by a bright light. 300 feet high.
1965-66 Hunting Season

Northwest Region

DEER: November 20-January 16. Hunting permitted everyday. SPECIAL SEASON: Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, November 20-December 5, and December 18-January 2. The deer season in Washington and Holmes counties is the same as for the Point Washington Management Area (Nov. 20-Dec. 5).


SQUIRREL: Spring gobbler season: March 12-March 27, south of State Road 50 and in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50, and west of the St. Johns River.


South Florida Region

DEER: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday, except DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties which will be open for deer hunting from November 13 through November 21, only.


SQUIRREL: Spring gobbler season: March 12-March 27, south of State Road 50, March 26-April 10 in Hernando County north of State Road 50. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12:noon.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

Regulations—Summary

Northeast Region


SQUIRREL: Winter season: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

DEER: November 13-June 1, Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days, and between November 24 and November 28, AND between December 22 and January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River.


QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

Central Region


QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

Everglades Region


QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

Bag Limits—Resident Game

DEER (Buck): 1 per day, 3 per season.

QUAIL: 1 per day, not more than 24 in possession.

January, 1966

Florida's Five Regions for Hunting and Trapping

Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Florida Keys of Monroe County.

Florida Keys of Monroe County.
CONSERVATION SCENE
(Continued from page 4)

the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which administers the program, said that most of the remaining State plans are well along toward completion and that 20 to 25 additional States are expected to qualify for the program by the end of the year.

State outdoor recreation plans evaluate statewide supply, demand, and needs for areas and facilities for all significant outdoor recreation activities, and include an action program for meeting priority needs.

In accordance with President Johnson’s natural beauty program, the plans are expected to show consideration of the importance of natural beauty and other qualitative values of the State’s outdoor environment in general, not merely in and near designated outdoor recreation areas.

In addition to acquisition and development grants, the Bureau can make 50 percent grants to help States prepare and maintain these outdoor recreation plans. To date, the Bureau has made planning grants totaling $896,511 to 19 States.

Travel Tips Offered

Hunters, hikers, and others planning wilderness travel this autumn and in the years to come may benefit from study of “Off-the-Right-Foot,” a tip-filled folder offered by The Wilderness Society.

The folder seeks to help travelers enjoy wilderness by suggesting the kinds of clothing and equipment that should be taken along in order to comply with safety and comfort requirements. Secondly, by laying out the ground rules for wilderness travel and use, it provides outdoor enthusiasts with the acute need for not destroying the very natural values for which wilderness is prized, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Time-tested from years of experience, the tips cover preparing for a wilderness trip, the best time to go, methods of travel, detailed checklists of clothing and other gear that should be taken, back-country navigation, and safety on the trail. Free copies of the folder are available from the Society, at 729 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Shell Collecting Center

The good news for conchologists, malacologists and those who just like to collect sea shells because they are beautiful is that shell hunting has never been better than it is now in the Naples section of southwest Florida. Autumal turbulence in the Gulf of Mexico has deposited millions of shells on nearby beaches, among which are many items highly prized by amateur and professional collectors.

Naples is situated at the center of a chain of Florida beaches, extending from the Sanibel-Captiva region on the north to the Marco-Cape Romano section on the south, which is one of the world’s best shell hunting territories. In fact, only the Great Barrier Reef in Australia is said to be better, and many of the brightly colored mollusks found there can be obtained only by deep sea diving. Shells and shell craft have become an important business in Naples and Collier County. There are a number of shell shops and factories utilizing native shells, and dealers also import unusual varieties from all over the world.

The Naples Shell Club is making preparations for its annual show which will be held in late February. It is one of the state’s most varied and highly regarded exhibits of sea treasures and regularly attracts thousands of Floridians and out-of-state visitors.

One of the rare specimens that has been found on the beach here is a left handed Junonia, believed to be the only one of its type in existence.

Wild Game Calling

The art of calling game bears some relationship to the skill of a fine chef, according to Remington’s News Bureau. Some people have it, others do not. In the James Bay area of Canada, Cree Indian guides, practicing an art as old as time, call geese with no artificial aids at all. Old-time guides on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay can fool the wisest Canadian goose the same way.

Today, however, it is not necessary to be a Fred Piper. Artificial calls, which are actuated by lung power, are available and, with a bit of practice, anyone can learn to use them. True success in waterfowling requires the use of a call just as much as it involves proper blinds, firearms and ammunition and clothing. One of the true joys of the sport is found in the ability to turn a passing flight of birds with a call and bring them back towards your spread of decoys.

In recent years, some actual recordings of the sounds of ducks and geese have been made. Federal law prohibits the use of these records for hunting, but the neophyte who wants to learn how to call can find a mouth call and benefit as a learning aid.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S
FISHING CITATION

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

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

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date __________
Gome & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

The catch must be weighed and recorded on the inscribed data card that will be supplied to the angler by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data card that has been properly filled out and signed.

Name (please print).

City State

Address __________

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS __________

BLUEGILL (BREAM) __________

BLACK CRAPPIE __________

SHELLCRACKER __________

RED BREAST __________

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS: 8 pounds or larger.

CHAIN PICKEREL: 4 pounds or larger.

BLUEGILL (BREAM): 1 ½ pounds or larger.

SHELLCRACKER: 2 pounds or larger.

BLACK CRAPPIE: 2 pounds or larger.

RED BREAST: 1 pound or larger.

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing game or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK
Targets dead ahead... Quail preparing for flight... Ready, aim... (Photo by Jim Floyd)

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