This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the: William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.

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

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

**Fish Shapes**

- **Spindle Like**
  - NAME A SHAPE AND LIKELY SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD THERE IS A FISH TO FIT IT
  - THE THREE MOST COMMON SHAPES ARE SPINDLE LIKE, COMPRESSED, AND FLAT

- **Compressed**
  - Taller than wide

- **Flat**
  - For laying on the bottom

- **Triangle Like**
  - The poorest swimmers usually diseased with some sort of protective device - poison, hard shell, or sharp spines

- **Globe Like**

- **Snake Like**
  - For eelthcring thru grass, weeds and crevices in rocks

- **Round Like**
  - For swimming thru open water

**The Cover**

Two of Florida's fresh water catfish, found throughout the state, are the Brown Bullhead (Speckled Catfish), at top, and the Yellow Bullhead (Better Catfish), below. See page 12.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

---

**Florida Wildlife**

JUNE 1966

official publication of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission State of Florida

BILL HANSEN, EDITOR

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

**Departments**

Conservation Scene 4
Fishing 6
Boating 9
Muzzle Flashes 28

**In This Issue**

More Than Trees 5
Set Your Line For Cats 12
The Wildlife Tag 16
Hunt Or Fish 20
Meet Your Commission 23

**The Three Most Common Shapes Are Spindle Like, Compressed, and Flat**
**CONSERVATION SCENE**

**Excellent Early Waterfowl Nesting Conditions Reported**

It's "homecoming" time for the millions of ducks and geese now streaming into Canada's prime "duck factory" regions. And, as the flocks of waterfowl return from their mysterious winter migration, they are being greeted by a welcome sight—all across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there's an abundance of vitaly needed water, accompanied by plenty of available nesting habitat.

Ducks Unlimited, the continent's pioneering waterfowl conservation organization, reports that above average snowfall across the Prairie Provinces, DU reports that the potential run-off promises to be quite high; in fact, some flooding looms as a possibility in the Cumberland Marsh and Saskeram Dam areas of the Saskatchewan River Delta, in the high-production region of north-central Manitoba. However, DU (Canada) engineers say that any flooding is expected to be far less than that which hit north-eastern Saskatchewan and Manitoba one year ago, delaying nesting efforts and hampering waterfowl production.

**Summer Tourist Season**

**FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS ARE GEARING up for what promises to be a record tourist season this summer.** State Parks Director, Bill Miller, said a comprehensive construction and improvement program underway throughout the park system will enable the state's 51 operating parks and historic memorials to offer more recreational facilities than ever before.

Tourists in state parks this summer can expect new and additional camping, swimming, boating, picnicking and hiking areas. This year's traveler can find horseback tours through Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, charter fishing boats for deep-sea fishing at Bahia Honda State Park on Bahia Honda Key, golfing on a 9-hole golf course at Florida Cracker State Park near Marianna; scenic railroad tours on a miniature train at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale—almost any type of recreation you can think of.

In other parks are paddle boats, bicycles, fishing camps, snack bars, shuffleboard courts, souvenir shops, grocery stores, rustic wagon tours, and a multitude of other offerings.

The state parks director pointed out that past records show the peak tourist season for the Florida Park system to be from May through August each year.

1966:1967 Fresh Water Fishing and Hunting Licenses Become Effective July 1, 1966 — See Page 33

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

**COMMISSION OPPOSES ANTI-GUN BILL PASSAGE**

The Anti-Gun bill has cleared the Senate Subcommittee and sportmen are urged to act at once. Senate Bill S.198, the so-called "Dodd Bill" which imposes severe restrictions on the sale and shipment of firearms, has been approved by the waterfowl production committee on Juvenile Delinquency and now goes to the full Senate Committee on the Interior.

The Chairman of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, W. B. Copeland, says the present legislation contains several provisions contrary to the interest of hunters and gun owners. He urges all sportmen to familiarize themselves with the bill, then go to Washington to have their congressional representatives ratify it.

Copeland said, "There are a number of objectionable features to the bill, the chief one being a provision making it illegal to purchase a firearm through the mail would have to file a cumbersome affidavit with the seller and submit the name of the principal law enforcement officer in the area to which the gun was shipped." He said that, in his opinion, enactment of this section of the bill into a law would be a first step to a universal gun registration program and would surely present a hardship for rural sports men.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a resolution opposing the enactment of Senate Bill S.198. The resolution was presented by Commission member W. T. McBroom, Fourth Conservation District, stating that the Commission was opposed to Senate Bill 198, as its passage would work extreme hardship upon the sale of firearms for hunting or other recreational purposes.

JUNE, 1966

**Wildlife — Forestry Accomplishments**

More Than Trees

**SINCE THE DROUGHT of the early 1930's every duck hunter has had his own pet scheme for speeding up waterfowl production, toward an end result of lingering seasons and liberal bag limits. These solutions make a long and varied list, from knowledgeable observations to wishful thinking; from emotional evangelism to curtailed pessimism.**

Although interest in waterfowl has increased with the seasons, waterfowl can be classified as a national topic of conservation, especially why the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife arrives at such "unrealistic" conclusions in establishing regulations. The time, effort and money expended by the Bureau and the States to arrive at these "unrealistic" regulations goes largely unappreciated.

No. same duck hunter individually—or bunch them up for that matter—would admit either directly or indirectly to any responsibility for a duck shortage. He is the epitome of all the best known Monday morning quarterbacks that ever took that job.

Slowing down wetland drainage in the prairie states was preceded by a long and tedious battle in Congress with the majority of the hunters sitting on their hands. The matter of purchasing wetlands by the Federal Government had to work its way through a legislative maze and over a long period of years.

The issues were tried:

1. Congress was at first adamant about paying taxes on any land purchases.

2. The prairie states fought to sustain the tax base, and even after this sticky question of taxes was solved, the states were reluctant to see land titles transferred to public ownership. In some measure these issues have been settled, but in the meantime more nesting habitat is still destroyed by drainage.

Now comes a happy note of achievement in wetlands preservation by an agency which formerly has not been directly involved in such ventures. The United States Forest Service, through the initiation of Regional Director George James and its own pet scheme for increasing waterfowl production, now has a number of objectionable features to the bill, the chief one being a provision making it illegal to purchase a firearm through the mail would have to file a cumbersome affidavit with the seller and submit the name of the principal law enforcement officer in the area to which the gun was shipped. He said that, in his opinion, enactment of this section of the bill into a law would be a first step to a universal gun registration program and would surely present a hardship for rural sports men.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a resolution opposing the enactment of Senate Bill S.198. The resolution was presented by Commission member W. T. McBroom, Fourth Conservation District, stating that the Commission was opposed to Senate Bill 198, as its passage would work extreme hardship upon the sale of firearms for hunting or other recreational purposes.

1966:1967 Fresh Water Fishing and Hunting Licenses Become Effective July 1, 1966 — See Page 33

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

**FLORIDA'S STATE PARKS ARE GEARING up for what promises to be a record tourist season this summer.** State Parks Director, Bill Miller, said a comprehensive construction and improvement program underway throughout the park system will enable the state's 51 operating parks and historic memorials to offer more recreational facilities than ever before.

Tourists in state parks this summer can expect new and additional camping, swimming, boating, picnicking and hiking areas. This year's traveler can find horseback tours through Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, charter fishing boats for deep-sea fishing at Bahia Honda State Park on Bahia Honda Key, golfing on a 9-hole golf course at Florida Cracker State Park near Marianna; scenic railroad tours on a miniature train at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale—almost any type of recreation you can think of.

In other parks are paddle boats, bicycles, fishing camps, snack bars, shuffleboard courts, souvenir shops, grocery stores, rustic wagon tours, and a multitude of other offerings.

The state parks director pointed out that past records show the peak tourist season for the Florida Park system to be from May through August each year.

1966:1967 Fresh Water Fishing and Hunting Licenses Become Effective July 1, 1966 — See Page 33

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

**COMMISSION OPPOSES ANTI-GUN BILL PASSAGE**

The Anti-Gun bill has cleared the Senate Subcommittee and sportmen are urged to act at once. Senate Bill S.198, the so-called "Dodd Bill" which imposes severe restrictions on the sale and shipment of firearms, has been approved by the waterfowl production committee on Juvenile Delinquency and now goes to the full Senate Committee on the Interior.

The Chairman of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, W. B. Copeland, says the present legislation contains several provisions contrary to the interest of hunters and gun owners. He urges all sportmen to familiarize themselves with the bill, then go to Washington to have their congressional representatives ratify it.

Copeland said, "There are a number of objectionable features to the bill, the chief one being a provision making it illegal to purchase a firearm through the mail would have to file a cumbersome affidavit with the seller and submit the name of the principal law enforcement officer in the area to which the gun was shipped." He said that, in his opinion, enactment of this section of the bill into a law would be a first step to a universal gun registration program and would surely present a hardship for rural sports men.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a resolution opposing the enactment of Senate Bill S.198. The resolution was presented by Commission member W. T. McBroom, Fourth Conservation District, stating that the Commission was opposed to Senate Bill 198, as its passage would work extreme hardship upon the sale of firearms for hunting or other recreational purposes.

JUNE, 1966

**Wildlife — Forestry Accomplishments**

More Than Trees

**SINCE THE DROUGHT of the early 1930's every duck hunter has had his own pet scheme for speeding up waterfowl production, toward an end result of lingering seasons and liberal bag limits. These solutions make a long and varied list, from knowledgeable observations to wishful thinking; from emotional evangelism to curtailed pessimism.**

Although interest in waterfowl has increased with the seasons, waterfowl can be classified as a national topic of conservation, especially why the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife arrives at such "unrealistic" conclusions in establishing regulations. The time, effort and money expended by the Bureau and the States to arrive at these "unrealistic" regulations goes largely unappreciated.

No. same duck hunter individually—or bunch them up for that matter—would admit either directly or indirectly to any responsibility for a duck shortage. He is the epitome of all the best known Monday morning quarterbacks that ever took that job.

Slowing down wetland drainage in the prairie states was preceded by a long and tedious battle in Congress with the majority of the hunters sitting on their hands. The matter of purchasing wetlands by the Federal Government had to work its way through a legislative maze and over a long period of years.

The issues were tried:

1. Congress was at first adamant about paying taxes on any land purchases.

2. The prairie states fought to sustain the tax base, and even after this sticky question of taxes was solved, the states were reluctant to see land titles transferred to public ownership. In some measure these issues have been settled, but in the meantime more nesting habitat is still destroyed by drainage.

Now comes a happy note of achievement in wetlands preservation by an agency which formerly has not been directly involved in such ventures. The United States Forest Service, through the initiation of Regional Director George James and its own pet scheme for increasing waterfowl production, now has a
Although catfish are not, technically, classified as game fish, they will sometimes take artificial baits.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

This is popping bug time of year but you’re not going to get off with that simple pronouncement because I’m a real popping bug hook with opinions.

Many firms sell excellent flyrod poppers and lots of serious fishermen make their own but you still find a few unfailable numbers and now and then there’s one you could eat with your breakfast cereal and never get hooked.

I don’t find that delicate shades of color are too important in bugs and bugging isn’t the most aesthetic method of fishing. Since the fish views a bug only from underneath, most of the topside art work, be it fine stripes or bold polka dots, is savored by the fisherman only. Color can make a difference all right but fish happily accept a sloppy paint job if everything else is right.

Florida fishermen strongly favor the bumblebee (black and yellow stripes) pattern for bass and panfish and they tend to neglect popping bugs in salt water because streamers generally take more fish and most salt water anglers miss those happy times when poppers bring drenching surface blasts.

Poor hooking qualities are a chronic fault of poppers. Simply take the bug in your hand and see if you can hook the barb into the fish’s mouth and chomp down on it, getting himself yanked out of the way at the lop to keep it right side up in the grass.

There is a simple and efficient test for a popper’s poor hooking qualities. Simply take the bug in your hand and see if you can hook the barb into the fish’s mouth and chomp down on it, getting himself yanked out of the way at the lop to keep it right side up in the grass.

There is a tendency to make popping bug hooks too small in order to get away from excessive weight and consequent poor casting and floating. The answer is to use large, long shank, light wire hooks and accept the fact they might tear out or straighten more easily. It is very rare for a hook to straighten under fly rod pressure anyway.

Most of my bass bugs are 1/0 hooks and the salt water bugs are mainly 3/0. I cannot explain the fact that Florida bass which like huge plugs seem to strike better on medium poppers. For small bass and bream, a No. 4 hook is a pretty good compromise.

Hooking is a complicated business with a bug, especially if the fish comes fast. Unthinking fishermen often whimper about the “terrible strikes” they couldn’t hook but why they caught fish that “just nibbled the bug.”

The story is that the “nibbler” took the bug into his mouth and chomped down on it, getting himself hooked. The blaster pushed the bug away with his bow wave and couldn’t have caught it if he’d wanted to.

The explanation (I sure like this part because it proves I’m a real thinking type) is that a live creature capable of making as much noise as a man-powered popping bug would be pretty heavy and wouldn’t simply bounce away from a soreheaded striker. Of course some fish strike with their mouths closed and are only fooling anyway.

The shape of a popping bug doesn’t seem too important to the fish as long as it gives forth the desired action and noise but the shape certainly is important to the poor soul who must do the casting.

For many years my favorite bass bug was the “dragon fly,” a cork-bodied popper with bucktail wings sticking out at right angles, supplemented by a deerhair tail. It was and is a wonderful bass lure but it’s an abomination to cast. Unless it’s made correctly it will twist your leader in the air and it lands upside down about half the time. It is very difficult to throw in the wind and your casts will be inaccurate. I don’t use it much any more, preferring rubber legs on the sides of my bugs.

Rubber legs lie back as you cast, presenting a streamlined profile, and then straighten out after the bug hits the water. A long tail of either hair or feathers offers no problem. Friend of mine uses a horrid thing that winds up a rubber band on the cast and then sits on the water and kicks around under its own power.

An extremely large popping cup on the front will give the wire bug a cast trouble in the wind. I find a large cup isn’t necessary providing the bug rides at the proper angle to take advantage of its popping qualities. A popping area one-half inch in diameter is big enough for my fishing. I do and that includes large salt water species. In fact, my wife Debie makes most of our large, salt water bugs and about half of them don’t have a cup in the nose at all. The flat cork will pop enough to provide the bug rides right and the fly line floats high. This last is important.

Now we think the gently waving rubber legs are invaluable for bass bugs which we generally fish quite slowly but we don’t use rubber legs on snook, redfish, salt water trout and tarpon bugs. Main thing here is to give the bug an appearance of length as we’re endeavoring to imitate bait fish rather than insects or frogs. My favorite salt water bug has a long德er hair tail and a long, slim cork body. It casts easily and can produce frightening bursts with its half-inch, flat nose.

Generally I prefer cork to balsa for popping bug bodies. Balsa sometimes floats a little too high for easy popping although it picks up nicely when you start a new cast. Although you can make a larger body with balsa, I’d prefer to extend the body with feathers or hair.

Okay. So I just lost some more friends.

Bodies that are too bushy can pick up so much water that it’s difficult to cast, especially if some sort of solid hair or large, soft feathers are used. Some good commercial models, made to appeal to fishermen, are greatly improved if the hair “frog legs” or “wings” are pruned a little.

Now I’ve spoken mainly about bugs that are worked noisily on the surface. For bass (usually not for salt water species) the very slowly worked bugs will take more fish and popping—or movement of any kind—may be unnecessary. However, the advantage of the true popping bug is that it can be worked silently if desired and then popped as loudly as you like. Soft hair lures have their place, of course, but aren’t really as versatile as poppers.

There are some special forms, such as the wide, flat bugs with the hook riding up for use in weedy waters. These are, of necessity, pretty big bugs or the hook would overturn them. Most of them are not 100 per cent certain of landing right side up and many have a slanting or planking bow surface to keep them from “dugging water” on the pickup. If they land upside down they can dig in deeply and lose up your cast. Nevertheless, they have their place in the woods.

Now popping bugs with wire weed guards have (Continued on next page)
For the many women who complain about their husbands spending so much time away from home hunting and fishing, the editor of this magazine tells one of water skiing. If you have skiing in your blood, this book will do something for you, Art Hutt."

By the by, Tom and Bill Clifford have recently had published one of the best books on water skiing. It is a fine book. It is published by Action Gram.

Mid-summer is heavy boating time in Florida. I think even more than winter. Everybody in the boating fraternity is going to be spending a lot of vacation hours on the briny, and all boat owners better check 'em out before undertaking any protracted cruises this summer.

(Continued on next page)
One of the rules covers engine compartment ventilation. Gasoline fumes are heavier than air and will collect in any confined space such as the bilge of a boat. While most outboards are open enough for natural air circulation to carry fumes away, the ventilation of closed spaces containing newer plants of fuel tank requires careful thought.

Traditionally, ventilating has been accomplished through air scoops and sheeted returns, usually two on each side of the boat. One is pointed forward and the other aft so the system will work regardless of wind direction. Also, the outlet scoop is usually located below the level of the intake scoop to minimize the possibility of emerging fumes being drawn back through the intake.

Some boat builders adopted the practice of installing the intake scoop on one side of the hull and the outlet on the opposite side, while others installed electric blowers to provide positive air flow. But, there was no standardization.

Beginning this summer, the Coast Guard will be checking boats for compliance with the new regulations dealing with engine and fuel compartment ventilation, and our own Florida Boating Council will be doing likewise. So, if your outboard has a tank in some confined location it must be vented.

It is a good idea to check out your rig with your nearest marine dealer and get his advice.

Outdoor style springs lever. Even for the small boot operator, there's room to "sleep on the job" when the fish aren't biting.

Outdoor style springs lever. Even for the small boot operator, there's room to "sleep on the job" when the fish aren't biting.

One of the nicest gals in the business dropped by not long ago. Carroll Norconk, who runs the Terra-Marina houseboat outfit, is planning to open several rental areas throughout the state. Carroll was by my bailiwick establishing contact s and setting up franchises, and by now or in the near future, you'll be able to rent one of her fine Terra Marine craft for a fair price. These boats make excellent vacation living quarters afloat, and about on the aqua at about 15 mph which is enough for a houseboat. . . . especially with hands who know little about the tricky handling of one of these craft.

Executive Director Fred B. Lifton of OBC said the Program was launched in response to reports that many boaters either forgot or never learned the fundamentals of safe boating. According to Lifton, the three-step program will go as follows:

1. Basic rules of the road, printed on adhesive-backed plastic tags, will be produced and distributed by OBC.
2. The tags will be made available to boat manufacturers. The manufacturers will place them aboard all new craft in a position visible to the operator, and
3. Supplies of the tags will also be made available to state boating agencies, the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U. S. Power Squadrons, boat clubs and other organizations for similar placement aboard boats already in use.

Comment: As usual with most programs instigated by OBC, this one has a lot of merit, but I seriously doubt if it will be 100% effective. First, I doubt that manufacturers will have a special process or routine established at their plants to see that these stickers are placed aboard. That's like asking General Motors or Chrysler to put a safety sticker sponsored by AAA on the windshield of every car they produced . . . you think they'd do it? Too, contacting every boat club in the country would be a monumental task. I doubt if there is a listing of all boat clubs in this country . . . I have never seen one if there is . . . and even if they were all contacted, you'd find mavericks who wouldn't have a sticker on his windshield for love or money.

It is a good idea and I wish OBC the best of luck with the program . . . they're gonna need it.

I predict this month of June will see a new high water mark in boat usage in Florida. All manufacturers in the state are far behind in orders and delivery, and the trend is moving higher each month. Boating has taken Floridians by storm in the past two years, and used boat yards are almost as busy as used car lots. New boats are being moved in unprecedented sales, and with Florida waterways being the most abundant in the nation, it is only natural that native Floridians take to the aqua. Not only that, but visitors to our shores are becoming more numerous every summer. No longer is Florida a boating mecca for winter-time skippers. No, there are more boatmen, particularly small boat captains, in Florida waters than in winter . . . This influx of boaters who are taking to our Florida waters increases adherence to water safety rules and regulations that have been established by the Coast Guard and our own Florida Boating Council. Just as in automobiles, boating accidents will naturally increase with the ever increasing number of boats on the water. Careful driving is even more important in boats than in an automobile. At least if you have a minor scrape in a car, you can get out and take a look at what happened. But so far in the history of mankind only one person has been able to walk on water. So heed your safety rules this summer!

Tasco Products, who come out with some very useful items throughout the year, has produced a new fuel connector block that enables boaters to perform safe, split-second switching of fuel to one or two engines from as many as three separate tanks without the danger of spilling volatile fuel in the boat.

Called "View-Flow," the versatile device is made of transparent plastic to permit the boat owner to actually see the flow of fuel.
If you haven't tried trotlining, don't knock it. You may find it both interesting and productive.

SET YOUR LINE FOR CATS

By ART HUTT

LIKE THE MAI said, trotlining surely must be one of the two oldest professions. But you don't have to go into the business to have fun with it.

And you don't have to feel degraded at putting out the long line with the dangling hooks.

I'd bet all the shad in a polished lake that your pulse will quicken when, by dawn's early light, you take hold of the main line and feel the tug of the unknown quantities hooked thereon.

What you might have on your hooks will depend upon where your setline is.

It could be a slim, fork-tailed channel cat or a slightly pudgy blue cat, a golden-bellied yellow-bellied butter cat; or a broad and stocky speckled cat. Or an animated pancake in the form of a soft-shelled snakehead. Or a pug-ugly mudfish.

You name it. You might catch it.

If you have a sporting license in your wallet, you can use up through 35 hooks with no other licensing necessary. Further trotline inducements, in addition to the thrills, are a dependable supply of highly edible fish flesh constantly on hand (why not stretch your grocery dollar?) plus the satisfaction of utilizing a fish that would otherwise go wasted.

And, trotlining affords a use for some of those extra plastic bleach bottles your wife may have been saving.

Simply put, a setline you could easily make consists of two ends and a middle. Stout lines at either end should have an anchor and a float. A half a concrete block or several sash weights will hold it in place. Keep them heavy enough so a set of catfish can't drag and foul the line unmercifully.

The middle, the line with the hooks, is tied between the two anchor-float pieces. The distance you tie them beneath the float will determine how deep your line will sink in the water.

Nylon seine twine is commonly used for setting. Most hardware stores carry it in different pound tests. Your main line can test anywhere over 18 pounds, your droppers over six. Commercial men usually dye these white lines green or brown to make them less noticeable to the fish. Whether you want a colored line or not will be up to you.

Catfish twist and turn when hooked so start off by tying swivels along your main line. Guage the length of each dropper line so that it won't contact its neighbor. If your droppers are a foot long, space them slightly over two feet apart. This will help you maintain your sanity when you run your line in the morning.

If you want, crimp a small split shot an inch or two above the hooks. It keeps the dropper lines hanging neatly.

Hook selection is important. Most beginners tend to use a too-large size, assuming that a cat's wide mouth will accommodate it. And that this fish feeds in huge gulps. Actually, pussycat philosophy runs contrary to this. Catfish twist and turn when hooked so start off by tying swivels along your main line. Guage the length of each dropper line so that it won't contact its neighbor. If your droppers are a foot long, space them slightly over two feet apart. This will help you maintain your sanity when you run your line in the morning.

Baits can be as varied as the offerings at a deluxe New York smorgasbord. Catfish have a good sense of smell, and do most of their feeding at night. They have seasonal preferences, but whatever you use, bait small for the nibblers.

Milo F. Bailey, Bassville Park, a commercial trotline fisherman for the past 23 years in Central Florida and who therefore knows a lot more about the subject than I do, suggests worms and grass shrimp as the two best year 'round baits.

Worms you know, but grass shrimp maybe not. These are transparent little creatures that live in underwater shoreline vegetation and which can be gathered by running a net through their home. They closely resemble the salt-water variety but are only one and one-half inches or less long. They make good speckled perch and bluegill bait, too.

Milo F. Bailey, Bassville Park, a commercial trotline fisherman for the past 23 years in Central Florida and who therefore knows a lot more about the subject than I do, suggests worms and grass shrimp as the two best year 'round baits.

Worms you know, but grass shrimp maybe not. These are transparent little creatures that live in underwater shoreline vegetation and which can be gathered by running a net through their home. They closely resemble the salt-water variety but are only one and one-half inches or less long. They make good speckled perch and bluegill bait, too.

These are transparent little creatures that live in underwater shoreline vegetation and which can be gathered by running a net through their home. They closely resemble the salt-water variety but are only one and one-half inches or less long. They make good speckled perch and bluegill bait, too.

(Continued on next page)
Shrimp per hook is sufficient. Put the barb through the tail and let it lodge in the head.

But if you don't want to mess with shrimp, try worms, using about one-half of a big one, pierced twice. Or, tiny cubes of beef heart, longhorn cheese, worms, using about one-half of a big one, pierced twice. Or, tiny cubes of beef heart, longhorn cheese, or a perfumed bath soap, like Camay. But if you don't want to mess with shrimp, try

FFSS tea.

is called for. For the best method at far right, you'll need a

The channel catfish holder, above, keeps hooks in place until extra line from tangling. Plastic bleach bottles make ideal floaters. Sharp dorsal or top fin, and pectoral or side fin, require careful handling of catfish so they can inflict painful wounds. For no-hand method of handling, right center, grip the hook firmly with pliers, shake all the catfish into a bucket. For the hand-method, or far right, grasp the catfish firmly, unsnapping the pectoral fin, with palm cradled over the head, and with the thumb either in front or behind the other side fin.

(Continued from preceding page)

Frankly, I wouldn't want to minimize the risk of a catfish spine in a finger, but I think I've been hurt more consistently by sharp-pointed bass. Knowing the catfish is semi-lethal engenders care.

If you want to get a good hold on a catfish, slip your index and second fingers over its side (pectoral) fin, arch your palm to clear the top (dorsal) spine, and place your thumb just ahead of or back of its other side fin. Tighten your grasp, and you have Mr. Cat where you want him.

Maybe you can figure out something fancier but when I take up my trotline, I use a sturdy piece of cardboard with 25 inch-apart slices cut down into the edge to a one-half inch depth—one for each hook. As you pick the line up, put a hook in each slice and let the extra line drape below. Later, I place an equal size piece of cardboard over it and clip them together with clothespins. The hooks and twine are held firmly, with no tangling.

Then I stick the bleach bottles in a cardboard box (after untwisting the heavy anchors), drop the hook unit in with them and it is ready to be stored or reused.

Most people don't like to clean catfish. For my part, I'd rather skin than scale, and with one of those special skin-holding pliers sold at sporting goods stores, skinning presents no big problem. Use a sharp knife to make a shallow cut around your catfish is semi-lethal engenders care.

ample to the fine catfish senses.

For my part, I've used worms, beef heart, and small dead shad—cut. Regardless of the latter, rule-book says "no whole fish may be used" so even though these sair are small, I make sure a head or tail is missing, and one of the boys in green is watching from the bushes.

But, as stated, be sparing with your catfood. Offer them cubes of meat or soap in one-fourth inch sizes, and keep other baits correspondingly small.

You have your trotline, you know the baits, now, where are you going to put it for some results? If you live on the water or have a fish boat on a trailer, you have it made. Otherwise you'll have to turn to a waterfront friend, or make some arrangement with a camp operator about the use of a boat in the evening and in the morning.

Experiment to find the best spot. In general, springwise, most catfish will be nosing around in the shallows. Butter cats always like water "close to the hill," as Bailey puts it, but the other species are more inclined to be poking around in the deeper water come summer.

Stretch your line across the openings to small coves, along lily pads and cypress trees (especially good for channels), and close to bullrushes. With no luck there, work out towards deeper water.

A favored spot of mine is down the shore where the depth goes from 3 to 12 feet in a hurry. Placed along the edge of the ledge, I can usually count on one catfish for every five hooks. And that isn't bad. I let my baited hooks lay on the bottom. If I'd want to keep them up higher, I'd space one or two more bleach, bottles along the line. But the bottom formula works for me so I stick with it.

Bailey tells me he operates anywhere from the bottom up to three feet below the surface. It is just a matter of experimenting.

When you run your line, take along a pair of pliers, a bucket (you won't need a washtub), and a net. You can grasp each catfish-loaded hook with the pliers and literally shake the fish off into the bucket. Use the net on lightly hooked or big specimens.
Small, and rather insignificant in appearance, the band or clasp attached to various species of wildlife provides important research information.

## The Wildlife Tag

A strip of metal or a piece of plastic may forecast the future of hunting and fishing in Florida. While they may appear insignificant, these little items are of great importance to the people that would manage the fish and wildlife resources of the sunshine state.

These metal and plastic objects may take the shape of a flat strip or it may form a ring. Regardless of the shape or size it is the tagging system used to identify wildlife and fish. It may be a band on the leg of a dove or duck, or a tag in the lip of a bass, on the back of an alligator or ear of a deer.

The marking of wildlife as a means for the study of their movements is not a new development and can be traced back more than 200 years. It was, however, until the closing years of the nineteenth century that systematic banding received serious attention. At that time a Danish school teacher began to mark storks, teals, starlings and two or three different kinds of hawks.

In North America, following a few private and bird club efforts, an organization known as the American Bird Banding Association was formed in New York in 1909. This association carried on banding in both the United States and Canada until 1920 when the work was taken over by the U. S. Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture which later was consolidated into the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Data resulting from the banding of ducks and geese were the basis for the formation of the various flyways referred to in waterfowl research and regulations and is the foundation for the present concept of waterfowl management within the different flyways.

Fish tags, those little metal clips in a fish's jaw, furnish invaluable data to fisheries biologist when returned by the fisherman. Rate of growth, natural mortality, fishing success and other vital information can be determined from these tag returns.

A tagged fish can be a vital link in fish management research, or it can be a fish dinner, the choice belongs to the fisherman.

When a fisherman catches a fish with a tag the entire fish should be saved for the examination of the biologist otherwise much valuable information will be lost. When a fish is captured and tagged it is also identified, weighed and measured. The fish may be released at the site of its capture or it may be transported to another body of water for release.

This information is recorded and later compared with the fisherman's prize as each individual fish is identified by the numbered tag.

The banding of waterfowl, or any species of bird, has evolved into more than a means for the study of their migratory movements. Knowledge of other factors of their life, such as mortality, location of wintering and breeding grounds, spread of disease, and population densities, is increased. It is also of interest to the sportsman who shoots a banded duck or goose to know when and where the bird has been banded. For instance, by turning in the band from a Lesser Scaup, one hunter in Trenton, Ontario, knew his duck had been banded in St. Petersburg, Florida, nearly thirteen years before he shot it. One hunter in Tallahassee shot a ring-neck duck that had been banded the previous year on the same

(Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

lake, and another hunter in Daytona Beach, Florida, found that the two banded Blue-Winged Teal banded at the same time in Illinois had moved only six miles. This study of banded pen-reared quail indicated that winters in Florida. A major part of this study is based on the number of released birds that were captured and transported to a new range thirty miles away.

level. The bands recovered as a result of the Commission's program of releasing wild trapped turkeys is significant when compared with the results from Florida's turkey hatchery program (which was terminated in 1953). Of the thousands of birds that were pen-reared and released under the turkey hatchery program, not a single band was ever recovered.

The value of the numbered metal or plastic strip is not always measured in the number of bands or tags recovered. Of equal value is the fact that in some instances bands are not recovered. At one time many states were engaged in a very costly operation of producing pen-reared quail for release on public hunting areas. The study of these pen-reared quail consisted of banding the birds and obtaining returns of bands from hunters during the hunting season. This gave some indication of survival after release.

This study of banded pen-reared quail indicated that the survival of such birds after release is very low. They are unable to adjust themselves to a wild existence. Kentucky found that 72% of the birds released disappeared within two months after release and that 92% disappeared within five months. An average only 1.21% of the banded birds were ever recovered. On average it cost about $78 to rear and release a quail and if only 1.21% are killed by hunters, the cost of every released bird shot jumps to $57.85.

Deer also carry numbered identification tags and these are either metal or plastic ear tags. Recent developments in tagging and banding wildlife indicate the plastic tags remain with the animal for a longer period of time; the metal tags were often torn from the animal’s ear by brush or other objects.

In 1965, one hundred white tail deer were trapped in Louisiana and released in Florida. During the 1966 hunting season four of these deer were recovered in the Florida Everglades where they were released. One of the tagged Louisiana deer was released and recovered in St. Johns County only a few miles from its point of release.

Deer trapped on the Eglin Air Force Reservation have been tagged and released at various points in the state but one interesting fact remains that untested the deer is transported a considerable distance it will return to its home range. Deer trapped on Eglin and transported to a new range thirty miles away have returned to their home range to be retrapped within several days. One buck deer trapped at Eglin and released at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City was recovered when it apparently drowned in an attempt to swim St. Andrews Bay in an endeavor to return to its home range.

The little numbered strip of metal placed around the leg of trapped mourning dove revealed that among other things a tremendous concentration of dove generally appeared briefly in west Florida during October. Banding activities showed that an appreciable percentage of these birds moved rapidly to the southern part of the state, especially to Dade, Broward and Monroe counties. In order to allow an equal chance of hunting in all areas of the state, the split season was established.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is presently engaged in an extensive study of the Canada goose in an effort to build the population that winters in Florida. A major part of this study is based on the number of released birds that were captured and transported to a new range thirty miles away.

either plastic or metal ear tags are used for marking deer. The development of lightweight and durable plastic tags may serve better than metal ones. Numbered bands, right, have furnished valuable information to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's wild turkey management program. Band returns reveal the success of the turkey trapping and relocation work and pointed out the failure of the turkey hatchery program, discontinued back in 1953.
HUNT
or
FISH
?
By GEORGE RUSSELL

A mixed up trio solves a perennial
problem with a mixed bag outing

Those of us lucky enough to live in the Sunshine
State and enjoy the great Florida outdoors have
some awfully complicated problems.

Decisions, decisions! For instance how do you
look a loyal bird dog in the eye when the hunting
season is just beginning or ending and the symptoms
of bass fever are throbbing in your veins?

Thor of Kinghill, a five year old English pointer
with a nimble nose and a patient tolerance of my
lousy shooting, considers the mere thought of a
bass fishing trip during hunting season heresy.

It happens every spring and fall. With the
approach of the equinox, my hunting enthusiasm
wanes and turns to thoughts of surface plugs. Mild
opening days in the fall find my bass fever still
way up there, but loyalty to Thor forces me out in
the field, blasting away at the air between escaping
quail.

Now, it's bad enough for a grown man to be led
around by a bird dog, but with buddies like mine
the conflicts get ever more complex.

Enter Ernie Lee, for whom life is the bass fishing
time between his WTVT television shows, and who
deliberately keeps his shotguns in-operative in the
hope that infrequent quail hunts will degenerate
into fishing forays. Like Thor, Ernie has a one track
mind, but he points ponds.

Hardy Bryan is ambidextrous, and is a well-
rounded sportsman, as his pictures indicate. He leans
towards hunting, though, and his vote, plus my
weakness, tip the scales in Thor's favor when its
time for decisions.

A summit conference at the crack of dawn on a
February morn resulted in an unusual master plan.
The result was a double purpose outing which
produced a pan full of fishy quail, and bass fillets
with a distinct gamey flavor. The day had some of
the aspects of a Keystone comedy, but we all came
home happy.

We had checked into Riverside Villas with the
idea of removing some lunker largemouths from
their beds in the headwaters of the scenic Homosassa
River. We brought Thor along for the ride, but his
discontent lengthened into manic depression, and
the idea of a carefully planned fishing-hunt was
born.

Ernie, outnumbered, gave in ungraciously, and we
headed south for the Hernando-Pasco line, where
rolling hills of good cover are studded with chal-
genning ponds. Previous hunts had turned up good
coveys, and Ernie and I have found the ponds
productive under favorable conditions. The plan
was to systematically hunt the ridges between ponds,
and to rest Thor while we worked each pond over
thoroughly, each with different favorite lures.

The system broke down when the first pond
came into view. We were quite a cast of characters.
Standing on the tailgate, I cast a watchful eye on
Ernie, casting through the scrub oaks. Ernie cast a
longing eye on the mile distant pond, and dreamed
of casting. Hardy remained staunch in his cast-iron
determination to kill some birds. Just then, Thor
froze on a staunch point.

Hardy and I placed Ernie's 20-gauge double in his
hands and led him gently out of pond-view to the
immobile pointer. Ernie came out of his trance as
Thor went deeper into his, and we advanced on
the covey. I felt my usual thrill of dog-pride. I have
never done anything to warrant any shoot-pride,
so dog-pride is the extent of my hunting enjoyment.

The sky turned black. Hardy swung his Win-
chester and dropped a handsome cock bird on a
wide end run. I polluted the atmosphere with num-
ber 8 shot, carefully placed, as usual, to inflict no
harm on the little winged creatures. From Ernie's
old double came a harmless "click."

We checked over the gun, and found the firing
pin to be hopelessly defective in the right barrel.
The safety worked not at all. If Ernie was disap-
pointed, he concealed it well with what appeared
to be a sly smile. We knew what was coming—
"Might as well go fishing."

There was no hope for singles, as the birds flew
straight into the heart of a swamp. Ernie broke into
a broad smile as we headed in the direction of the
backwater pond. Thor resumed his figure eights
ahead of the Jeep.

Ernie was halfway out of the Jeep, spinning rod
in hand, when Thor again froze at the edge of the
hammock bordering the pond. I exchanged my Moss-
berg pump for his rod, telling him I wanted to take
pictures, and he and Hardy moved in. Thor never
flinched but the wild birds got up prematurely. It
was tough shooting and Hardy missed as they fled
into the hammock. Ernie dropped a hen with a

(Continued on next page)
splendid long shot right into the Spanish moss, and Thor plunged in for a fast retrieve.

If I could shoot as well as Ernie, I'd be all hunter. Ernie's marked skills are a hangover from his Kentucky days before his Florida bass compulsion psychosis set in.

The guns went into Hardy's hod-rack, and off came three fishing rods before you could say "John Alden Knight." Hardy sailed his frog finish flex spoon over the pond and was fast to a scrappy three pound bass before either of us wet a line. Ernie and I enjoy surface plugging, but when he's out for poundage, the disposition of a Lancashire has a lot of patience with a big black rubber worm. Last summer, he collected about 33 pounds of battling largemouth in just three ponds with the wigglers, and he's sold it on for the tackle-busters. He also lost a world's record (I saw it!) on that worm, but that's another story, and Ernie's taking a bad enough beating in this yarn.

Hardy caught fish as if there were nothing to it, including an outside crappie, unusual on a spoon. I picked up a few on my special. They nuzzled contentedly on the bank at my feet, twitching in the midst of quail-dreams. Ernie slowly, grimly, and methodically worked the worm with no results. Characteristically, he was not one whit discouraged when we decided to move on.

It was a clear, crisp, beautiful day. By two o'clock, we had covered four lakes and many acres of cover. We added feathers and fins to the unusual string at a non-spectacular pace, enjoying a leisurely lunch, and drinking in the natural beauty of the area.

From two to three, we pounded the surface and plumbed the depths of a highly unproductive, grassy pond. Hardy and I stepped in his bliss, and as we rolled away he was oblivious about 35 pounds of battling largemouth in just three days before his Florida bass compulsion psychosis set in.

Our thoughts turned to Ernie, back on the pond, and I saw a mental picture of the huge string of bass he would have by now. I suppressed a twinge of regret about not remaining to share the action.

As we came over the hill, the surface shimmered below us, and the bronzed musician was nowhere in sight.

This worried us a little, because Ernie would never walk away from hitting fish, and I had envisioned him as knocking 'em dead all afternoon. We found him napping at the foot of a pine tree, with just three bass on his string. "They quit right after you left," he reported. "I threw everything in the box at them." I was ashamed of my feeling of relief.

The sun was staging its daily color spectacular as the pleasant varied day had made its setting of bag limits, and establishing open and closed seasons for fresh water fishing and hunting, on a statewide, regional, or local basis, as it may find to be appropriate, and to regulate the manner and method for taking indicated species of wildlife.

Members of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are not professional wildlife conservation employees, but Florida businessmen, sportsmen, hunters and fishermen. The five man commission employs a specialized staff of professional wildlife conservationists to carry out policies and programs as established, and to provide professional advice for all related wildlife requirements.
Harold W. Ashley
Central Florida Region
(Third Conservation District)

You cannot tell much about a man by the kind of tobacco he smokes or by the way he combs his hair, but when you turn into the cattlegap entrance to Ashland Ranch, you immediately begin to char-acterize Harold W. Ashley.

Ashland Ranch is located one mile east of Melrose, Florida, in Putnam County, off State Road 28. Driving south on the ranch road you see tall pines, scrub oak, citrus trees, improved pasture and registered polled herefords, all of which have been well cared for.

The Ashley home is a rambling log structure overlooking Lake Ashland. Harold and Mrs. Ashley, the former Jewett Gwin of Louisville, Kentucky, moved from Jacksonville in 1959 and started build- ing and developing the Ashland Ranch.

Ashley was born in Kentucky, June 30, 1910. He attended public schools in Kentucky and received his formal education at the University of Kentucky. He moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1935.

While in Jacksonville, Ashley devoted much of his time to civic and fraternal organizations. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, life member of the Jacksonville Junior Chamber of Commerce and served as president of this organization; past director of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce; life member of the Florida Tackle and Gun Club; a member of the River Club and San Jose Country Club.

A 32 Degree Mason, he is a member of Scottish Rite Bodies, Shrine Morocco Temple, a member of the Royal Order of Jesters and Ye Mystic Revelers. He is a member of the National Sheriff's Association, Florida Sheriff's Association; Izaak Walton League of America; Navy League; Third Army Ad- visory Committee and a Lt. Col. (Ret.) in the Civil Air Patrol. He is a member of Faith Presbyterian Church of Melrose.

His many interests keep him away from the ranch most of the time. He and Mrs. Ashley often travel together but when at home, she can send a coded signal on the large ship's bell in the yard and he will appear promptly. The bell is a gift of the U.S. Kimberly, a World War II Liberty Ship.

During a tour of the ranch house, Ashley will show an elaborate two-way radio base station which he uses for civil air patrol communication. The guns rack and rifles along the wall display shotguns, rifles, handguns, firearms, sportsman's guns and a ball casting tackle, all showing they have been used in pursuit of game and fish. There are also reloading loads for ammunition.

In the recreation room there is a huge display of Indian artifacts including bird points, arrowheads, spearheads and stone hatchets. Mounted specimens of birds and fish hang on the walls and a mounted rattlesnake lies ready and waiting near his fireplace.

Outside there is farm machinery, a complete ma-chine shop with a number of dogs, and assorted farm buildings. He has breeding pens, incubators, rearing pens and holding pens for quail. He raises and releases about 4,000 quail per year to maintain a private shooting preserve for quail.

Ashley was appointed to serve as Commissioner of the Fifth District for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in 1951.

Ashley is a member of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce and served as its president in 1964–55. He served as a director and was president of the Choctawhatchee–Pea River Improvement Association, once a very active Florida-Alabama stream and channel improvement body.

The Wines are members of the First Methodist Church of DeFuniak Springs, where he has served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

While Commissioner Wise’s greatest accomplishments have been in the fishing improvement field, his earliest notable achievement was the initiation of correspondence that led to the establishment of Telogia Creek Wildlife Management Area in Gads-den and Liberty Counties. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the St. Regis Wildlife Man- agement Area in Escambia County.

Although he is proud to admit that he was instru
McBroom has made many contributions to hunting, fishing, and wildlife conservation. At a young age, he was surprised to find his name in The Florida Wildlife magazine in 1955. He has been active in the field, serving as a member of the Florida Wildlife Federation and the Florida Wildlife Commission. His contributions have been recognized by the Florida Conservationist of the Year Award in 1989.

In 1990, McBroom was honored with the Florida Conservationist of the Year Award. This award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the conservation and management of natural resources in Florida. McBroom has been a strong advocate for the protection of natural resources and has worked to ensure that future generations will have access to the same opportunities he has enjoyed.

McBroom has also been involved in various conservation organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation and the National Association of Counties. He has served on the boards of both organizations and has been an active member in their efforts to promote conservation and reduce pollution.

McBroom has been a strong advocate for the preservation of natural resources and has actively worked to protect them. His contributions have helped to ensure that future generations will have access to the same opportunities he has enjoyed. He has been an active member of conservation organizations and has worked to promote conservation and reduce pollution.

McBroom was a strong advocate for the preservation of natural resources and has actively worked to protect them. His contributions have helped to ensure that future generations will have access to the same opportunities he has enjoyed. He has been an active member of conservation organizations and has worked to promote conservation and reduce pollution.
### MUZZLE FLASHES

**Skite ranges are ideal field training grounds in preparation for the bird hunting seasons**

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

**Trapshooting and Skeet, as shotgun sports, are quickly establishing nationwide. Almost every sizeable community now has one or more trap or Skeet shooting fields—often both, but generally operating at the same club range.**

Shooting is done over official fields of exacting physical specifications. Also, national associations formulate basic programs and make the governing rules for sanctioned shoots, whether local affairs or national tournaments.

The two shotgun sports are quite different, however.

In trapshooting, squads of five shooters fire from five adjacent positions in a crescent-shaped formation 16 or more yards (depending on the competitive classification used) behind a traphouse from which clay pigeons are thrown at an initial velocity of around 90 feet per second. The clays usually sail from 48 to 52 yards from the traphouse, losing velocity and altitude very quickly, once released.

An oscillating, electrically controlled thrower may formulate basic programs and make the governing rules for sanctioned shoots, whether local affairs or national tournaments.

The skeet shooter is a young sport, and the only similarity to trapshooting is that a squad of five shooters each fire a round of 25 shots at thrown clay pigeons.

The skeet field represents a semi-circle, with eight stations for shooting. A trap house is located at each end. One is known as "the high house" and the other as "the low house." The high house is located close to shooting station No. 1; the low house is close to station No. 7. Targets thrown from either of the traps always follow their own established pattern of flight, but the angle of shooting varies as the shooter moves around the half circle and fires from each of the numbered positions.

Station No. 8 is the middle point of a straight line drawn between stations 1 and 7 of the half circle. Released targets take a straight flight course between the two stations.

In a round of Skeet, two targets are shot from each of eight stations—one from each traphouse. Doubles, where crossing targets are thrown, simultaneously from both traphouses, are shot from stations 1, 2, 6, and 7. The 25th shot is called "optional," for it is a repeat of the shooter's first miss.

Skeet targets come sailing past the gun at all angles—just as in hunting. You have to make quick decisions and coordinate aiming eye and gun handling. Neat footwork plays a part, too.

Finally, the same shotgun that is used for field hunting can be used for a round of Skeet, although the serious skeet shooter may want a slightly more refined weapon made expressly for the sport. Light, fast pumps and autoloaders, with selective choke device at the end of a barrel no longer than 26 inches overall, are common among Skeet shooters. Barrel boring or selective choke attachment setting is often open side—seldom tighter than Improved Cylinder. Skeet targets come sailing past the gun at all angles—just as in hunting. You have to make quick decisions and coordinate aiming eye and gun handling. Neat footwork plays a part, too.

Despite the fact that the Skeet range is an ideal field training ground for Fall bird shooting, there are many shotgunners who avoid the sport because—at least on first tries—they generally do not show up well as performers.

This knowledge calls for firing a series of shot patterns and seeing how a round of Skeet is scored, as well as studying scores of the field training ground for Fall bird shooting, there are many shotgunners who avoid the sport because—at least on first tries—they generally do not show up well as performers.

Studies have shown that a great many of these shotgunners do not understand basic principles of skeet shooting, and the shotgunner knows exactly where his gun delivers the shot pattern in relation to point of aim. The shotgunner knows exactly where his gun delivers the shot pattern in relation to point of aim. This knowledge calls for firing a series of shot patterns and seeing how a round of Skeet is scored, as well as studying scores of the field training ground for Fall bird shooting, there are many shotgunners who avoid the sport because—at least on first tries—they generally do not show up well as performers.

**Beginners at Skeet tend to find themselves embarrassingly slow at gun pointing and gun swinging, and their final scores ludicrously low. However, a determined shooter will learn fast; after a few rounds of Skeet and analysis of his hits and misses, he will find his shooting eye has sharpened, along with his accurate pointing speed and gun swinging. More important, his gun will become smoother. He will surely be a better shot, come Fall hunting.**

**Trap, Skeet or upland gunning, it is important that the shotgunner know exactly where his gun delivers the shot pattern in relation to point of aim.**

**A pattern test range can usually be safely tucked in some corner of an already established trap or Skeet range, or located parallel to it. All that is needed is a narrow firing course 40 yards long, with an earth embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame.**

While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame. While it is customary to pattern shotguns on large sheets of paper tacked on wood frames, far better results are obtained by using large S-hooks attached to a length of pipe placed across two 4 x 4 wood uprights. For a shooting point, a small circle or square of metal can be bolted to another upright or an earthen embankment, or improvised safety backstop, behind the fired-on target frame.
At 40 yards from gun there is no danger of shot bouncing back from the hanging plate and hitting shooter or spectators. This type of shotgun pattern—target bears National Rifle Association safety approval.

Very little expense is entailed in the simple construction, and the availability of a shotgun pattern—range will prove an added attraction for a club. Where some 12 and 20 gauge shotguns are owned by a shooter, or found among members of a family, there is always dangerous possibility that one day a 20 gauge shell will get mixed with some of 12 gauge size and be loaded ahead of a normal 12 gauge shell during the excitement of a hunt, or simply through oversight. This is an easy mistake to make, and a very dangerous one!

Being much smaller then the chamber of a 12 gauge shotgun, an inadvertently loaded 20 gauge shell will slip right through the 12 gauge's chamber and forward into the barrel until its rim lodges and stops it a few inches ahead of the chamber. In such position the unfired 20 gauge shell is like a sleeping bomb. If, by chance, a 12 gauge shell is inserted in the gun and fired with the loaded 20 gauge shell ahead of it, the result will be like exploding a small charge of dynamite. Even the best made and strongest of gun and fired with the loaded 20 gauge shell ahead of a normal 12 gauge shell will turn the unfired 20 gauge shell is like a sleeping bomb.

As far back as the 1920's, I was urging shotgunners to be extremely careful about segregating shells of 12 and 20 gauge sizes. Then, I recommended that two different brands of shotshell with their own distinctive color shell tubes be used, the shotgunner religiously purchasing 20 gauge shells in one chosen color and 12 gauge shells in another.

Where there was a strong personal preference for a single brand of shotgun shell, with the same color tube for both 12 and 20 gauge, I suggested that a band of contrasting fingernail polish be painted around the smaller 20 gauge shells for quick glance identification.

Now, for your safety and convenience Federal Cartridge Corporation, manufacturer of Federal-brand sporting arms ammunition, is color-coding its shotgun shells according to gauge, so that there is no chance of a mix-up except through Simple Simon carelessness.

All Federal 12 gauge shells, whether field loads or Magnum, henceforth will have red plastic cases; shells of 16 gauge will be purple, while those of 20 gauge size will have bright yellow tubes.

If you are already a Federal ammunition user, the color-coding means that from now on you will have an added safety factor built in your shotshells, so long as you stick to that one brand and memorize the color coding.

Incidentally, Federal is now making a "Live Pigeon Shell Load," as used in international live pigeon shoots. Shot sizes No. 7¹/₄, No. 8, and No. 9 can be had. This particular shell loading, especially in versatile No. 7¹/₄ shot sizes, makes an excellent field load for the upland game hunter.

Shotgunning, with its required fast gun handling and balanced forehand, constitutes excellent between hunting season's practice for the upland game quacker.

Nature's Restocking Season

Spring is the time when nature begins to replenish her own. Fields and forest that appear barren in winter usually come alive with the sight and sound of wildlife during the summer. The determination to recreate is especially strong among certain members of Florida's wild kingdom, and this determination is an important factor in wildlife being able to meet the demands of the sportsmen.

Wildlife biologists maintain close watch during spring and summer on the family habits of both fish and game, as successful reproduction usually means successful hunting and fishing. Early failure to reproduce does not necessarily mean poor hunting or fishing since many wild creatures seem to follow a slogan of "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

With quail, it's a matter of determination and in the event the first eggs are destroyed, the birds will continue to nest until late in the summer, or until they are successful in bringing off a brood. The cock remains with the hen during incubation and should the hen be prevented from completing the job the cock will take over the nesting as well as raising the young.

Reproduction with dove is a continuing process and while the quail nest usually contains only two eggs they hatch in about thirteen days and the young are ready to leave the nest in about twelve days. As soon as the young leave home, nesting activity is resumed and the cycle continues until later in the fall.

Wild turkeys are not listed among the determined and if the first nesting is not successful, "to heck with it" and try again next year. The gobbler is a poor father that never assists with the nesting or raising the young.

Ducks and geese are determined groups and if the first nesting is not successful they will try again. With ducks, the drake seldom assists with the raising or raising the young. The drake, however, is most of a family man and is always present to lend a helping hand, both in guarding the nest and in caring for the goslings.

Fishermen should know that it's the male that does most of the house keeping in the bass family.

The larger animals show less determination to recreate than the small. Florida's black bear produce young only during alternate years and generally produce single fawns every year. Florida fawns arrive throughout the year with a peak from January through April in South Florida and continuing through August and September in Northwest Florida.

The population turnover in small animals and birds is high, and only through nature's designs is wildlife able to supply the demands of the sportsmen. Of course, the sportsman can give nature a helping hand by protecting the wildlife crop during the closed season and by helping maintain suitable wildlife habitat and conditions.
part of the multiple-use philosophies as passed by Congress, which means private citizens and industries have been advocating.

For a basis of evaluation the Fish and Wildlife Service wetland classifications were used; seasonally flooded basins, open water, shrub swamps, shallow marshes, deep marshes, open water, shrub swamps, bogs, lakes and streams. Another step toward estimating the potential was to assemble information on seasonal waterfowl use for the different types of wetlands. In the end, the real measure of value can only be assessed by whether the waterfowl make use of these areas.

As Jerry Stoudt of the Fish and Wildlife Service has pointed out, "During the drought of the 1930's there is no doubt but that the shore nesting of waterfowl went on. The wetland containing 30,000 acres of wetlands in the Chipewa will become even more suitable. The Chippewa will become even more productive of increased impoundments, more suitable habitat for furbearers, substantial improvement in fish spawning grounds, and even places of isolation for the bald eagle. Specifically, on the importance of the state side economic side is the production of wild rice, which today is a million dollar annual business on the Chipewa. This can also be expanded.

So here we have the U. S. Forest Service in cooperation with another Federal agency and the State embarking on an action program. It is extremely encouraging when public employees without a blare of trumpets will go ahead, more or less on their own, and create new potential on the land. And the land is the most important factor in the whole scheme of conservation effort. This will produce more ecological benefits on one small area of the continent than much speech-making from a podium. It be-hooves Federal and State agencies to look around and see what can be accomplished within the multiple-use pattern in their own communities.

An initial inventory consisted of mapping, measuring and classifying the wetlands on 642,138 acres of National Forest land and plans survey 671,649 acres of private land within the Forest are now complete. It was found that 130,141 acres of forestland or 24% could be considered wetlands. In addition, there are 325,513 acres of lake area, 10 acres or larger within the Forest. There are 50,000 acres of wetlands in the Chipewa National Forest which can be improved for waterfowl and over 1,000 miles of stream. About 59% of the wetlands containing surface water were occupied by waterfowl in 1965. Duckling yield is based on 50% nesting success and an average brood of six.

Other accumulative benefits could well be impressive in re-tarding runoff and helping flood control, in fire prevention because of increased impoundments, more suitable habitat for furbearers, substantial improvement in fish spawning grounds, and places of isolation for the bald eagle. Specifically, on the immediate state side economic side is the production of wild rice, which today is a million dollar annual business on the Chipewa. This can also be expanded.

Nature Notes

The Butterfly Was Originally Called The Flutterby

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

20 salt water specimens to the State Board of Conservation. A summary compiled recently showed that fish populations now stand at $4,600 for 151 returns, $3 from salt and 98 from fresh water.

Rewards for tagged fish released annually since 1961 range from $25 to $300, graduated by the length of the fish. There have been at large and their research values. Derby fish released in 1961 bring $500; in '62, $200; in '63, $100; in '64, $50; and in '65, $25. The event is open free to the public throughout the state all this year. Fish must be caught with hook and line and in compliance with state fishing regulations.

Rewards are claimed by returning fish with tags intact to a Schiltz wholesaler for delivery to the state laboratories.

Gator Hunting Costly

The illegal killing of alligators recently cost two men in Gilchrist County a total of $650 fine, confiscation of their gun and light, loss of hunting privileges, plus $550 for tag and two years probation, according to Major Bob Brantly, regional manager for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Brantly said Wildlife Officers Bob Phillips and Dave Mathewson apprehended Sammy Stephens and John Will, of Bell, on the night of April 7, with two alligators in the Gilchrist Refuge. The men were charged with illegal possession of alligators, possession of a light gun and gun at night taking wildlife, and possession of a gun in a refuge. Both men had previously been arrested for game violations.

Arraigned before Gilchrist County Judge Miller Lang on April 8, both men pleaded guilty to all charges and in addition, Brantly said, was fined $500 and placed on probation for two years; Aderhold was fined $150 and given 18 months probation.

W. B. Copeland, Chairman of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, commented: "This is the type of cooperation expected from our courts if we are to deter habitual game violators. If all courts would give serious consideration to game and fish cases, the number of violations would be greatly reduced."

Beloved Animal Classics

When Ernest Thompson Seton's collections of true animal stories were first published, critics hailed them as among the very finest animal tales ever written. Wild Animals I Have Known and Animal Heroes still stand as masterpieces after almost three-quarters of a century. Now published by Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., in an attractive new format, these matched editions are illustrated in color with hundreds of the author's own pen-and-ink drawings.

Ernest Thompson Seton was a man who, in an age of sweeping mechanization, had loved the natural world, its seasons and its creatures, with rare intensity and an unusual power to communicate his vision to others. Born in England in 1860, he spent his boyhood in the Canadian backwoods, worked as a government naturalist in Manitoba, and later came to the United States, where he lived on the Western plains and eventually settled in Arizona.
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 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 citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDFIRESHIP CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fl.

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

Name (please print): ____________________________
Address: ___________________________________
City: _______________________________________ State: __________
Species: _____________________________ Weight: _________ Length: _________
Type of Tackle: _____________________________
Bait or Lure Used: ___________________________

Where Caught: _____________________________
Date Caught: _____________________________
Catch Witnessed By: _______________________
Registered, Weighed By: ____________________

(Signature of Applicant)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS 6 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM) 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST 1 pound or larger

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

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

Florida Wildlife
The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of Hunting and Fishing for only $2.50
TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, $4.75
THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, $6.25

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida
Enter or extend my subscription for ______ year(s) for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.
☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order herewith.
Mailing Address:
Name __________________________
Street No. _____________________
City __________________________ State ___________ Zip Code ________

When sending change of address or inquiring about subscription, please include address impression from most recent copy you have received. To insure delivery of all copies, changes of address should be mailed as soon as possible.