Tl-IE FLORIDA OWL FAMILY

NIGHT IN SIZE TO THE HORNED OWL LENGTH TO 24 INCHES, WINGSPREAD TO 50 INCHES. LIVES IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE IN PINE WOODS, SHARP FORESTS, PRAIRIE HAMMOCKS, AND WOODS. BREEDING HABITATS ARE Fясь PINEY WOODS AND WOODS.

IS THE ONLY LARGE OWL WITH EAR TUFTS OR "HORNS." VOICE - 4 TO 7 HOOTS NOT ENDING WITH "AW."}

LARGEST FLORIDA OWL. LENGTH TO 2.5 INCHES, WITH WINGSPREAD UP TO 60 INCHES. LIVES IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE IN PINE WOODS, SWAMP FORESTS, PRAIRIE HAMMOCKS, AND WOODS. ROARING MARSHS. HAS FIERCE YELLOW EYES AND IS THE ONLY LARGE OWL WITH "HORNS." VOICE - NEARLY ALWAYS A SERIES OF 8 HOOTS ENDING WITH "AW."}

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The Cover

With tufts of feathers atop their head, the Screech Owl appears to have ears or horns. In the eastern part of the country they (either sex) appear in two different colors—reddish brown or gray. See page 22.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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Tallahassee, Florida

ROSE TALLAHASSEE

JANUARY, 1969
**Wildlife Officer Notes**

**ARREST REPORT**

**FISHING CHANGES**

It is time to get ready for early spring fishing during the largemouth bass spawning season—and river shad fishing that is already underway.

By Charles Waterman

In some areas spawning beds are easily located, being in very shallow water and well cleared out into light patches, and some fishermen feel that's the only kind of water in which they can take advantage of Mama and Papa Bream during the egg season.

But the spawning program includes heavy feeding before the eggs are actually deposited, and pre­spawners can be caught some distance from the eventual nests. Nearby grass flats are likely to hold extra fish as spawning time approaches. In central and south Florida the spawning influence is strongly felt from around January 1, to sometime in April and this is the best time for record fish.

Location of fish during the spawning and pre­spawning season takes careful prospecting. One fine bass fisherman I knew missed out on a lot of fishing because his investigations were too brief and too infrequent. His system in checking a grass flat was to simply run his outboard across it and watch for the swirls of scammed bass ahead and to the sides. If there were no swirls he figured the fish weren't there, and he wouldn't check it again for a week. At no time during this checkup would he be more than 300 yards from deeper water and it probably never occurred to him that the fish could be on and off that flat with a few swishes of their tails.

The flats he generally checked probably didn't have many beds as I think that bottom was too muddy, but a lot of big pre-spawners would get out there at intervals before going on the beds altogether.

My friend would simply say, "The bass are on the flats," or "The bass aren't on the flats yet." He'd base his observation on a single brief tour of the area. I have found the fish move on and off the shallows frequently and it takes a daily check to learn if they're present. Water temperature has a lot to do with that, the shallows warming up faster and cooling down faster. In January, February and March you may have to suspend the rules where morning and evening feeding periods are concerned as the chances are the fish are seeking warmer rather than cooler water over most of Florida.

For what it is worth, I have caught more pre­spawners on artificially around 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. on grass flats. This doesn't discount the importance of tidal tables or weather changes. It's just happened that way for me through the years.

Some months back I stuck my neck out with incomplete information. At the time I had talked to some employees of power plants along Florida rivers and they were being harassed by sportsmen who thought thermal pollution from the plants was detrimental to fishing.

Thermal pollution is a fairly new term to many conservationists, simply meaning the excessive warming of fish habitat by artificial means.

The plants in question had a very minor effect upon water temperatures and probably no measure (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

Trolling for shad is a family sport and generally done in well known spawning areas, but some checking around may reveal new locations.

My wife and I made a fishing trip to Alaska last summer and although that's a considerable piece from Florida, quite a few Floridians contemplate a tour of the Alaska Highway and wonder what tackle to take, what they'll catch and how to go about it.

Although we used fly rods a lot I confess the best all around outfit for Alaska would be a medium spinning rod, a bucket of shiny spoons and spinners and a small trolling motor. If you take another rig, make it ultra-light spinning and four or 6-pound line, and go to 10-pound on the medium outfit.

It would be good to take a small boat if possible and a cart of about 14 feet long would be ideal. A 6-horse motor would probably be big enough and you could use that outfit for close-in fishing in the deep bays along the coast. We had a semi-rigidifiable boat that worked fine on the little pike lakes but wasn't enough for salt water. We had no motor as we traveled very light in a small, van camper.

There are numerous pike lakes all the way up and you can find them through local inquiry. Arctic grayling are found in most of the small streams and will take small flies and spinning lures. A 15-incher is a big one but they're fine for food. The lake trout are sportiest just as the ice goes out, probably June, but if you're willing to pass them up along the coast, the best time to arrive in Alaska would be late July.

That time of year is fine for the trout and grayling streams, and the silver salmon are just beginning to run along the road side line too late for the king salmon or "spring" salmon, but I'd say the silver (coho salmon) is the light tackle favorite and your medium spinning outfit will work on them in either fresh or salt.

Streams and lakes along the Alaska Highway (1500 miles) aren't heavily fished a short distance from the road, most tourists feeling any walk of more than 50 yards is a journey into the unknown. Be prepared to go to a little effort in getting to the fish.

Now most of the fabulous trout fishing must be reached by side trips and the best of it is generally found by float plane. However, the dolly varden trout is available beside many campsites.

The northern pike is scorned by many fishermen as simply a "jackfish" but I certainly have no objection to it. In the Yukon we pushed our little blow-up boat into a small lake where I'd hesitate to dabble my fingers in the water. Although there were plenty of good sized pike, they are shy. I believe we had somewhat better luck with flyrod streamers carrying a little tinsel or mylar.

When we got to the silver salmon waters, however, everything changed. The flies, and spoon and spinners much more effective. It is true that the silver, or coho, salmon is caught with fly tackle but I believe spinning or casting will be the winner most of the time.

There are a few silver salmon guides along the Alaska coast and you can bottom fish from a very few party boats but, for the most part, you'll be glad you have a skiff or canoe along. I'd make it a cart as I'd much rather not tow it over the 1,000 miles of gravel on the way up and a light boat will be much handier for small lakes and streams.

We came back on an Alaska ferry from Haines, Alaska to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and stopped at Hazelton, B. C. to fish for steelhead in the Kispiox River. That's specialized fishing and if you've never done any steelheading plan on several days to get the hang of it, whether you use flies or casting gear. Anyway, that's a pleasant way to come back toward the lower states as the ferry ride cuts out most of the gravel road.

Inside Alaska there is a lot of paved highway. Most of it is slightly wavy because of freeze and thaw, but it's smooth riding at 90 miles an hour or better.

A Florida fisherman heading for the northern state probably wouldn't need to buy any new tackle at all unless he added some wobbling spoons in various sizes.

I'd say the best way to travel would be with a truck camper; a travel trailer would be a close second. Finding a motor camping during the tourist season is sometimes inconvenient.

At Valdez, on the Alaska coast, they have a number of mounted game specimens, indigenous to Alaska. Each has its name posted below it.

One of the mounts is a little, white weasel. Below it is the caption: "Tezuz Polar Bear."

TAXIDERMY is a big business than most fishermen realize. I visited the Al Pflueger, Inc., plant at Hallandale, Florida, and after being led open-mouthed through the huge shop I learned they can be working on 16,000 fish at the same time. They're specialists in marine taxidermy and do no other kind. It's an old fish business and they have mounted 1,000,000 fish since going into business.

But the thing that interested me most was the story about how much artificial stuff actually goes into a fish mount. You can get an even money bet at a fishing dock that mounts are entirely plastic or fiberglass. Generally that isn't so. They prefer to use as much of the fish as they can. It's the many coats of paint that give it that plastic look.

Of course there are some artificial parts such as the tails on sardines and some kinds of fish turn out as "models" for taxidermy.

But if you object to the current methods take a look at some of the "stuffed" fish of years back. Most of them look like mummies.
The Florida duck is the only waterfowl species produced in south Florida in significant numbers. In this study biologists will attempt to discover the factors that limit Florida duck reproduction and distribution. Because of the local nature of this duck, new knowledge may result in management techniques that could greatly increase the Florida duck population, thereby making Florida duck hunting less dependent upon migratory waterfowl and breeding conditions in Canada and the northern states for their shooting.

Frye said, "With this objective in mind the Commission recently extended a study grant of $4,000 to the Wildlife Laboratory, School of Forestry, University of Florida for Florida duck research on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes."

Five research papers on wildlife topics were presented by Commission biologists at the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners meeting held at Baltimore, Maryland, October 21-23, 1968. They were:

- "A Study of Nesting Turkeys in Southern Florida" by Lovett E. Williams, Jr., David H. Austin, Neal J. Stotts, Maryl Crider and McDaniel.
- "Oral Drugs Used to Capture Waterfowl" also by Dr. E. Frye, Jr., President of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, at the 22nd Annual Meeting, October 21, 1968 at Baltimore, Maryland.
- "The first recorded instance of game management occurred six centuries ago when Kublai Khan actually practiced game management, complete with closed seasons, enforcement officers, game food plots and artificial feeding. History indicates that from that time until very recently, relatively little emphasis was placed on managing game habitat."
- "The first recorded instance of game management occurred six centuries ago when Kublai Khan actually practiced game management, complete with closed seasons, enforcement officers, game food plots and artificial feeding. History indicates that from that time until very recently, relatively little emphasis was placed on managing game habitat."
- "In the United States, as would be expected, restrictions on hunting and fishing were the first evidence of man's interest in game and fish conservation. The first closed season on deer of which we have record was in Rhode Island in 1646. The first introduction of exotics (Hungarian partridges) occurred in New Jersey in 1790. The first hunting license was in New York in 1864. The first state-imposed bag limit was in Iowa (25 prairie chickens per day) in 1878. The first refuge was on Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin in 1881. The first state game farm was started in Illinois in 1905. The first state food planting program occurred in Pennsylvania in 1917. And the first major scale private game management program involving scientific investigation was begun in 1924 by Herbert Stoddard and his associates in the Tallahassee-Thomasville area of Florida and Georgia."

"When we review the history of wildlife conservation and realize how recently anything other than guess work and barbershop opinion has been utilized in wildlife programs, it is little wonder that today we have some of the problems of communication between the average sportsman and the biologist ... ."

From The President's Message, presented by Dr. O. E. Frye, Jr., President of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, at the 22nd Annual Meeting, October 21, 1968 at Baltimore, Maryland.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

BOATING

The use of rented houseboats for relaxing out-of-the-way cruising is lost growing in popularity for outdoor family weekendes—and vacations

By ELGIN WHITE

JANUARY, 1969

The leased, God bless 'em, have brought about more changes in boating in the past few years than the invention of the sail, oar or outboard. The invasion of the feminine set has truly changed what once was primarily a man's world into a sea of family fun.

The female impact changed galleys into kitchens, wheelhouses into salons and heads into powder rooms.

The biggest change has been wrought in house-boating. It is an amazing thing to me the sudden and ever-increasing yen for houseboats among the salty set. Shucks, I can remember just ten years ago when some plucky entrepreneurs in the Keys tried renting some small houseboats on the same basis as other boats were rented and they busted quicker than the 1929 stock market.

I imagine, however, that the cost of a rental of a houseboat in 1957, tabbed at $250 per week, shocked the then neophyte boating clan into retreat. That was a whack of federal diplomas to pour out for one of those small and unknown bulky craft, and the folks simply shied away from it.

But today, houseboats that have every comfort of home plus an extremely facile mode of handling have made one heckva comeback. The cost is even greater now for a week's rental, but the more affluent boaters of today hardly bat a lash at cost.

There are several top operations in Florida as we head into the peak of the winter season, and business is fine, thank you.

John Erving down Kissimmee way has been operating his "Surfside Six" houseboat rental operation for two years now, and John is here to stay. He started out back in '66 with two 30' drift boats that rented for $235 per week. The immediate success warranted the purchase of two more houseboats, with one model in the luxurious 43' Cargile that looks as if it were designed for King Farouk.

In two years, now, Erving's houseboat rentals are going like crazy, and he is now planning another 43' Cargile to joint the fleet. As in everything else, the cost of houseboat renting has advanced. "Funny thing," Erving said, "the bigger houseboat with all the plush appointments is more in demand than the smaller ones. That's why we're planning on one of those next."

Everything is furnished on these floating homes except groceries and fuel. "You'd be surprised," Erving continued, "at the things people can do as a family group on these houseboats, and of course I think that's the reason for their increasing popularity."

John listed such activities as fishing and hunting, specimen collecting, bird watching, trap shooting and rock hunting as the most popular pastimes on the houseboats by family groups.

The boats (smaller ones) will sleep from four to six in comfort, and when you break that rental tab down among six guys, for example, going out for a fishing vacation junket, it starts out pretty well. And for a family tab, consider what it would cost to have a similar vacation for a group of four to six... probably two hundred bucks more. And on this one, you take your motel with you on lake, river and stream. There was one group that found an unusual use (Continued on next page)
Two couples came in one day," Erving said, "and wanted to rent the boat a mere 500 yards offshore into the lake, anchored, and played bridge for the entire time. They just wanted to get away from the kids, people and telephones, and found the perfect retreat.

Usually when callers first ask about the price of rental houseboats, they're shocked out of their socks. But when compared to what they would pay for a standard vacation stay for a week SANS BOAT, they see the light and figure it is a pretty good deal after all.

Another unusual and highly popular houseboat rental operation is the one at Flamingo in Everglades National Park. Bob Knight, the major domo of that operation, has a fleet of 34’ Drift-R-Cruzers houseboats that are in heavy demand.

These fine craft are available for an entire week for just $235, and they even furnish the fuel! You can't beat prices like that!

One new outfit, we hear, is going in for the plush barges only, 45' and longer and, of course, they will get premium prices for them. But there are many potential houseboat "rentees" so to speak, who wouldn't bid a bit to a $500-900 price for one of these palatial yachts for a week. Again, look at what you get and where you can go and the price is most reasonable.

Another attraction about this newest craze in south Florida waters is the fact that you don't need a license to operate a houseboat. Of course, they won't let anyone take one of these craft onto the waters without proper instructional procedures.

We're planning a little houseboat jaunt at Flamingo in the near future, and will report on the entire experience. From all I can see, hear and tell, though, houseboating through Florida waters is the newest and best way in the world to get away from it all, and still take it all with you.

The sailboard and other small sailboats are luring many a landlubber off the golf course and onto the water. These craft are inexpensive, easy to transport, and allow the novice skipper to master the rudiments of sailing before moving up to something more exotic.

Larger sailboats, too, are enjoying unprecedented popularity, but as a first hand witness, I can say that sometimes my feelings about sailboats can be mixed, to say the least.

Reason I say this is because we recently completed a cruise from Marathon to the Dry Tortugas in a sailboat, and though the craft itself was a beauty, you have to depend so much on the caprices of the weather.

Fortunately, the sailing craft we were on had an auxiliary motor, or we would probably still be about half way between Key West and the Dry Tortugas with no wind. What a revoltin' situation that sometimes my feelings about sailboats can be mixed, to say the least.

I can imagine the old time sailors on the big barks and square-riggers having to follow the wind around the world, and when there was no wind, they just sat out there, dreamin' of orange juice and fightin' scurvy.

I must admit it was a good cruise in spite of the doldrums we encountered, but I mentioned the doldrums bit as a small argument that all is not serene in the "Junqles" for two or three days on rented houseboats.

At Bayshore Houseboat Center, the boat runs $32 per week with everything furnished except fuel, groceries and linen. The linens cost $1.50 per person per week for regular linens and $2.50 per person per week for blankets. And don't think you won't need blankets if you roam the waters to the Keys, especially in January, 'cause it gets a bit airish.

At Commodore, you can rent the 34' Drift-R-Cruzer for $460 per week. These houseboats are powered with a 210 h.p. inboard-outboard, and the tab includes all supplies except groceries and fuel.

International Yacht Rentals on the 79th Street Causeway, Miami Beach, also features the Drift-R-Cruzers. The tab is $350 per week off season, and $395 and up (depending upon boat sizes and special equipment) during the winter season.

"Hobo Headquarters," seemingly appropriately named, appears to be the best deal in town. Here you can rent smaller houseboats for as little as $80 for a three day week-end and $160 for the entire week. Camp-N-Cruise is the name of the rental outfit at "Hobo," and they, too, put on the extra tab for fuel and you must spend an additional $5 for rental on linens, utensils, etc. But even at that the price seems pretty reasonable.

After the hath a lot of houseboat rental operators took in setting up in the Keys back in 1957, the latest venture seems to be paying off in spades. This really seems to be but a beginning to a head-on charge into houseboat rentals all through south Florida. I look for more sport to get in the act, and we hear now that there may be as many as six to ten rental places in the Gold Coast and Keys area by mid-year.

One new outfit, we hear, is going in for the plush barges only, 45' and longer and, of course, they will get premium prices for them. But there are many potential houseboat "rentees" so to speak, who wouldn't bid a bit to a $500-900 price for one of these palatial yachts for a week. Again, look at what you get and where you can go and the price is most reasonable.

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I can imagine the old time sailors on the big barks and square-riggers having to follow the wind around the world, and when there was no wind, they just sat out there, dreamin' of orange juice and fightin' scurvy.

I must admit it was a good cruise in spite of the doldrums we encountered, but I mentioned the doldrums bit as a small argument that all is not serene in the sailing.

However, when one does enjoy the blessings of a spanking breeze, you gotta admit . . . sailing has no peer.

January 1969
A Florida gray squirrel is a big-game animal weighing about a pound and with a 16-inch tail. He is no harder to hunt than an African leopard or an Indian tiger, but there seems to be a wider variety of methods.

Give almost any sneaky, gum-shoeing, tricky, furtive American boy a few years of experience with gray squirrels and he should be all set for any of the big game trails of the world.

He should be able to hold his breath for long periods of time, and at least one extra eye near the back of his head would be very helpful although not absolutely necessary. He should be immune to sneezing and scratching, even though ant parade up his pantlegs and his nostrils fill with weed seeds. Some of the attributes of a chameleon would be helpful; he should be able to change color slightly with his surroundings, and should be a crackshot with a small bore rifle. He needs lots of spare time, preferably being unemployed.

At this moment of writing I am within easy shotgun range of five gray squirrels, but the season hasn't opened yet and they aren't worried. We live among some venerable oak trees and I have no idea how many different grays rob our bird feeder, tease our dog and play follow-the-leader over our roof. I should know a lot more about squirrels than I do.

I know enough about gray squirrels to be pretty mystified about their periods of activity. Any squirrel hunter who could consistently forecast their feeding and exercising periods would have it made.

Generally there's a period of heavy activity about dawn and if I had my druthers as to the time to be in an oak hammock with a squirrel appetite it would be early morning—but sometimes they apparently sleep in, even though the weather might seem favorable for squirrel travel. Late evening would be a second choice for squirrel seeking. With a low pressure area moving in they might run right over your feet.

In rainy weather you don't see much of them except for very brief periods, but they generally go into a real feeding binge with approach of bad weather, evidently being highly sensitive to barometric changes. This shows up plainly through my window and is born out by hunting experiences.

But there are more complicated things about squirrel activity. Sometimes, for no apparent reason, every squirrel in the hammock will start tearing around as if preparing for a 6-month night. More experienced hunters than I feel that the squirrel is especially keyed to the movement of tides and that he can be sought with the aid of solunar tables even more consistently than fish.

Take a very warm sun at midday. That's the time and the weather when a gray squirrel is supposed to be flaked out in a sound siesta and quite often he is but there are days around our house when, like traditional mad dogs and Englishmen, the gray squirrels go out in the midday sun, eat everything in sight, chase each other around the oak trunks and behave like charged up cat players, but they boil down to some pretty efficient practices which I'll endeavor to outline. There are some methods I won't have space to cover and quite a few I've never heard about.

Now as to armament: They are killed with everything from deer rifles to blunt sticks and the gun preferred depends partly on the hunter and partly on the conditions.

Take a guy who isn't out to demonstrate what a hell-salter of a shot he is, just wants some squirrel stew in the easiest possible way, and knows where there are some unsuspecting grays in some trees that aren't too high. He's apt to take a shotgun with light loads and even the little .410 is a pretty good choice since it won't vaporize a squirrel, even at 18 or 20 yards. Most of these shots will be at targets sitting still and even the little .410 is a pretty good choice since it won't vaporize a squirrel, even at 18 or 20 yards. Most of these shots will be at targets sitting still and even the little .410 is a pretty good choice since it won't vaporize a squirrel, even at 18 or 20 yards.
With a heavy, target-type twenty-two and a good scope, hitting squirrel heads isn’t difficult because, after all, a squirrel’s noggin is pretty big compared to the center of a smallbore target. Any member of the local smallbore team will find it almost too easy if he confines his shots to 50 or 60 yards and manages to find a steady position for his shooting. The target scope, of course, is very poor for moving targets.

"Second" a squirrel isn’t nearly the legend man it was once considered. It’s simply hitting a limb so close to the squirrel’s nervous system that he passes out and falls from the tree. It can be done with a highly accurate, rimfire twenty-two and is much easier if you have a varmint rifle with added velocity. I don’t mean you’re just going to throw-up fast and collect a bushystall without a mark on him, but if you take a good rest and squeeze carefully it’s quite possible.

I think I have the world’s greatest squirrel rifle, although it’s a little heavy to tote and won’t spray very fast if the squirrel decides to leave. It’s an old model Winchester 32 target rifle which I had chopped down to carbine length. On this hair-splitter I mounted a 21/2-power scope with plenty of brilliance and fairly small crosshairs. Of course so low-powered a glass won’t bring out all of the potential of the fifty-two, but it has a wide field and you can find a scurrying limb-hopper with it.

It was quite a gunsmithing job to rig that old rifle and I don’t recommend that anyone else bother with such a project, but now that it’s in service it’s pretty nice. The bolt handle had to be altered and mounting the hunting type scope rings was a job. It would be more practical to buy a youth’s target rifle or a hunting weight gun.

Shotguns are really needed when fast moving squirrels jump from branch to branch away up there. Probably you can kill more small game do the job. I have killed a lot of fox squirrels considerably but, where the game is plentiful, it will generally easier to collect than grays.

A good target pistol limits your range considerably but, where the game is plentiful, it will do the job. I have killed a lot of fox squirrels with handguns but they’re a bigger target and generally easier to collect than grays.

The head shot isn’t always possible, even on a stationary squirrel. When you hit the head it doesn’t make much difference what kind of twenty-two ammunition you use, but a high-speed hollow point in the body can damage a lot of meat. Squirrel shooters are divided here. Some say the standard velocity long rifle cartridge with a solid bullet is ample for killing and short on steward destruction. Others say there is more possibility of wounding with the solid bullet and use the hollow point.

Where there hasn’t been much hunting a cool marksman can do fine with a good quality air rifle, but that’s an expert’s gun and usually waddled by a beginner.

If the game hasn’t been pestered too much a very slow walk through an oak hammock will produce Spot frequently an empty eye on the ground as well as on the overhead limbs. If leaves are quite dry on the ground you make so much noise you not only move the squirrels but drown out their sounds. If it’s windy they aren’t so likely to hear you but they don’t seem to move about much then.

Where feeding signs are plentiful you can simply take up a good position, keep quiet and wait. It’s not necessary to build a blind and it’s logical to get into a comfortable position where you can see a large area. It’s easy to get yourself into a spot where you hear them shaking the trees down behind you but can’t squirrel around to shoot.

When walking into good country you’ll frequently see them moving too far ahead to shoot and they’ll disappear with your approach. Sometimes they’ll be back in circulation only 10 minutes after you take up a position. If they haven’t been hunted much they may be curious enough to start peeking around limbs sooner than that. If they’re strafed every week-end by bad shots they may not come out at all until you get hungry and go home.

The same grays that are easily scared by big feet in dry leaves may not be greatly startled by a shot. If you make a clean kill or a clean miss from your stand, just wait for another chance. Of course a soft-spoken twenty-two has less frightening effect than a bellowing 12-gauge.

It’s human nature when taking up a stand to figure exactly where the game will appear, devote all attention to that spot and fail to see a parade of bushytails behind you or off to one side. Red camouglage is good to wear because the color isn’t picked out by squirrels and it has a buffer factor, but it’s highly visible to turkeys.

Few hunters seek turkeys and squirrels at the same time and the truth is expert turkey hunters are likely to have a very dim view of squirrel hunters anyway.

There are several practical means of calling. I don’t mean you can get them swirling around you like crows, but you can often cause a concealed wise guy to peek out.

After sitting quietly for a considerable time, a little judicious brushing of a palmetto branch or other switch in the mast at your feet will frequently get some attention. Don’t overdo it.

Cup your hands over your mouth and, with the lips pressed tightly together, make an overcome hissing sound getting a squeaking effect by sucking in the air through your closed mouth. This often causes a shiny eye to appear in an oak notch or beside a high limb.

I have heard that chipping two stones together is a fair imitation of a squirrel’s bark but haven’t tried it. There are numerous types of squirrel calls or "squackers." I have one made by the Lohman call people which consists of a loose splinter or reed mounted in a cylinder-shaped...
Qung hunting shot? can be honded with .22 repealer for oak and is likely to close the distance enough for a shot either on the ground or as the squirrel goes up a tree. A good-sized party spread out through the woods will sometimes move startled, feeding squirrels from one to another. Squirrel dogs can be of almost any breed. They needn't be on long trailing but should simply put the dog simply stand beneath the tree, getting the game's attention. It is true that a squirrel may not run nearly as far from a dog as from a man. He may be so interested in cover that he poses for an easy shot.

When a startled squirrel is known to be in a small tree, a single hunter often has trouble making him show himself as the quarry keeps moving around to keep the tree between the gunner and his game. One way is to hang on something in the tree and then sneak close to the tree and around it in hope the squirrel will attempt to hide from your coat. If he has only recently taken to the tree you can often cause him to show himself by tossing a stick or rock to the opposite side.

Boat hunting accounts for plenty of full bags in Florida swamps and along the streams, especially early in the season. Ideal equipment includes a skiff or canoe that can be moved quietly, preferably with a paddle, and two hunters fare better than one. A marksman in the bow can do some sniping as the boat moves along. When game is sighted, and there's no immediate opportunity for a shot, the paddle man can ease over an anchor. When game is sighted, and there's no immediate opportunity for a shot, the paddle man can ease over an anchor.

Although one old timer insists a squirrel is exactly the same color and shape as anything he climbs on, there are some things to look for. Ordinarily I think squirrels are easier to locate when you are facing toward the light, approaching from the shady side if it's a sunny day. Of all the motley they I've ever sighted by simply walking through the woods or sitting on a stand, I believe the tail has most frequently been the giveaway. Even though it may be plastered pretty tightly to a limb or trunk, the light frequently shines through the long hairs causing a halo appearance, easy to spot if you know what you're looking for.

The animal's head is second most frequently seen, almost always in profile as the rascal invariably watches you out of one eye. The rest of the body lies so close to the bark that I very rarely pick it out first. Once in a while I first make out the animal's feet when he's on a fairly small limb where his lighter color helps.

Shooting into nests is considered pretty bad sportsmanship. When moving along undisturbed the weasel's gait is a simple gallop, with front and hind feet alternating striking simultaneously, side by side. The back is arched high and stretched at each bound. When pressed the weasel can scamper along at about 10 m.p.h. The normal litter of young may number from four to nine.

Vocally, it hisses, purrs and screams. Some say it also utters a weak bark. Although there is only one species of weasel in Florida—and it ranges throughout the state except for the southern tip—the family Mustelidae is well represented by four other animals: the otter, the mink, which are larger, aquatic members of the weasel family.

The weasel eats a variety of lesser animals, which it runs down, captures and kills with considerable gusto and ferocity for its half-pound size. Rats, mice, moles, birds, including an occasional barnyard fowl, and frogs make up its diet. It is a solitary hunter, employing both swiftness and cunning to take its prey.

Its tiny teeth are extremely sharp and effective but the weasel is not without enemies of its own. Housecats, bobcats, hawks, owls, dogs and man all figure in its mortality rates.

January, 1969
A fish of many faces
and phases...

**THE AMERICAN EEL**

By ART HUTT

The long, flexible snake-like body is round but slightly flattened at the bottom. Rows of small sharp teeth line the jaws; the lower one juts out slightly in a mildly pugnacious manner. Coloration varies but is usually close to a greenshade brown on top grading off to a whitish grey underneath.

Unlike most other fish, the eel has only one set of fins—stubby, strong, rounded pectorals located above and behind the small gill openings. Locomotion is by serpentine-like undulations of its long body. Distinctive, too, are the long dorsal and anal fins which merge with the caudal fin in one smooth wraparound effect.

This is the creature everything is "as slippery as." Tiny, imbedded, cycloid scales, some 150 to the inch, create a smooth, slick appearance and feel. Scientists figure these microscopic scales are de-generative remnants of now unnecessary larger scales. Coating these scales is a heavy layer of protective slime. If you've ever tried to pick one up, you know there's no way to hang onto an eel unless you grasp it with a dry rag or newspaper or a hand previously dipped in wet sand.

**Some time next spring, millions of tiny eels, called elvers, will swarm up the rivers of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to complete a fantastic one-year drifting and swimming journey from their birthplace in the depths of the Sargasso Sea, southeast of Bermuda.**

How these humble creatures, a quarter of an inch long at the beginning, survive this trek, then return years later as adults to the same general salt-water area to spawn and to die is one of the most intriguing and unusual episodes in fisheries biology.

Compounding the mystery is the European eel which spawns in the same area. A right turn starts them on their three-year trip back to the European coast while a left turn sends their American counterparts off in the proper direction. Because of the longer journey, seven additional vertebrae develop in the Old World eels—otherwise they are identical.

Despite its un-fishlike appearance, the American eel satisfies the requirements of a true bony fish by living in the water, breathing through gills, and having fins and a backbone.

**Anguilla rostrata** is the only fresh-water eel found in the States—and it is just as well that the more vicious members of the same group, the moray eel and the conger eel, stay in their salt-water environment. And that goes for the electric eel of South America, too. The destructive lamprey eels, distinguished by their round rasping mouth (they have no true jaws) are in a different family and have no direct connection with the American eel.

As one student of ichthyology stammered when harried by his professor to describe this elongated fish, "Why, it's—ah—ah—eel-shaped!" And you can't do much better than that.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

JANUARY, 1969
growth stages of the eel
Left: Three-inch Leptocephalus
Below—the Elver

(Continued from preceding page)

Horse hairs that fell into the water, heavy dew, a small beetle, and gills of other fish were other popular theories on eel-production. Lampreys, too, were sometimes accused of being female eels.

Since the eel has a larval form, called leptocephalus, which is quite unlike the adult, for many years this larva was mistakenly clasped as a separate species of sea-running fish.

In a fine display of international interest, in the late 1800's and early 1900's, scientists banded to-gether to solve the riddle of the eel. An Italian named Grassi baby-sat with the larvae—and was astounded when they transformed into eels before his eyes. This was proof positive that the larva was not a distinct species of fish.

But it took a Danish biologist, Dr. Johannes Schmidt, from 1905 to 1933 to put fable and fact in their proper perspective, particularly about that unusual larval stage. For 15 years he patiently dragged a net across the vast Atlantic, charting sizes, seasons, and numbers of the larva, narrowing down their point of origin, until his nets came up with newly hatched %-inch specimens in the Sar-gasso Sea. His solving of the eel mystery was considered an outstanding scientific achievement, but the expense involved in this research also r…

As they approach the coast, a change takes place.

The two-to-six inch larvae transform into a recognizable eel-like shape, losing their oversized teeth. At this stage they’re called “elvers” but as they gain pigmentation, they graduate into “elvers.”

The tiny travellers are determined to swarm upstream, pushing themselves around and over obstructions, sometimes panning the bottoms of areas directly below dams. As many as 1,500 have been caught with one scoop of a small dipnet. The males apparently don’t work quite as hard at it, but the females, sensing a quiet rhythm in the ebb and flow of the water, crawl over dewy or rain-wet grass in their determination to gain a desirable home. Some researchers have suggested that they may even utilize underground water routes to get into new areas. Others think that only the females come up into the rivers and lakes, and that the males hang around the river mouths.

Eels like to set up permanent homes in mud-bottomed situations where the water is quiet and fairly deep.

Now in their “growing” color, they’re called “yel-low eels.” If everything goes well, the eels in from 5-to-25 years reach a point where they are able to return to the sea, commercial fishermen would build V-shaped barriers of rock (weirs) in shallow streams, baited with herring, they’re used to some extent through the Superior Fish House at Georgetown. The bulk of the shipments end up in New York and Philadelphia.

Commercial trotliners, especially, cuss out the eel for taking a catfish-intended bait. In some lakes they have days when nearly every hook is adorned with a wriggling eel with no market value—or a market value so low that they are not worth messing with except in quantity. One Lake Griffin catfisherman I checked on regularly was getting back at the eels, however. He used eel chunks—and was catching up-to-68-pound cats on these tidbits.

Camp operators have no love for them either, although it is no fault of the eels. People invariably regard them and exhibit the same fear for them as they do for snakes capable of striking, rather than a fish. T. L. Morgan, camp operator on Lake Grif-fin is one individual who “hates” them.

“They cost me a lot of money,” he complains. “The lake is full of them and a lot of eels get broken when my customers try to kill them or knock them off the hook. Sometimes I can hear the people out there pounding on an eel. And there is always the slime that must be cleaned off the boat before it can be used again.”

In the Old World countries, eels have been and are still regarded as a great delicacy, whether broiled, fried, pickled, smoked, or otherwise prepared. They’re even grown in special ponds for table use, and in some of the fanciest restaurants, kept alive in glass tanks for the gourmet’s selection. Italians make a special Christmas Eve dish from them. Eel tidbits precede fine dinners in France as hors d’oeuvres, and they can be purchased in delicatessens and store throughout Europe. Unless they’re already cooked, they’re offered to the customer alive.

Eels have lost in popularity in the States, however. Apparently the snake-like appearance is too much for the modern housewife. I’ve eaten the few I’ve caught but don’t recall that they were anything special enough to make me want to go fishing the next day. The meat is white, firm, sweet, and rich, however. And they clean easily. A shallow slice around the body behind the gills, a steady pull with a pair of pliers, and the skin peels off like a finger out of a glove.

Eels and eelkins make fine striped bass lures and I’ve heard that young eels can entice any Florida bass into striking. Trouble is, there are many critics called “eels” in Florida. However, if they work as well as the narrow-striped dwarf sirens taken from the Brooksville area which are related to the salamanders but which are erroneously called “eels”—I can readily vouch for them.

In the early 1900’s eelkins were frequently used in the manufacture of buggy whips.

While these ocean travellers may not be the prettiest or most useful of all Florida waters, you must at least give them credit for having one of the most interesting backgrounds.
a friend of the farmer and gardener, the screech owl consumes both rodents and insects in great numbers

THE SCREECH OWL

By GENE SMITH

SUPERSTITIOUS FOLK attribute weird powers to the screech owl. Once ano, a small, typical owl found throughout the country, his quavering, spine-chilling call is said by some to be a harbinger of death. But, for superstitious problems there always seem to be plenty of superstitious solutions. The left shoe turned upside down beneath the bed is supposed to silence the dread messenger, thereby assuring untroubled rest. So is the left trouser pocket turned inside out.

As owls go, there actually is very little that is unusual about the tiny screech owl—also called "screech owl," "squinch owl," and, the most accurately descriptive name of all, "shivering owl." Even its eerie voice is not really a screech, as advertised, but a mournful whistle with lots of vibrato—and guaranteed to keep camping cubs scouts—and most den mothers—wide awake for hours!

The screech owl is our only small owl with "ears," that is, tufts of feathers atop his head that resemble ears or horns. This makes it easily identified. It measures only 8 to 10 inches high and, in the eastern United States, comes in two colors: reddish brown and gray. This is possibly the screech owl's greatest legitimate claim to fame. The odd two-color condition, known as dichromatism, means it occurs in a given species irrespective of sex, age or season. The screech owl presents one of the best examples of dichromatism found in nature.

In the reddish brown phase this owl is uniformly rich brown while the breast and flanks are lighter and barred with black and gray. The belly is white and the wing linings are pale buffy. In the gray phase it is ash colored all over—about the shade of white oak bark.

In both color phases the iris is yellow, the shanks are feathered and the toes are bristled—looking much like pipe cleaners—clear to the claws. The neat, ringed face, with its short bill and fixed, wide-set eyes, gives the screech owl its typically staid expression.

Screech owls nest and roost wherever hollows are available—from 3 to 80 feet above ground. They favor old woodpecker holes but also live in barn eaves and little used outbuildings around a farm. Too, they take readily to bird houses if situated near good hunting areas, such as fields or orchards, which usually harbor a good supply of mice and insects, primary screech owl fare. (The immense value of these nocturnal hunters to the farmer is absolutely indisputable.)

Three eggs is the usual number in a screech owl's nest, but 2 to 4 are sometimes found; rarely, 5. They are white, like most owls' eggs. The young are covered with soft white down, but, oddly, as the plumage appears, both colors may be represented in the same nest.

The screech owl chooses a roosting hollow with a very small opening—no larger than 3 to 5 inches across. During the day it habitually sits at the opening dozing the hours away. But at the slightest disturbance it quickly and silently smks from view. If the opening is observed in silence for a bit the little owl will likely reappear.

How does one locate a roosting hollow? Biologists look for owl pellets, small balls of hair and bone these birds regurgitate and "cast" beneath their roosts from time to time. These pellets, which also cast by hawks and eagles, are composed of the indigestible parts of their prey—teeth, bone, hair and claws. They are usually compact enough to survive a fall from considerable height intact.

The pellets, collected from a known species, give an accurate record of the feeding habits of that bird of prey. It is simple for the trained researcher to separate and identify the various materials as to their sources—mole skulls, jawbones and teeth, grasshopper legs, mole fur, frog and bird bones, etc. These items regularly occur in screech owl pellets, with mice providing the bulk by far. The diet also includes lizards, wood and water rats, crawfish and a few small birds, mostly sparrows.

Screech owls hunt in two ways, always alter dark: by "coursing," that is, flying at low levels over a field or through wooded areas looking for prey with their extremely sharp eyes; or by still hunting from a low perch—a fence post, tree or haystack. When a prey animal is spotted the silent hunter strikes, grasping its intended meal with its sharp, death-dealing talons and returning to its perch to swallow the item whole, if possible. Larger rats and similar prey must first be dismembered, of course.

The screech owl has natural enemies, too. Where the great horned owl hunts, the beans and bones of the screech owl often turn up in its pellets! Also, bobcats, housecats and foxes take some screech owls on the ground, where they sometimes become too preoccupied with subduing their own prey and fail to notice approaching danger.

Young screech owls tame quite easily but make terribly dull pets. They do no tricks; they show no affection, they offer no cheer. They just sit around . . . moping . . . and staring . . . seeming to know something dreadful but not daring to tell.

Now, it couldn't be . . . .
There are few motorists who drive to South Florida and fail to include in their itinerary a visit to Key West. For the 150-mile journey from Miami to this southernmost city in continental United States is a delightful one, with the highway (U.S. No. 1) making a series of giant leaps from island to island, dotted with small white dwellings and barn red roofs. There are other islands to the east and west of those the highway touches. Together they make up the fabulous Florida Keys and while each appears an identical green jewel in a viridian sea, one of the islands within plain view of the highway—and generally passed by without notice—is a long and bloody history. That island is 11-acre Indian Key, 70 miles south of Miami.

Historically, Indian Key was first blood-spattered 300 years ago when fierce Calusa Indians rounded up 400 French seamen and put them on a shipwreck and murdered them on the island. Because of this, Indian Key is identified on old Spanish maps and in old Spanish chronicles as “Matanzas,” The Massacres.

About 1665 a Spaniard named Antonio Gomez established a thriving trading post on Indian Key. Later, because of the magnificent channel adjoining it, the island became a lair for pirates making hit-and-run forays on treasure laden galleons plying the nearby Florida Straits.

When the last pirate had swung from a yardarm or been sent fleeing to Caribbean waters, there followed a peaceful period during which Indian Key was deserted and the notorious red cloud—.in the area became increasingly restless. Houseman, concerned, attempted to persuade the U.S. Navy to fortify Indian Key instead of adjacent uninhabited Tea Table Key. Failing in this, he organized the slaves and white men of his island into a militia. In 1818 a gentleman of science arrived to take up residence on Indian Key. He was Doctor Henry Perrine, a physician who had spent 12 years as American consul at Campeche, Yucatan, Mexico. (Continued on next page)
man's proposal but the suggestion was never acted upon.

The hostile Indians of the region were Seminoles. They were a motley group, mostly of Creek extraction but with a strong infusion of renegade white and escaped Negro slave. The Seminoles quickly learned of Houseman's proposal and the result was inevitable. In revenge—as well as for the valuable stores, guns and ammunition on Indian Key—they struck, 130-strong, just before dawn on August 7, 1840, murdered most of the residents of Indian Key and plundered and set fire to its buildings. Houseman escaped; so did the family of Dr. Perrine. Dr. Perrine was among those killed.

Over a hundred years have passed. Indian Key today is uninhabited and has once more reverted to jungle. From the highway you can see stalks of the hemp plants, descendents of those Doctor Perrine cultivated but which he was never able to remove to Cape Sable.

And if you scratch below them, deeper into the dust of centuries, perhaps you will come upon remnants of the savage Calusas and—who knows—maybe even a hastily abandoned Spanish doubloon or two!

Who Owns the Game?

By ERNEST SWIFT
National Wildlife Federation

AUTHORITY of the States to manage and control all resident game and fish within their borders, as well as claim title to the same, is again being challenged by the Federal government. This time it is by the Secretary of Interior regarding all wildlife species within the borders of Federal lands, and especially under the jurisdiction of the Department of Interior.

To the rising generation of young American sportsmen this may come as a new and startling usurpation of authority, having grown up with the unmyth that all resident game belongs to the state wherein it resides. But this issue has a long history of contention, going back at least fifty years.

This challenge was responsible for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act with Great Britain and later with Mexico, thereby bringing to bear the treaty powers of the U.S. Constitution.

This challenge was again made by Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace during the depression years when he was going to set seasons and bag limits on the National Forests, issue permits for hunting, and charge for them under the one-time famous order G. 20-A.

This order of Mr. Wallace threatening the rights of the several states to manage their own game, made the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners grow up over night and put on long pants. Under the able leadership of Seth Gordon, then Director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and President of the International, the states gave Mr. Wallace such a rough time that he beat a hasty and not too dignified retreat.

For years this Federal versus States issue over who has title to wild game has smoldered under a cover of cold looking ashes, but the coals have never been extinguished. It appears as if those forces wishing to see the Federal government take over such jurisdiction have simply been laying back waiting to again fan the flames. To them the time seems ripe with more courts looking with favor on increased Federal controls and with an increasing number of landless people beginning to frown on hunting as a form of outdoor recreation and an age-old tradition of the American way of life.

But the implications are far deeper than appear on the surface. The first step would be to destroy title of the several states to the game residing on Federal lands within the boundaries of the states. This would quickly erode the power to finance state conservation operations through reduced license fees, especially in many of the western states where public land ownership is as high as 80%. In the eastern states this impact would not be so quickly apparent. However, the second step in wildlife ownership would be to pass legislation so that landowners could acquire title to game and fish on their lands or abutting waterways as is now and has been traditional in Europe for centuries.

This drive for landowners to obtain title to game and fish on their own lands has been a declared purpose of some agencies and organizations. If not formally documented, it has been so stated in speeches by their representatives.

So the timetable as contemplated by some of our Federally minded politicians and bureaucrats and those who see wrong in hunting and fishing under the present system is to destroy the state conservation agencies by drying up their source of revenues and next giving title to resident game to the Federal government on Federal lands and to private owners on their respective lands. In many states east of the Mississippi, hunting is a source of revenue and the bulk of that recreation as some states have little land of their own.

This is something for all state conservation official.

(Continued on next page)
According to the laws of New Mexico were refused (let us say scorned) by the Park Service. For at least three decades there has been a trend by some Federal courts and bureaus to diminish the powers of the states in both their social and com-nervial behavior, as well as advocating and attempting to assume jurisdiction of all resources on public lands, especially wildlife. Sadly enough this has come about in some instances because the states have sometimes failed to live up to their responsibilities, to pass constructive legislation and to make compacts among themselves.

In the case of water pollution many an "honest" state-rigger has been forced to seek improvements through application of uniform laws passed by the U. S. Congress; but any failures on the part of the states in eliminating pollution has no bearing on the case in question. There is a growing arrogance that only the people representing the Federal government have the intelligence, and know-how to steer the resource ship. They believe they are among the few of God's chosen that can plan and make no mistakes, that they alone sit on the right hand of Jehovah.

A Federal District Court judge recently ruled in favor of New Mexico, but the decision is expected to be appealed. The National Wildlife Federation has announced that it will intervene as a "friend of the court," if necessary, in this current court case to decide legal ownership of wildlife. Thomas L. Kimball, Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation has stated: "If the Federal government's claim to legal jurisdiction over resident game and fish prevails, then private landowners could conceivably claim a similar right—such a doctrine would lead to complete chaos and confusion in the protection, management and restoration of America's fish and wildlife resources."

Muzzle Flashes

The new gun and ammunition regulations now in effect will create continued hardships for the many law-abiding sportsmen who enjoy hunting sports.

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

(Continued from preceding page)

T HE NATIONAL gun and ammunition control bill, effective December 16, 1968, tied in with pistol purchase and pistol ammunition legislation passed last year (effective December 16 date), will surely work hardship on law-abiding sportsmen who hunt and who like to shoot at a variety of inanimate targets.

The legislation puts a firm lid on direct purchases of firearms and ammunition by mail order, and even prohibits a sportsman from purchasing such items in another state, while on business or vacation trip, and brings to an end all temptation to find equipment back home.

In addition, all reloading components and propellant powders are barred from interstate sales, except between Federal licensed dealers and manufacturers.

Purchases, of course, still can be made over the counter in resident state—after applicable red tape in some instances patiently endured, and you can prove age eligibility.

Under the new Federal law, if you are under 18 years of age, or affected by some existing state or local law, you cannot now purchase a firearm or ammunition of any kind, even if you are a bona fide resident seeking over-the-counter purchase from a resident, licensed dealer.

The law prohibits sale in 50 states of all rifles and shotguns and ammunition to persons under 18 years of age, and handguns to anyone under 21, whether by attempted mail-order or over-the-coun-
ter purchase. For those under 18, prohibited ammuni-
tion sales include even .22 caliber red tape and involve patience, and you can prove age eligibility.

Since—in Florida, at least—there is already a law (FL. Statute 796.17) decreeing that no person can sell, barter, lend or give a firearm to a minor, unless said firearm is to be used strictly for hunting, shooters under 18 years of age are really being given tight squeeze. Both firearms and ammunition purchases are now cut off, by applicable Federal and state laws. The Federal law does not make exception for purchases by under age persons solely for intended hunting use.

As I view the situation, there will be nothing less than assorted chaos in the gun and ammunition consumer—purchase field for a long time.

Simply, it will take time for the provisions of the newly enacted Federal laws to become fully

(Continued on next page)
now make contact and presumably pay some sort of commission.

What handling will be given mail-ordered guns or ammunition ordered and paid for prior to the effective date of the Federal ban, but not shipped?

The national brand name firearms and ammunition manufacturing firms who are licensed franchised dealers, but how will the independent national supplier, without local community dealerships, and formerly, dealers of those states in which the named firms operate.

Desirably work great financial hardship on the individual consumer in a different state when orders for various firearms and ammunition fields.

Few custom gunsmiths are letter writers. The new Federal Law does provide for interstate shipment ban directly to consumers will also presumably work great financial hardship on the individual consumer in a different state when orders for various firearms and ammunition fields.

Going to shooters on the Florida scene is that a five-man team of shooters of the Skyway Rod & Gun Club, St. Petersburg, now holds the current World's title in the 1911 first Winchester Claybird Tournament, held in 1911.

In compiling its final Grand Championship score of 9,111 hits out of a possible 2,000 shots fired at conventional clay pigeons, on combined trap and skeet courses. Runners-up were the White Wing Shooting Club, of Pasadena, Texas, with a team score of 1,883,000—30 fewer hits than the winning Florida team.

For years I have been on constant watch for quality decorations that can be used to dress-up gun receivers, stocks and fore-ends. I have been publishing the early interested in obtaining small pewter or silver plated game or game bird figures that might be judiciously inlaid in gun stock or molded to the sides of revolver. Most of the commercial decors seen have been rather crudely executed, I have passed them up as not only not to combat crime but for many other worthwhile public programs.

The saddest part is that it is highly probable that the enraged legislation will not result in any hope for decrease in crime. The real hurt—as with most legislative legislation—will be felt by law-abiding sportsmen, whose tax money not only will be declared unconstitutional.

But for some months, at least, the gun and ammunition sales situation is going to be in turbulent confusion. Fortunate are those who already have a good hunting or target firearm and a little construction.

The 1963-1964 season was marked by a number of other events that might be judiciously inlaid in gun stock or molded to the sides of revolver.

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CONSERVATION SCENE

Blue Sea Cookbook

UNTIL RECENTLY the enjoyment of fish delicacies has been confined mainly to the coastal regions of the United States. Now, however, the advent of freezing and rapid air transportation, the decline of ocean fishing, and the availability of canned fish and shellfish, has made them easily available to all parts of the country. Everybody can now enjoy lobster from Maine, Dungeness crabs from Puget Sound, Pompano and Red Snapper from Florida, and all the marvelous Blue Sea offerings that can make menus so varied and interesting.

Sarah D. Allison, in her new book, The Blue Sea Cookbook, gives us succulent recipes and formulas for the preparation of every type of fish and other sea foods. She includes complete menus and painstaking creations that will evoke cheers for the chef, as well as simple recipes and hints especially for the novice to the kitchen or to sea food cookery.

It should be noted that the title of Mrs. Allison’s book is somewhat of a misnomer, as she also includes in it mouthwatering recipes for all types of fresh fish and shellfish, as well as some that are cooked in the oven, broiled, fried, and baked. It is a real delight for the cook to have all of the information easily available.

From The Blue Sea Cookbook, in such a useful format. Virtually everything which one would want to know about fish is included here: information on its nutritional value; a guide to what to look for when buying; instructions on how to clean, dress and prepare all methods of cooking, barbecuing, frying and broiling; the preparation of tasty casseroles, salads, snacks and sandwiches. This is just a partial list of the wealth of information contained in this encyclopedically informative book.

Mrs. Allison is a professional Home Economist, and is Home Service Director for the Florida Gas Company. She appears regularly on TV and radio, and lectures to club groups and cooking schools. She has thousands of cooking hints and suggestions, but those concerning the use of seafoods are special favorites of hers. She is a native of Georgia, but she and her husband now make their home in Orlando.

Miss Beck noted that the tropical gumbo-limbo trees may be seen in Jack Island State Park near Fort Pierce, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park on Key Largo, Bahia Honda State Park on Bahia Honda Key, Long Key State Park on a key of the same name, and Collier-Seminole State Park near Naples.

The Florida Wildlife Federation and its affiliates direct the observance in cooperation with citizen groups, public officials, youth groups, television and radio agencies, and nationwide press and radio-TV media.

Squirrels on the Move

Southeast Appalachia’s gray squirrels and hamsters and many have been swimming rivers and reservoirs, according to the wildlife management institute. We would add for all growth, for example, more than 50 squirrels have been rescued from Lake Allatoona, near Atlanta, by fishermen, and by law enforcement officers. The emigration at that point is supposed to be by squirrels apparently from the Piedmont section. Hundreds of squirrels also have been killed on highways in the southeastern mountains and surrounding areas.

Although the causes of these periodic emigrations are not well understood, mass movements of squirrels have been known since the early 1800’s. Unlike lemmings that move together in great numbers in northern Europe, gray squirrels emigrate individually, in small groups and the movement may continue for several months. Also unlike the lemming, squirrel emigrations are not periodic and appear to occur randomly. All of the squirrels in any area do not emigrate.

The fall of 1967 was an exceptionally productive year for acorns, nuts, seeds, and fruits that are prime food of the gray squirrel in the Southeast. Wildlife authorities believe this abundance of food contributed to a high survival rate in August and September of 1967 and to a subsequent large winter carry-over and good breeding success in 1968.

Maryland studies have shown that such overpopulation is detrimental to a specific area and to the species. Weakers have been seen, with members of the population moving in an attempt to find areas where they are less crowded. In less than 900 acres of oak, these squirrels may be found in a 50-acre area. With populations growing larger, these squirrels may have moved from areas where acorns were plentiful and other areas were less crowded, suggesting that internal population growth rather than food deficiency was the primary cause of emigration. Wildlife biologists agree that providing additional food, even if this could be done, would only intensify the problem.

Tennessee and Georgia have liberalized squirrel-hunting regulations to provide outdoor recreation and to get the animals in beneficial use.

DDT Moves With Waters

ONLY THREE DAYS after the Wisconsin village of Maple Bluff sprayed DDT to control Dutch elm disease, the state Department of Natural Resources detected a heavy concentration of the poison in Lake Mendota, the Wildlife Management area.

Runoff samples taken after a rain from a storm sewer and a ditch that empties into the lake revealed DDT concentrations ranging up to 225 parts per billion, which is many times the strength of the deadly chemical killed aquatic insect larve and fish. A sample taken at the same time near a village where DDT was not used showed no DDT, so pollution concentration of the poison.

Although DDT concentrations in runoff tend to be diluted after mixing with lake waters, they still present a hazard to man’s forms of life. This is because the insecticide is ingested by larvae and small fish are retained in body tissues and build up to far greater than those found in the water. These small organisms are eaten by larger animals, with the poison occasionally passing to opossums, eagles, and fish where they again are concentrated in body tissues. As has been shown with the osoh so-called "soil" in Lake Michigan, the higher concentrations of the poison reproduce and cause death.

With this new evidence about DDT, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Department has begun periodic revisions over the use of insecticides in Dutch elm disease control.

DDT MOVES WITH WATERS

THE URGENT NEED for the protection and development of wildlife habitat will be the theme for the 1969 observance of National Wildlife Week, scheduled for March 16-21, 1969. The National Wildlife Federation, sponsor of the observance in association with its affiliates in 49 states, has selected this slogan to remind Americans of the need for protection of habitat—"Provide Habitat—Places Where Wildlife Lives."

Thomas Simball, executive director of the Federation, said that the "Provide Habitat" theme was selected because of the considerable mounting threat to natural areas in all parts of the nation. Traditional wildlife areas are being damaged or destroyed through building expansion, water and air pollution, highway construction, and even modern agricultural practices.

"The presence of wildlife is one of the indicators of the quality of our environment," Simball went on to say. "In areas where the natural landscape has not been damaged, animal populations have an opportunity. However, where the land has been missed, wildlife probably cannot exist. If we can afford progress of this type, we can also afford some protection for our great wildlife heritage."

The Wildlife Week observance has been sponsored annually since 1938, when the event was launched by a proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is scheduled each year to include the first day of Spring and promotes a timely conservation issue or resources problem.

The National Wildlife Federation and its affiliates direct the observance in cooperation with citizen groups, public officials, youth groups, television and radio agencies, and nationwide press and radio-TV media.

Florida WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1969
The Commission has announced what may be the most significant development in Florida's fresh water fish management program in years: the survival and phenomenal growth of striped bass (Roccus saxatilis) introduced into inland waters.

Several September hook and line catches of stripers up to seven and five-eighths inches long from Lake Talquin, near Tallahassee, and seine catches by biologists from Lake Underhill, at Orlando, and Lake Hollingsworth, at Lakeland, are evidence that Florida may finally have "come through" with landlocked, non-reproducing striped bass populations. (See Fish Management Notes, Florida Wildlife, May 1968 and August 1968.)

Records show that in June, 30,000 striped bass fingerlings were released in 6700-acre Lake Talquin Fish Management Area; 3300 in Lake Underhill Fish Management Area (150 acres); and 15,600 in Lake Hollingsworth (365 acres). All were hatched in early April in South Carolina and flown to Florida, where they were reared to fingerling size for stocking.

Since the accepted growth rate for striped bass was thought to have been no more than about seven inches in a full year, the largest Lake Talquin catch achieved in less than six months, both shocked and delighted Commission fishery biologists.

Catches from all three of the widely separated bodies of water have been in the 6-to-7-inch class—and delighted Commission fishery biologists.

Fishermen catching small striped bass from either of these three lakes can assist the promising program by notifying the nearest Commission office of the date, location and length of each catch.

Paralleling the Commission's fresh water striped bass report is the encouraging news that several of the striped bass stocked in the brackish waters of Choctawhatchee Bay, in northwest Florida, last June by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also have been taken on hook and line. (See Fish Management Notes, September, 1968.)

Technical papers presented for publication by Fishery Division members at the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners meeting in Baltimore in October were:


"Results of the Compressed Air-Fluorescent Pigment Technique in Mass Marking Selected Warm Water Fishes" by Forrest J. Ware, Lakeland.

David T. Cox, 26, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was recently employed by the Commission as a fishery biologist and project leader of the Stream Investigations Project. Cox, a native of Knoxville, received his B.S. from UT in 1966 and completed two years of graduate work toward his pending M.S. before joining the Commission fishery staff. His major course work as an undergraduate included invertebrate zoology, fresh water fishery biology, limnology, ecology and biological oceanography. His graduate studies were in the field of water pollution.

The objective of the Stream Investigations Project, approved under the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (D-J), is to monitor changes in water chemistry, investigate organisms and fish populations in the Apalachicola and Suwanee rivers. Sampling is conducted regularly at permanent monitoring stations along these two important Florida waterways.

David and his wife, Judy, live at 792 California Street, Tallahassee. They have a son, Bryan, 16 months.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

FISHING CITATION

It is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citations, 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 WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Grant & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

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Species
Weight
Length
Type of Tackle
Bait or Lure Used
Where Caught in County
Date Caught
Catch Witnessed By
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Signature of Applicant

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