Vultures are scavengers. They perform a useful job in the wild—"cleaning up" dead animals that would otherwise decay and perhaps become health hazards. These birds have been accused of spreading hog cholera, but studies by the state board of health have shown this is not true. Vultures are beneficial birds.

A resident of central Florida's prairie region, both vulture and hawk-like in mannerisms, caracara forms a large part of its diet, but it also captures live food such as snakes, lizards, rats, mice, and insects; colorful, with black crest, red face, white cheeks and chest and dark body. Wingspread: 6 ft. Often seen perched on roadside fence posts.

The black and turkey vultures are permanent residents throughout Florida. To tell them apart note the difference in wing patterns. The turkey vulture has a 6-foot wingspread, the black turkey has less than 5. The naked head of the turkey vulture is red; the black vulture's is black. Usually seen soaring high or low in the sky or along roadsides feeding on dead animals killed by cars.

Audubon's Caracara

Also called Mexican eagle
* Is also the national emblem of Mexico

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The Cover

In addition to being quite handsome, the Ruddy Duck has been classed as ill-tempered, awkward—and stupid. The hen appears in the center of the cover; the drake in winter plumage at top, and in spring and summer plumage below. See page 6.

From A Pointing By WALLACE HUGHES

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Rose • TALLAHASSEE
Even Coyotes Like Florida

the effects of wandering wildlife—from the west—should be observed with caution

The night is clear and a gentle, cool breeze is blowing in off the open range land. A coyote can be heard in the distance, lifting up its voice to the full moon.

Ah, a typical western setting, you think to yourself, but not so! This scene fits the south central portion of our State of Florida. For months there had been reports of strange howls in the night and flashing glimpses of dog-like animals in the region around Lake Wales. Recently, federal wildlife biologist, Vernon D. Cunningham of the Division of Wildlife Services, identified two trapped specimens as coyotes (Canis latrans). The animals were taken from the “Rocker K” Ranch, located a few miles east of Lake Wales.

A total of four coyotes have been taken in recent weeks in south central Florida. Previously, two pups were dug from a den near the area where the two adults were captured. This indicates that very probably an adult breeding population has become established in Florida. What could this mean to our state? Will they endanger our native wildlife or our livestock? These questions should be answered before deciding what steps, if any, should be taken concerning our newest species of wildlife.

According to Barney Keen, owner of the “Rocker K” Ranch, coyotes were first brought to that section of Florida in the early 1800’s by local sportsmen. They were released in hopes of obtaining a more suitable quarry for the hound enthusiasts in the area. There probably have been other introductions since that time.

It is not surprising that coyotes have managed to survive and increase in central Florida since they are classified by wildlife experts as the most successful of all large North American predators in adapting, with advancing civilization. Those who have seen coyotes and heard them howling within the city limits of San Francisco will agree with this. Also, Florida is not alone in reporting a seemingly expanding population of coyotes. They have been found in other southeastern states as well. Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Maryland and West Virginia have all recorded coyotes within their boundaries.

Some possible reasons for this widespread prosperity are: their clever avoidance of human beings, their opportunistic food habits, their rate of reproduction, their care of offspring, and their few natural enemies.

Wildlife biologist Cunningham believes the coyotes are in Florida to stay. He points to the heavy control programs that have been operating in the western United States for many years and to the large numbers of coyotes still there.

In addition to the regular food supply of rodents, rabbits, insects, fruits and berries, certain coyotes learn that livestock present good opportunities for free meals. In fact, this is the very point that started the investigation into coyotes in Florida. Rancher Barney Keen reported losses of sheep, goats and calves to an unknown animal that left tracks somewhat like a dog. Although these degradations on domestic livestock by coyotes are usually not extensive, they do occur. As practical conservationists, we have to realize that specific animals that become habitual livestock killers should be removed. At the same time, we should see that these are the only animals taken away. Coyotes are valuable as controllers of rodent pest populations as well as being an aesthetic addition to the Florida wildlife community. Moreover, the ranchers themselves expressed the excitement of the chase of the wily coyote by a pack of baying hounds.

There is little reason to fear that coyotes in Florida will have any marked effects on game animals. Coyotes have been known to feed on deer, turkey, small game birds and eggs, but this varies widely as to location. Then too, it is usually the crippled and sick game animals that are eaten. The population of predators would have to be extremely heavy in any one area before their presence could be noted by a decline in game animals.

In their native western habitat the coyote is able to maintain its population because of the rate of reproduction and care of young. The mother usually dig a den into the ground, where she will give birth to an average of from 5 to 7 young. But it is not uncommon to find as many as 9 to 11, and some animals have been known to produce 17 to 19 pups! The mother will stay with the young until they are able to kill food for themselves. Since there are very few natural enemies of coyotes, most of the young will grow into adults and add to the total population. Their numbers will increase until scarcity of food or some other limiting factor begins to take effect.

So it seems that western residents are not the only persons fortunate (or unfortunate, depending on which side of the fence you’re on) enough to hear the lonesome howl of the coyote on quiet, moonlit nights. Let us treat this new wildlife resource with caution, and not jump to conclusions concerning the effects of this animal on the Florida habitat. It is probably here to stay, so perhaps the best idea is to learn to live with the clever coyote in Florida.
The Ruddy Duck

The Ruddy Duck has been variously described, in these and other pages, as being saucy, peky, jocular, comical and by many similar terms. It is also the awkwarest, stupidest and most ill-tempered duck of them all!

So distinctive is this oddball duck that scientists, not being able to fit him into any other family of North American waterfowl, stuck him in a subfamily all by his lonesome and gave him a string of unpronounceable names—Eriomisura jamaicensis rubida, or, by another authority, Oxyura jamaicensis rubida, which is just as bad.

The Ruddy dives for his food, which is practically all vegetable matter, and makes a splashy, pattering takeoff. These behavioral characteristics make him resemble the large subfamily of diving ducks, but that's about the end of the similarity.

F. H. Kortright's authoritative book The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America lists no less than twelve different traits that make the Ruddy different from other ducks in some degree or another. For example, he points out the male has two moults per year—two plumages, one for summer and one for winter. And he has the most spectacular courtship display in all duckdom, which we'll describe. Another distinction is the diversity of local names given the Ruddy—more than any other duck. (He lists 37 colloquial names, among the more descriptive being: hiddy, bristletail, brown teal, butterball, dipper duck—referring to its grebe-like ability to sink and dive—dummy duck and fool duck, and the one we like best, sleepy-duck.)

Further, notes Kortright, "The male is the only duck of its sex that invariably assists in the raising of the young." And Ruddys are the only ones to raise two broods each season. The tiny female's eggs are among the largest laid by ducks, and the male is the only duck that possesses an air sac, which he puffs out like a pouter pigeon during the display, and woe be unto the intruder who tries to move in on his courtship territory!

When impressing his mate the natty male Ruddy tilts his tail forward until it almost touches his head, inflates his throat pouch slaps his bill against it, walks on water, using his paddle-looking tail like a trailing surfboard. He clucks and quacks constantly during the display, and woe be unto the challenger who tries to move in on his courting territory!

Too bad all this activity takes place 'way up north. When the Ruddys arrive in Florida for the winter they're just sleepy-looking little ducks, the sexes of which are nearly colored alike. But they'll decoy well and be damaged by any kind of polishing or sanding process.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1969

Line Knots

There are many types of fishing lines available—from the very light to extremely heavy—requiring several styles of safe-knot attachments.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
from the fact that everybody is used to driving signaling device any time you feel you’re getting at pretty good speed, figured we were going to get it, and had time only to pull parallel with the right gaps. In most such cases, somebody is going faster than he should be, and I think the bad habits come I was rowing the boat, I heard an outboard coming in clearly by airboaters.

A few months ago, two of us were fishing in a small blind areas, a rag tied to the end of a pushpole makes an efficient signaling device any time you feel you’re getting hidden from an airboat—or a fast outboard, for that matter. I have used a rag on a pole, leaving it there during the entire trip. It’s no inconvenience. If you venture into airboat country for the first time, remember that you can hear him and he can’t hear you.

Speaking or collisions—a rather unpleasant subject—I have been involved in some minor ones on board fishing boats, always in winding creeks or gags. In most such cases, somebody is going faster than he should be, and I think the bad habits come from the fact that everybody is used to driving on highways where oncoming traffic can be seen, unless there’s a plain sign indicating a bad corner. A few months ago, two of us were fishing in a very narrow creek, quite deep enough for good-sized boats but with plenty of sharp turns. While I was rowing the boat, I heard an outboard coming in at pretty good speed, figured we were going to get it, and had time only to pull parallel with the right bank. We got ourselves braced as well as we could, and the hotrodder hit us and glanced off our bow. We weren’t hurt, and I don’t think anyone in his boat was injured either, but they barely avoided going into the water. We were a long way from the dock and it was the only boat we saw all day. He simply figured no one would be in that creek, and should have kept in mind the fact that anyone else in that slot wouldn’t be expecting company either.

A guide friend of mine said the other day: “Any time you’re going faster than 15 miles an hour in a boat, you should have one hand on the wheel, one hand near the throttle, and both eyes on where you’re going.” It may sound a little corny but I have no argument with it.

I strenuously avoid illustrations of knots since there are dozens of places where they’re shown, together with tying methods, but I do have some favorite comments to make.

The most trouble I’ve had with knots was in tying heavy monofilament. Several times I’ve taken great pains to attach a heavy shock leader to my line and then had it come loose at the lure end, simply because the big stuff was hard to pull tight, and I never bothered to do a careful job. When using heavy mono under those circumstances, the simpler knots are likely to be better. Generally, knot strength is not too important there because the heavy leader is usually put on to prevent abrasion and is much stronger than the line.

In some kinds of fishing, of course, the whole works is heavy mono. One of the most treacherous knots for me is the excellent improved clinch, which is hard to boat when properly tied up well, but requires some hard pulling to tighten when used with heavy mono. The tendency is to complete the entire knot loosely, then give it a light tug and start fishing. Heavy mono is likely to work itself loose after that.

Liberal application of saliva is invaluable in snug­gling up monofilament in the larger sizes. After I repeatedly fumbled one complex tie up, a better knotter told me sternly that application of saliva is not just a gesture but an essential part of tying mono.

In pulling heavy monofilament tight, you need a glove or cloth on one hand and a pair of pliers for short ends. Without those precautions, you just won’t get the job done.

Not all braided lines hold equally well in knots. Manufacturers are a little reticent about explaining this because the statement that a given line doesn’t take kindly to knots is likely to hurt its image. About the only way of testing is to make some knots and pull them against scales.

Decron, beloved for backing on fly reels and used for a great deal of heavy duty angling because of its short stretch, does not have the strength of nylon in common use. Some have been due to decron are quite complicated, and some of the loops used would puzzle a chief boatswain but there is justification. You don’t need a lot of knots but you should be able to tie one or three well.

Airboats can be a hazard for the careless boaters. although there is no danger in open areas. In a path that might run through the grass of right small boats should have a flap. (continued from preceding page)

Way Down South

North American conservationists who worry about endangered bird species here should spend more time on conservation problems of Central and South America.

That’s where our migratory birds spend seven or eight months out of each year, a Florida State University tropical biologist said. “And if we don’t pay attention to ecological needs in Latin America we’re only doing one-third of the job.”

The biologist, Dr. Horace Loftin, has spent the last eight years teaching in the Panama Canal Zone at Florida State’s Bootstrap Program college extension center. Much of his time outside the classroom is spent in the backwoods of Panama studying the migratory habits of birds.

Panama is an excellent area for bird studies since it is a stopping-off point and often the winter destina­tion for North American birds flying south across the Gulf of Mexico, he said.

During the fall, Loftin and other researchers station themselves on the northeast coast of Panama and capture hundreds of birds in the morning, tagging and releasing them. The birds usually arrive during the previous night from across the Gulf. Loftin’s concern for conservation in Latin America is because of the greenery being destroyed as civilization advances into backwoods areas. “Land use practices and pesticides are becoming an increasing problem,” he said.

“In the past eight years I have seen fantastic environmental changes in Panama.” One of Loftin’s students saw this as more probably the cause of recent increases in seed-eating birds in the United States bird population. Other biologists had tried to find North American environmental changes to explain this increase.

Just about every species of bird in this hemisphere is in danger of extinction, Loftin figures, to the extent that man is depriving them of increasing numbers of trees and greenery. The U.S. Public Health Service got interested in Loftin’s work when he found that the birds he captured often carried disease viruses and small parasites. A $8,000 grant in 1938 from the USPHS helped Loftin continue his bird studies.

Working with other scientists, Loftin included taking blood samples in his routine of banding the birds.

“We found many North American thrushes carrying encephalitis (sleeping sickness) viruses,” he said. Outbreaks of encephalitis in such areas as Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey have been due to carrier birds flying from South America and transmitting the disease.

We can’t wait until we determine if bird X is a carrier of Panamanian encephalitis,” he said.

Scientists should learn all about the migratory pat­terns and wintering activities of migratory birds to add to our “stockpile of knowledge” about nature.

The “fun part” of the research for Loftin is re­capturing the banded birds returning for successive winters. Of the migratory birds he has tagged, thrushes and dickcissels from the midwestern United States most frequently return to the same winter grounds.

One of the questions that Loftin is trying to an­swer is whether the birds keep the same winter homes every year just as they keep the same North American homes.

Although his records are not extensive enough now, he figures that the migratory birds with winter homes in Central America tend to return to the same spot each year. “We know already that birds native to North America stay in the same area where they were born, but it’s somewhat more surprising that they return to the same winter homes where they have no emotional attachment (because of their birth there).”

Another question is, can they really be called North American birds if they spend only four or five months each year in North America?

We can tell practically everything about birds when they are in North America, “but as soon as they hit the Gulf of Mexico, they become unknown to us,” Loftin said.

Loftin helps run three Florida State research sta­tions in Panama. Doing similar research in tropical biology there is another Florida State faculty mem­ber, Dr. Edward Tyson.
Keep your eye on St. Vincent," wrote a noted American zoologist after a visit to the island in 1909. His exhortation is probably wasted on those who have been there, for St. Vincent Island, now St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, is the most fascinating chunk of Florida real estate any outdoorsman could hope to encounter.

Did you ever hear of it? Could you find it on a map of Florida in, say, two minutes? If so, you're undoubtedly ahead of most readers. But don't feel bad if you can't find it at all. St. Vincent has been in private ownership since it was deeded to white men by the Indians in 1811, and its shores are still limited access public use area. In addition to being a national wildlife refuge it has also been designated a state wildlife management area.

Almost everyone who has heard about St. Vincent knows that its history is intricately interwoven with stories of wildlife and hunting, mostly for big game and waterfowl. But especially for strange, imported animals that have lived there, some of which still roam its wide marshes and run its wooded ridge trails today.

St. Vincent was named by Franciscan friars who pushed westward into the Apalache country to establish missions, beginning around 1633. They made good gains among the peaceable natives.

In 1704, English and Indian raiders from the north destroyed most of the Apalache villages and missions, taking many prisoners and driving the scattered survivors beyond the Apalache River. Many settled in the Pensacola area and eventually lost their tribal identity.

Around 1759, the Creeks and the Seminoles, who were offshoots of the Creek Nation, filtered in to occupy and claim the lands vacated by the Apalache, including St. Vincent Island.

By the early 1860's, during the second period of Spanish rule in Florida, which followed some 20 years of British control, the large Scottish-English trading house of Panton, Leslie & Company found itself having difficulty making profits in its trade with the Indians.

Marauding bands were regularly attacking and pillaging outlying posts. This distressed the Spanish authorities, who had granted the established English house a veritable monopoly to do business with their Indian subjects in hopes of keeping them happy and maintaining political peace.

Later to become known as John Forbes & Company, this firm operated the first chain stores in Florida! With main houses in St. Augustine and Pensacola, they owned a string of trading posts stretching from the St. Johns all the way to the Mississippi River.

It was as a result of the Indian trouble that St. Vincent Island, as a small parcel in a one million two
hundred fifty thousand acre tract, came into the ownership of...
luxury-styled motor car of the early years of the industry, built in Buffalo, is said in local circles to have had the financial backing of Dr. Ray V. Pierce.

Although this seems quite possible, considering the interest his son had in motoring, it was unverifiable by our research. If it is true, it is strange that in Ray V's 12-line entry in Who's Who in America, Volume V, for 1908-09, no mention is made of any business or family connection with the Pierce Arrow builder, George N. Pierce, who founded his Pierce Motor Car Company in 1903. (The alliling company failed, incidentally, in the early thirties and was finally liquidated in 1938.) In 1925, the Pierce Estate, represented by Dr. V. M. Pierce, sold St. Vincent Island to a Miami investment company—Holland Fishing Company, in 1927, and somewhere along the way it wasonica.

If there ever was a reclusive man with many unusual hobbies, it was Price-Williams, perusing the old 12-line entry for the Florida Special Collections Section at Strozier Library, Florida State University, Tallahassee. The zoologist reported two eagle's nests on the island in 1909. (The other three were built in the late twenties.) There are also descriptions of the four-room cottages for caretakers and the keeperhouse, the windmill, or airmotor, and the barn, with "ample space for horses, mules, and carriges," which were used to tour the 20 miles of roads the doctor constructed and the 10 miles of hard-packed beach along the Gulf.

To shorten the story, Vernon Price-Williams included three interconnected cottages, "to face the south and each opens on a good-sized covered porch, that in turn abuts on a roofed porch, 140 feet long and 30 feet wide," says the sales booklet, which also notes the cypress construction and brick chimneys, the lead paint, guttered eaves, and spouts of "iron water pipe leading to a large charcoal filter, enter ing storage reservoirs of ample size, two in number." There are also descriptions of the four 4-room cottages for caretakers and the keeperhouse, the windmill, or airmotor, and the barn, with "ample space for horses, mules, and carriges," which were used to tour the 30 miles of roads the doctor constructed and the 10 miles of hard-packed beach along the Gulf.

Other features are too numerous to relate, but it would be well worth any St. Vincent Island-watcher's time to read that old monograph.

32. The court finally confirmed their ownership in 1939. It was Price-Williams who prepared a libel action, a St. Vincent Island dispute, which the State of Alabama Department of Archives and History at Montgomery released an entertaining copy of two still exist, one, which was graciously made available to us, being in the Florida Special Collections Section at Strozier Library, Florida State University, Tallahassee. Zoologist Hornaday's story says Dr. Ray V. Pierce had boasted "... along the shores of Florida, around her keys, over her sounds and bays [hunting, fishing and sightseeing] for twenty years or more ..." (before buying St. Vincent Island and settling down) "... to live there eight months of each year ..."

A great waterfowl and fishing area, Hornaday's account of his visit also reveals that a fine sport he enjoyed with his host was hunting wild cattle, along with white-tails and other native game. Hornaday also acknowledged the excellent oyster fishing offered by the Pensacola Bay area, and the attraction—and the unmatched duck and goose hunting, which Dr. Pierce was then enhancing by planting suitable food crops and holding them in the island ponds he had impounded with a low-level concrete dam, complete with sluice gate. The zoologist reported two eagles' nests on the island, "it still has eagles," pelicans are seen daily when we walk abroad ..."

Residences and other buildings erected by Dr. Pierce included three interconnected cottages, "to face the south and each opens on a good-sized covered porch, that in turn abuts on a roofed porch, 140 feet long and 30 feet wide," says the sales booklet, which also notes the cypress construction and brick chimneys, the lead paint, guttered eaves, and spouts of "iron water pipe leading to a large charcoal filter, entering storage reservoirs of ample size, two in number."
Like an invisible, enveloping cloud of gas. The deer moved very little. By midday, hunters had little inclination to stay on stand, or even remain in the woods. It was like that too many of the “open” bowhunting days. The result was that only 10 or 12 bucks were taken out of the Citrus Area by bowmen during the early archery season.

That’s why bowhunters are fervently hoping the coming early fall weather will be cooler than last year—at least during the morning hours. It can be accurately said that most of the serious-minded bowhunters are ready. The descriptive term encompasses many facets of preparedness. A bow must be a ready and familiar weapon. And its drawing power must be commensurate with the individual’s ability to bend its powerful, spring-like limbs into full draw, but with smooth movement and a minimum of 15 seconds of steadiness.

Arrows must be spined for the bow’s power, of correct draw length, sharp and matched to each other. The serious bowman keeps his broadhead cutting edges sharp enough to shave hair off his arm.

An arrow rest and bowstring silencer must be correctly positioned and tested for possible game-alarming noise. Fingeröle of bow must have been checked, and the most efficient arrow nocking point determined and marked on the bowstring. Bow sight—if used—must be adjusted for various shooting distances, with the determined settings visibly marked on sight base or by positioned colored beads.

Bow quiver, for holding reserve arrows, must be at the right spot on the bow and securely attached. Camouflage clothing and soft-tread shoes must have been assembled and given trial wearing. All of the small accessories normal to bowhunting must have been assembled in compact, ready kit form. Contents usually include an extra bowstring, bow wax, replacement arrow feathers, points and nocks, Dupont cement, an arrow sharpener, pocket knife, adhesive tape for multiple uses, matches, needle and thread, snake bite kit, compass, map of area hunted, and whatever other items the bowman feels he might need sometime during a hunt.

Areas of planned hunting must have been scouted before opening day and some bowless stalking attempted on later legal game.

The ability to accurately estimate average shooting distances in the woods is also required. Hours and days—even weeks—of shooting practice, at both still and moving targets, from all angles, must be behind the ready bowman. Only lucky bowmen kill game without practice—and then, not often!

If you have never been to a Florida Bowhunting Jamboree, resolve to attend the next, wherever held. You’ll have fun—and you will learn a lot about practical bowhunting techniques.

For the archer who doesn’t mind putting miles on the road, there is plenty of shooting activity and good fellowship at Fort Caroline near Jacksonville, Pensacola, Fort Pierce, Fort Myers, the Miami area and at Key West. Between major destination points an archer on the move is sure to find plenty of local activity. There are organized, active groups in all sections of Florida.

Since communication can easily be the lifeblood of any group activity, the archers have their own monthly newsletter, aided by volunteer correspondents who furnish not only local news but archery activity resumes for national publications. Answers to a questionnaire recently circulated statewide brought forth some interesting and thought-provoking opinion tabulations. Results of the poll indicate that Florida bowmen feel that, given suitable habitat restoration in certain critical areas, Florida deer herds can be kept at high level. Confidence in the Game Commission’s biologists and their highly technical studies was expressed.

The illustrated monthly newsletter of the Florida Archery Association is currently edited by James M. Frazee, Jr., 603 Oak Hill Drive, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701. A very interesting section is the monthly commentary on Florida bowhunting by J. E. (Mac) McLain, Jr., head of the Florida Bowhunters’ Council. Write for a sample copy.

More and more bowhunters are now taking cameras afield as well as archery tackle. The result is not only some good story-telling black and white photos, but some excellent color slide presentations.

One of the latter category, by Jack Swenningsen of St. Petersburg, is especially worthy of mention. It not only tells the story of Florida bowhunting as

(Continued on next page)
it actually happens, but the slide sequences contain many good examples of the proper application of camouflage to successful bowhunting.

Color slide arrangements, especially when they are segmented in related order and spiced with neatly executed title slides, are particularly suitable for projection before clubs and other organized groups. Invariably, audience reaction is reflected in increased enthusiasm for bowhunting.

From a public relations angle, the best ones could be loaned to banks, cafeterias and other establishments that have automatic type slide projection machines and use Florida outdoor subjects as interesting public entertainment offerings.

Most assuredly, Florida bowhunters have learned much since their first bow hunt. But Florida deer have obviously learned a lot, too. Today, they seem to know right away the stranger, two-legged, mottled-pattern creature that slips furtively from brush clump to brush clump, holding something resembling a tree limb, but giving forth recognizable man scent, is preferably kept at safe distance.

The alert animal heard the twang of the bowstring, of fast-reacting deer dodging oncoming arrows. The first one calls for you to spread and poise your fingers on the hand that controls the bowstring's release. When ready, your separated fingers should take a shot at one of the large but distant field practice targets on Citrus Area.

From the crest of a hill, E. E. McBain, president of the Florida Bowhunters' Council, takes a shot at one of the large but distant field practice targets on Citrus Area.

The very top edge of the ruler, so that the lower end lies just between your separated thumb and forefinger. (Remember: In this test you are using the hand that controls the nocked arrow on bowstring.) Your fingers are poised to catch the ruler the moment you realize it is falling.

Ruler release is done sharply and without warning by your assistant. The measured distance the ruler falls between the time your assistant releases it and your fingers close around the ruler on bowstring to the falling ruler and stop the ruler's fall with a quick catch reflect ability to react similarly.

In the next test, you try to determine the degree of coordination between your bowstring controlling hand and bowstring controlling hand. You don't need assistance on this one.

Hold the top of the ruler with thumb and forefinger of your bowholding hand. Open your fingers abruptly, and then stop the ruler's fall with a quick grasp with your bowstring-controlling hand. Be careful not to cheat by grasping for the ruler simultaneously with its release.

This second test is valuable in helping the bowman evaluate what can happen to his arrow during the reaction time of aiming eye and an undisturbed bow, from moment of final aim to full bowstring twang.

Expert archers, competent with stopwatch and slide rules, have worked out a comparison scale that enables a Bowman to quite accurately judge his own test, by noting the inches of fall his reaction time indicates on the grapped ruler. In essence, the scale represents the mathematical rule that things equal to the same thing are equal to each other—or something like that, depending on how well you remember school equations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inches That Ruler Falls</th>
<th>Equal To</th>
<th>Arrow Would Travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>6 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 inch</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>9 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 inches</td>
<td>2 second</td>
<td>17 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 inches</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 inches</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>35 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>65 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>1 second</td>
<td>48 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The tests also serve to register the fact that you actually introduce arrow release errors in your shooting, through unknowledgeable release of arrow rather than a release that quite desirably does not have the exactly known moment.

The legions of Florida bowmen don't mind taking their chances with ticks and red bugs. It is the intangible, unpredictable season factors that worry them most.

On their behalf, let's do a little whistling in the dark, or finger crossing, too. This season, especially, the bowmen deserve good fortune.

Given any kind of a break, they will surely write another colorful chapter to Florida's bowhunting history.
The Least Tern
By ART HUTT

Every spring there descends upon our central Florida lakeshore a joyous company of Least Terns. These gay seagull-shaped birds, about as long but more slender than a robin, enliven our beach until late September, then disappear southward to their over-wintering grounds.

But in those few months, they are, through their antics and friendliness, a constant source of enjoyment, and sincerely missed when they are gone.

The Least Tern is well-named—for it is the smallest, the daintiest, and most delicate of the thirteen terns that occur in the United States. While size alone can be a key to identification, other aids are the bright yellow legs, feet, and bill, the latter commonly tipped with black. Wings are long and narrow (span is about 20 inches) with darker primaries; at rest, they extend beyond the tail.

Many terns wear black caps, but this cheerful bird has a white forehead in front of its cap, and a black line through its eye.

General color is white underneath, with pearl gray topsides.

The Least Tern’s flying agility is remarkable; graceful like a swallow’s; not clumsy like a seagull’s. It glides smoothly with wings outstretched, moves rapidly with strong wing flappings, caroms around air corners with sharp tilts of its body, and hangs suspended over an unsuspecting minnow with short, staccato wing beats.

Primarily a fish-eater, with slender bill pointed downward, the Least Tern hunts or hovers over the water until it spies its prey, then swoops or plummetts down from an up-to-40-foot height to make contact.

Fish and surface-swimming organisms are caught in its bill, the dainty feet lacking the strength to grasp and to hold. A few flying insects—dragonflies in particular—are run down and caught, and Least Terns have even been known to relish an ant now and then.

At our small inland lake, the happy hunters catch mainly brook silversides minnows, streamlined tid-bits up to three inches long. And such a com-motion when a catch is made! Minnow dangling from its beak, the tiny tern noisily announces its triumph much like a sirens-blowing incoming Miami party boat, buzzing the rest of the group, which responds with proud chatter as though admiring both the prize and the prowess of the fisherman.

“My, isn’t that a beauty!”

“And I caught it from 30 feet up, too.”

“Gosh, you sure are a good fisherman!”

Etc.

We’d swear these fast flyers show off their catches to us. If we are on the beach or in the water, the feathery braggarts wheel closely overhead to make sure we get a chance to admire their catch, too.

Least Terns seem to lack the greed of similar birds. Seagulls will harry a comrade until it drops (Continued on next page)
Tern is often called "sea swallow." It has a wing span of about 20 inches. Primarily an aquatic bird, it seizes its prey by plunging into the water from a height of up to 4 feet—quite the fish with its bill.

Excitedly when a companion's catch is displayed, Least Terns, the members of this tern family, flare their plumage, nodding and tending to their eggs on a flat rooftop. The terns we've watched have consistently laid two eggs—whitish with a delicate blotching of brown or purple—very hard to see against the completely exposed nest but it seems to take the completely exposed nest but it seems to take

There is little time that can be devoted to deliberate sightings down a long shotgun barrel or ventilated rib. As already pointed out, the shotgun must come to shoulder fast and smoothly. Pointing of muzzle must be easy, almost instinctive, with shooter conscious act, like starting a car. With practice, it could become an almost subconscious act, like starting a car.

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To speed up pointing, no rear sight is put on the conventional shotgun. Instead, the shooter's sightplane has been changed; it is like putting a higher ventilated rib. As already pointed out, the shotgun must come to shoulder fast and smoothly. Pointing of muzzle must be easy, almost instinctive, with shooter conscious act, like starting a car. With practice, it could become an almost subconscious act, like starting a car.

A good gunsmith will readily understand the shotgunner's problem, and probably effect a cure for the too-low shot pattern impact. If not, the maker of the selective choke attachment will gladly do whatever is necessary. Changing the angle of the selected attachment even a wee bit can make all the difference in the world in results. The makers of selective choke muzzle attachments know exactly what is called for, once a problem is presented. Ask that a fixed-on test target be sent with your gun when it is returned.

Muzzle flashes: to speed up pointing when hunting with a shotgun, a front sight is all that is generally used—the shooter's eye for sighting serves as rear sight.

By EDMUND McLAURIN

**HUNTING**

**Muzzle Flashes**

**to speed up pointing when hunting with a shotgun, a front sight is all that is generally used—the shooter's eye for sighting serves as rear sight.**

EVEN THOUGH it is one of the finest hunting shoulder weapons, the shotgun is basically short-ranged. For most field shooting, it must be shouldered and pointed quickly, usually on targets of accelerating speed. Desirably, for most precise pointing, a shotgun (like a rifle) should have adjustable rear sight and an easily seen front sight, but such a combination would prove far too slow, for the average shooter, to accurately align during the short time most shotgun targets are still in range.

Likewise, the shotgun cannot be fired immobile when targets are fast; it must be kept moving to maintain proper swinging lead and post-firing follow through. There is little time that can be devoted to deliberate sightings down a long shotgun barrel or ventilated rib. As already pointed out, the shotgun must come to shoulder fast and smoothly. Pointing of muzzle must be easy, almost instinctive, with shooter conscious act, like starting a car. With practice, it could become an almost subconscious act, like starting a car.

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(Continued from preceding page)

its prize; ducks will shoulder each other out of the way for a grain of corn. But Least Terns, the members of our little company anyhow, conduct themselves with decorum, nodding and "talking" excitedly when a companion's catch is displayed, making no attempt to snatch it away.

Eggs are laid in the open, the only concession to nest building being a slight depression into the sand or in the selection of a site near the completely exposed nest but it seems to take

The terns we've watched have consistently laid two eggs—whitish with a delicate blotching of brown or purple—very hard to see against the completely exposed nest but it seems to take

Least Terns were nearly annihilated along our east coast back in the early 1900's, for their plumage brought a good price in the millinery market. Mar­ket hunters slaughtered them mercilessly.

Happily, the tern has made a fair comeback since this senseless slaughter. Least Terns breed coastal-wise from Massachusetts around to Texas and up major rivers and their tributaries. They overwinter mainly in South America.

Sociable, graceful, and elegant, the diminutive Least Tern has few equals in the bird world.
Once the almost instinctive and accurate gun pointing ability is acquired, it really matters little whether or not a shotgun has a front sight. I know several shooters of long field hunting experience who still shoot expertly, even though their shotguns long ago lost front sight beads.

Most shooters believe in some sort of sighting aid, however—especially a front sight.

Choice of size and color of a shotgun front sight bead is individual. Some shooters cannot find a small bead quickly with aiming eye; others see one sight color better than another. If the shotgun is to be used in dim light, color of bead can be a factor in obtaining sharper aim.

Gold is an excellent color choice; it probably is the color most frequently seen on shotgun sights for shooters have learned that gold color shows up well.

But among the experts, an ivory bead front is regarded the best. The only trouble with an ivory bead shotgun front sight is susceptible hunting mishap afIELD. Sooner or later you can expect to look at a hard-used shotgun and find its brittle ivory bead gone. Fortunately, breakage does not happen too often, and a new sight can be easily installed.

In seeking a euro-all for missing, imaginative shotgunners have visualized and concocted some weird sighting devices. These have included an attached rear sighting bar with seven equally spaced but different color beads as sighting aid for estimation of shot pattern center and gun muzzle. Fortunately, breakage does not happen too often, and a new sight can be easily installed.

In the same useful category are combined front and mid-barrel sights—a large bead close to muzzle and a smaller one slightly spaced about 11/16 to 14/16 inches from muzzle, depending on barrel length. The combination is definitely helpful in obtaining accurate sighting eye and barrel alignment, and contributes to elimination of crossfiring alignment errors.

The Triuss optical front sight does much the same job. Once correctly installed, the sight's useful portion becomes visible to aiming eye only if sighting eye is in correct optical plane in relation to exact center of breech and gun muzzle.

As is usually true of any rule, there are certain practical exceptions to that of "no rear sight on a shotgun used for wing shooting." An experienced shotgunner—one of fast reaction and coordination that comes only from a lot of shooting at a wide variety of field targets—can successfully use an adjustable peep rear sight with so-called "shooting aperture," as made by Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan 48422.

With such a rear peep and a highly visible front sight, like the Ithaca "Ray-Bar," the shot pattern center can be made to coincide with any desired point of aim (by sight adjustment after test firing several shotshells of same shot size and powder loading against large sheets of pattern paper).

Once a shooter masters a peep sight on a shotgun, he will do surprisingly well.

For deliberate aiming, the peep sight comes into its own. I know a Florida turkey hunter who uses a 12 gauge Browning autoloadcl shotgun with rear peep sight adjustable for various ranges; a globe rear sight that slips over breech under spring-like tension; single and double loops; multiple, side-by-side rings; or two-segment "ring" type sight with two sizes of circles, each with its own segment lines, and the now almost forgotten Nydar shotgun sight.

But, on the more practical side, there have been used peep sights, a good example, like the narrow sighting plane provided by a solid or ventilated center rib, the Simmons "Glow Worm" front sight, Ithaca "Ray-Bar" front sight, and various shapes of large aperture, the accept sizes of beads mounted alone at gun muzzle or combined with a Bob Nichols type "Bevil-Holk" serrated base.

A low power scope sight on a shotgun is especially beneficial in quick single, raw shooting plane and adjustment of shot pattern center to any desired impact point.

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An adjustable peep rear sight is usually easily installed on a single-shot, pump or auto-loading shotgun.

Both Williams Gun Sight Company and Redfield make excellent peep sights for shotguns. The Williams features the big aperture even on the small block style mounting base on side of receiver if one wishes to temporarily remove the entire sight.

Certain shotgun models—like the Winchester Model 12 and Ithaca Model 37, for example—may require a change of front sight height for most successful use with large aperture, the Remington, the old Model 97 Winchester, and the square-shouldered Browning autoloaders, do not require a front sight height change. Accept the technical recommendations of either the Williams firm or Redfield.

It is possible to dovetail the rib of a double barrel shotgun 10 or 12 inches ahead of breech to accept a folding open sight, like the Redfield No. 45, then match it with front sight bead of proper height. However, it is usually difficult to get doubles to deliver slugs from both barrels to same point of impact, even after judicious gunsmithing. Many deer hunters don't even try; they sight-in one of the barrels for dead aim with rifled slug and use a shell loaded with buckshot in the other barrel.

Whether you use some sort of shotgun pointing aid or simply unmodified gun, learn to shoot fast.

One direction and speed of target have been mentally registered and judged, I believe it is definitely advantageous to shoot fast.

I attempt to get on shotgun targets fast and to shoot the instant the rapidly swinging muzzle looks right in relation to target. It is my feeling that the more a shotgunner contemplates this shot, the slower he will be his ultimate gun swing, with likely misses.
**CONSERVATION SCENE**

Fishing License Thoughts

North Carolina's Wildlife Resources Commission has succeeded in convincing a tax-conscious state legislature of its need for more than $860,000 to meet the rising costs of an expanded wildlife program, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Effective July 1, the cost of all North Carolina's 17 different types of hunting and fishing licenses, with the exception of the nonresident season and 6-day hunting licenses, were increased. Resident fishing license went up from $2.25 to $3.50. The legislature also created a special big game license that is expected to yield about $159,000 in additional annual revenue.

Funds from the big game license will be allocated to improved or expanded areas of hunting, deer, bear, wild boar, and wild turkey, while the increases in other licenses will create a sorely needed to meet the rising costs of salaries and general fish and game management operations.

In addition to the license increases, the legislature also granted the Commission a continuing, permanent appropriation of eight-tenths of one percent of unreceived motorboat fuel tax for its boating safety program. This use of the fuel taxes had been authorized on a trial basis in 1967.

According to Clyde P. Patton, executive director of the Commission, "the license fee increases, in addition to a big-game license, and the continuation of unreimbursed motorboat fuel tax refunds, reflect the confidence of the people of North Carolina and their elected representatives in the Commission's program." Is it strange that, here in Florida, residents can still canepole fish for free in their home county? And the annual fresh water fishing license remains at a mere $3.00 for an entire year (no closed seasons) of fishing.

(The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, plus many anglers and sportsmen clubs, have been trying for years to have the annual fishing license required of ALL fresh water fishermen. This would mean additional Federal Aid (D-J) funds that would enable the Fisheries Division to address with their many management programs long-created for maintaining and improving fresh water fishing conditions for now, and the future . . .)

**Biologists Deserve Support**

The scientific management of fish and wildlife programs has not been fully accepted in many areas of the country, particularly where the "Old Timer" reigns peerless among sportsmen.

His sage advice, based on countless years of experience as a licensed hunter and fisherman, is not cast aside too readily by those around him. And that advice disagrees too often with modern management policy, claims John Marsman of Sedge Acres Co.

His philosophy embraces the conviction that he knows what there is to know about fish and game because he's around longer than anyone else. The college-bred upstart with the degree, who now has charge of management programs, just doesn't know what it's all about.

Our ancient expert reasons further that the wildlife conferences held annually on local, regional and national levels, are a waste of time and money. Why travel halfway across the country merely to share knowledge with other scientists? The time and money could be used to better advantage, such as stocking more fish and game.

The "Old Timer" may be right in his philosophy, but don't let him convince you that fish and game management today is not a science, or that trained biologists don't know what they're doing. Trained biologists need to administer what we now know to be a very complicated field of scientific endeavor. They need to exchange ideas with one another, to profit by each other's mistakes, and to share with one another the accomplishments of their labors.

A chief point of irritation with "Old Timers" seems to be a college education with its accompanying degree. In their opinion, it's not enough to qualify a man for the responsible job of fish and game policymaker.

Don't knock me apparent to these men of dubious wisdom that a great deal more figures in the composition of a biologist than a college degree. What was the motivating force toward a career in fisheries and wildlife management? The love of money?

Chances are, your biologist was born in the country and was a hunter and fisherman before he decided to dedicate his life to the outdoors. He's in it because he loves it, and that means a kind of dedication money can't buy.

Capt. W. R. Crane, Bahia Honda State Park, has announced that the reservations would be accepted for the additional camp sites until they are filled. This is scheduled for early October.

He said, "At present, we are just accepting advance arrangements for our current camp sites and every one has been reserved between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3. We can take reservations up to, and including the following dates."

No reservations will be accepted for Long Key until completion in mid-October, either Miller noted.

**Florida's Early Bowhunting**

Florida Bowhunters are primed for the state's 21-day archery season, set for September 15 through October 3— as previously announced by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The only thing new has been added.

Upon recommendation of the Game Management Division, the Commission added a new season for adult deer of either sex game during the archery season. (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page) (The usual resident game species will also be legal to take. Check your 1969-70 Regulations Summary, pages 32 & 33 for the list.)

Although the opportunity for a bowhunter to bag a deer has been considerably increased by the "either sex" rule, the bag limits have not been liberalized. The daily bag, season bag, and the possession limits on deer remain as established for the 1969-70 season—two per day; three per season; three in possession after the first day of hunting. Big game bagged in the archery season is counted in the sportman's general season bag limit.

Portions of the Everglades Region will remain closed to hunting during the archery season (See "Archery Season," page 29, bottom). However, nine Flori­da wildlife management areas will be open for bow and arrow hunting prior to the opening of the general season.

In four management areas—Blackwater, Apalachee, Osceola and Ocala—the archery season runs concurrently with the state-wide archery season—September 13 through October; twenty-one days; either sex deer may be taken.

Lykes Bros, Fishcreek Beech area has a 19-day archery season—September 13 through 22; either sex deer may be taken.

The J. W. Corbett area has a total of six days open to archers only—September 13 & 14; 20 & 21; and 27 & 28 (Saturdays and Sundays); either sex deer may be taken.

Two management areas have archery hunts in October: Citrus (October 4 through 26); and Camp Blanding area—October 11 & 12; 18 & 19; and 25 & 26 (Saturdays and Sundays); either sex deer may be taken at both areas.

Rounding out "early" archery hunts is Eglin Field—a 16-day hunt scheduled from Oct. 15 through Nov. 15. Florida "legal buck" regulations are in effect, along with certain other game.

## Resident Game

### Hunting Season

#### Northwest Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag</th>
<th>Season Bag</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squail</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Hog</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Migratory Game Birds

#### Marsh Hen

- **Marsh Hen (Rallid Gallinules):** September 1 through November 9
- **Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

#### Mourning Dove

- **Mourning Dove (three-phase):** October 4 through November 2*
- **Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

#### Florida Purple Gallinules

- **Daily Limit:** 10
- **Season Limit:** 25
- **Possession Limit:** 25

#### Florida and Purple Gallinules

- **Daily Limit:** 10
- **Season Limit:** 50
- **Possession Limit:** 50

### Regulations Summary

#### Northeast Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag</th>
<th>Season Bag</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEER &amp; BEAR</td>
<td>November 1 through January 4.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>Winter Season—November 15 through January 18.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>March 7 through March 22, south of State Road 30.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUAIL &amp; SQUIRREL</td>
<td>November 1 through February 22.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Central Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag</th>
<th>Season Bag</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEER &amp; BEAR</td>
<td>November 1 through January 4.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURKEY</td>
<td>Fall Season—November 1 through January 4.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>March 7 through March 22, south of State Road 30.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUAIL &amp; SQUIRREL</td>
<td>November 1 through February 22.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Bag Limits

- **For deer and turkey sex requirements, see General Regulations Summary**
- **Daily Bag:**
  - **Deer:** 2
  - **Turkey:** 1
  - **Squail:** 10
  - **Bear:** 1
  - **Wild Hog:** 1

#### South Region

- **DEER & BEAR:** No open season on the Florida Keys of Monroe County.
- **TURKEY:** Fall Season—November 1 through January 4. 
- **Spring Season—March 7 through March 22.**
- **WILD HOG:** Palm Beach County—November 1 through January 4.

#### Everglades Region

- **DEER & BEAR:** No open season on the Florida Keys of Monroe County.
- **TURKEY:** Fall Season—November 1 through January 4. 
- **Spring Season—March 7 through March 22.**
- **WILD HOG:** Palm Beach County—November 1 through January 4.

### National Park Guidelines

**Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel's 12-point policy directive for the management of the national park system, spelled out in a June 18 memorandum to George W. Hartung, Jr., director of the National Park Service, should dispel apprehensions about the future of the parks under the Nixon Administration, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.**

"...expressing outright support of the "administrative pol­icies, management principles, and long-range objectives of my prede­cessors," Hickel directed that the National Park Service, and not park concessioners, operate camp­grounds. He also directed that a study be made of opportunities for an expanded program of federal ac­quisition and federally assisted acquisition of park and recreation lands in the large urban centers of our nation." He asked for an action program to "bring parks to people."

The Secretary noted that the natural national parks, such as Yellowstone and Glacier, have the purpose of protecting "fragile nat­ural resources" for their "inspi­ration and educational benefits" while at the same time offering "special experiences in quality outdoor recreation." He cited automo­tive traffic as a threat to many parks and instructed that "before major park road con­struction is initiated in the future in any natural area, I wish a thorough study to be made of alternative methods of access and transporta­tion." Additionally, he asked that planners consider the parks within their region rather than just the park property alone.

Hickel noted that the National Park Service is behind schedule in designating national park wil­derness as required in the Wilder­ness Act of 1964 and asked that the program get back "on track."

Copies of the 7-page memo­randum are available from the Secretary's Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.
I

creeping catfish, dog-eating catfish, and by a few from grade school children, as and almost unbelievable volume of mail from all Project, many of the letters have simply requested Water Fish Commission’s Non-native Fish Research West Palm Beach, who heads the Game and Fresh biologists, and to civil defense authorities, a select­ple there with shotguns and maybe fishing around with a steel spike like club and when it

Ogilvie, who points out that spelling is the same as


For that BIG ONE that
didn’t get away

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS 3 pounds or larger
CHAIN PICKEREL 4 pounds or larger
BLUEGILL (BREAN) 1/2 pounds or larger
SHELLCRACKER 2 pounds or larger
BLACK CRAPPIE 2 pounds or larger
RED BREAST 1 pound or larger

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.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S FISHING CITATION

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

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

Name (please print) _____________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________

City ___________________ State __ Zip No. _________________________

Species ___________________ Weight _____ Length _________________

Type of Tackle ___________________ Bait or Lure Used __________

Where Caught ___________________ in ______ County ____________

Date Caught ____________ Catch Witnessed By __________________

Registered, Weighted By __________________ At __________________

Signature of Applicant ____________________________________________

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

For that BIG ONE that
didn’t get away
Laughing Gull

FLORIDA WILDLIFE Magazine
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

please print or type

Name ____________________________
Street No. ___________________________
City ____________________________
State ________________ Zip Code ______

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Photo By Lovett Williams