Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

NATURE NOTES

WATER

Why don't they look uncomfortable scared on hot, humid days? * It's because birds don't perspire - that's why!

The jumping prowess of the jumping mouse, sometimes gets it into trouble. Headlighted, it can jump farther than it can see.

NORMAL LIFE SPAN OF THE BLACK BEAR IN THE WILD IS 10 TO 15 YEARS + WELL CARED FOR, INDIVIDUALS IN CAPTIVITY MAY LIVE TO 30 YEARS OLD

The darting, erratic flight of the green-winged teal, one of our smallest ducks, makes its speed deceiving. Its speed of 20 MPH is slow compared to the canvasback’s 70 MPH.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK • FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Florida Wildlife

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The Cover
An underworld, trusting fried of farmers and urban dwellers alike; the Barn Owl should never be harmed or extirpated from its nesting or roosting site. "Monkey-faced" is an apt name for this rare species. See page 28.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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JULY, 1973

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Bass fishermen call them unprintable names. Bream fishermen call them a bonus and add them to the day's catch. Restaurateurs who serve them call them money in the bank.

Fisheries biologists call them Ictalurus nebulosus. Columbus White calls them speckled catfish, has spent the past 27 years fishing for them commercially, and probably knows more about the species than anyone else even wants to know.

The best place to find Columbus is on Newnan's Lake, in Alachua County, just as the sun begins to burn the early morning mist off the water. He'll be working his way along 2,500 trotline hooks, hauling sparkling fresh catfish from the sandy lake bottom and flipping each one off the hook with a crooked wire. The fish pile up in the bow of the boat as Columbus moves down the long line.

"I fished with my daddy when I was little, and learned a lot about the business from him before I went out in my own boat. Then Uncle Sam went to war and took me along. The government took advantage of my boating experience—I saw the world from the gun turret of a Merchant Marine freighter," chuckled Columbus, his hands constantly busy dropping cleared hooks in one pile and speckled cats in another. "Since then it's been Newnan's Lake, Orange Lake, and Lake Lochloosa, where I haven't had any submarines to worry about."

As we talked Columbus pulled his four trotlines, with 700 hooks on one and 600 on each of the other three. An hour and 20 minutes later, with 100 pounds of fresh catfish in the fish well, he cranked the 50 horsepower outboard, spun his 14-foot wooden Skipjack boat in a tight circle, and ran for the dock.

His hundredweight of fish was a good haul for the month of May, according to Columbus, backed up by other commercial fishermen in the area. "I've had occasions like this, I've been able to haul 500 pounds on one set," grunted the man of the shallow sea, "but that's a sometimes thing for most of us. Generally speaking, working five days a week, and with a couple of good hauls, we can figure on an honest $100 a week to live on. We don't complain too much about that."

Fishing 2,500 trotline hooks a night is not light work, but Columbus White, above, and his family manages to get the job done. Several species of fresh water catfish, and cat, seem right home market value. The Whites are happy with a $100 per-week catch, which they dress for pick-up by wholesaler.
The folks who talk about normal use of a motor never’ve found out how many hours we put on a rig in a year’s time," smiled Columbus.

White noted the decreasing number of commercial operators over the years, blaming the drop equally on factory wages and 40-hour weeks, and the declining water quality in the lakes he fishes.

"There’s no doubt that young men are being drawn away from family businesses like this," Columbus said, "and the water used to be good around here. But with all these dams they keep puttin’ in, the water doesn’t get a chance to rise and fall, and the fishin’ is just goin’ to hell. It used to make for better fishin’ during the next high water. Now it doesn’t, and that’s part of what ruined Lake Apopka. It’s goin’ to do the same thing to Orange, Lochloosa, and Newmans. You mark my words!"

Columbus White laid out his lines Thursday night, baited with fresh, cut up hens ("Prosciutto chicken’s no good. The cats won’t take it.") in place of the grass shrimp he had used the previous night. He had already run through crawfish, beef heart, and even soap as catfish baits that week. As he said, "The catfish is a funny critter, and you have to offer ‘em what they want if you expect to haul any fish."

"Puny pout," he added. "Some try to put a bad name on commercial fishermen. But a good catfisherman sets his lines late in the evening after most of the sport fishermen are already off the water. The lines are sunk in 10 to 12 feet of water where a propeller won’t get tangled in ‘em. And we generally don’t go near the shallow water, because the catfish just aren’t there. But you have people who buy a commercial license, tie a bunch of hooks on a line, and throw it out on a weekend when they come out from town. They figure they can pick up a few dollars that way, but some of them don’t even bother to pick up their lines until the next week. They lay them in shallow water and get both the sport fishermen and the waterskiers mad, and we get the blame."

(Editors’ Note. A new rule adopted by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and now in effect states that no person shall allow bass hooks, sinkers, or trotlines to remain in the water for more than 48 hours without removing any fish caught, and also requires that every trotline be marked with the owner’s name and the number of his fishing or commercial license."

A good night’s sleep, and Columbus White would be out on the water early Friday morning, pitting his experience, skill, and wits against Mother Nature to involve his family in the age-old trade that is the source of their income. Then, over the weekend, he and his wife and children, and some friends, perhaps, are likely to go broom fishing for relaxation.

"When you spend all your life working on the water, it seems kind of a shame not to enjoy it for yourself when you can," grinned Columbus as he drove off—probably in search of a supply of some new catfish bait he’d heard about and wanted to try Monday evening."

Most commercial catfishermen use wooden, fashioned boots like Columbus’s Skipjacks, seen below. Motor size is determined by how much water a man normally covers. But is key to good catches, and White has tested them all—best baits, brush chicken, and even soap. Variation of menu is give them “what they want,” in his belief.

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northern Florida is the best bass fishing in the world. I still think it's the best area for giant bass, even though there are many more other good places somewhere in between. This means the bass is capable of catching any lure as fast as you can crank it, if he really wants it.

SOMETIMES A CASUAL, temporary fishing rule becomes a sacred motif to be remembered and followed regardless of conditions. In bass fishing there has been so much talk about fishing slower, slower, and still slower that many folk never take advantage of those days when the bass want a fast retrieve. By cranking fast you cover more water and make more casts. Some of the mouthpiece plugs are of the kind of operation, and the same tactics work for near-surface spoons and spinner baits—sometimes. The thing to remember is that the bass can catch if he wants to at any time the water temperature is reasonable. It's logical to crank fast if the bass will take that kind of a retrieve. By cranking fast you cover more water and make more casts. Some of the mouthpiece plugs are of the kind of operation, and the same tactics work for near-surface spoons and spinner baits—sometimes. The thing to remember is that the bass can catch if he wants to at any time the water temperature is reasonable.

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Is there a breed of hunting dog which can be trained to meet the needs of a sportsman who hunts both upland game and waterfowl? This is like asking if there is one shotgun that can be used effectively for all wing shooting, or a rod and reel that is suitable for any type of fishing. (It's better to have one shotgun or fishing rig than no gear at all.)

The answer to the dog question is "Yes, but ...." It's a question being asked more and more by Florida hunters who live in cities and suburbs. They do well to own one hunting dog and stay out of trouble with neighbors and leash laws. In addition, their dog often has to assume the role of family pet. Most professional dog trainers will tell you it can't be done. From their standpoint, they're right. They are specialists who spend much of their time refining small points and style. They have to turn out finished products meeting the standards of the breed, and then some. If they don't turn out better dogs than the amateur, then they're soon out of business. They have their hands full in training a dog to do what it is bred to do and are rarely interested in teaching the dog to do something another breed has been developed to do better.

This means that if you want a utility dog you'll probably have to train him yourself. That's all right. You should train your own. An amateur trainer who only owns one dog can do a better job than a professional! Not for field trials and silver trophies but for the owner's particular needs. There are several reasons. First, if you buy the puppy when it is from four to seven weeks old, it will adopt you as its parent. You will have a closer relationship with the dog than conditions allow a professional trainee to have. Secondly, you will spend a great deal of time with the dog; the professional is limited on how much time he can spend with each dog he is training. Your puppy will be around people more, receive more love and attention, and will learn more about sensing moods and tone of voice. Also, if you bring a puppy into a modern home, with all the noises of television, children and washing machines, and take him with you on car trips, he'll become used to a variety of noises and it's unlikely he'll be gunshy.

Another reason you can do a better job, for your particular purposes, than a professional is that you know better what your requirements are. To have a utility dog, you must start off with the idea that you are going to compromise on requirements; the professional is usually not able to do this. If your dog is a pointing breed, say a Brittany spaniel, he can be taught to retrieve waterfowl to a blind. He can be taught to stay quietly as the ducks circle, to watch where the ducks fall when you shoot, and, on your command, to go and get them. If you train him well, he will not lose any ducks—but he will never perform with as much style and dash and speed as a Labrador retriever. If a professional wants a duck dog, he will never start with a pointing breed. He'll choose a breed which has been bred and developed for waterfowl, such as a Labrador, golden or Chesapeake retriever.

A utility dog can be taught to do a lot of things in the field, but remember: Because you make him a versatile dog, it is not fair of you to ever expect him to do a particular thing as well as a specialist. If you take your Brittany quail hunting with a buddy who owns a pair of excellent pointers, the chances are that your friend's dogs will find most of the birds. You must be prepared for his barbed remarks and have a story to tell about how good your Brittany is in a duck blind or dove field.

Let's say you are an enthusiastic wing shooter who lives in Florida and you can only own one dog. You hunt mostly on weekends but you like to hunt a long season so you take a few trips for marsh hens, doves, bobwhite quail, snipe and ducks. You also know where a few woodcock spend the winter. (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

You don’t plan to enter your dog in field trials and simply want a dog which will help you find game and retrieve shot birds.

There are three main families of bird dogs: Retrievers, pointing dogs and flushing dogs. Which family you should choose from? Flushing dogs, such as springer and cocker spaniels, are trained to work in close and flush game, hopefully when you are in range. Flushing dogs can be used for woodcock, marsh hens, and to retrieve doves and they often make excellent duck dogs. But they are far from ideal for bobwhite quail. They are not bred to point to bobs. Retriever dogs should be taught to retrieve if you start them early enough.

If we eliminate the flushing and retrieving families of dogs, this leaves the pointing breeds. For hundreds of years, the pointing breeds have been developed for pointing qualities, but most also have some tendency to retrieve naturally.

There are two things in a dog the owner can do little or nothing about: The animal’s instinct to hunt and its scenting ability. He’s born with these qualities and he has them at about the same level when he dies. If you carefully choose a pedigreed pup, then your chances are improved for owning a dog with strong hunting instinct and a good nose. The point here is that if your dog has the ingredients to do a fair job of pointing, then you can teach him to retrieve whether he has any natural inclination for it at all. A German shepherd or a mongrel from the hippocampus could be taught to retrieve if you start them early enough.

The selection of a pointing breed means you have a dog with the potential of handling bobwhite quail. It could point woodcock, sometimes snipe, and it could indicate marsh hens, probably visually. It could also be taught to retrieve these species, plus mourning doves and waterfowl.

By a process of elimination we have arrived at choosing a utility dog from the family of pointing dogs. Now, which particular breed should we select? Remember, our utility dog has to be the family pet, and on your travels you may be checking into motels.

There are four main breeds of pointing dogs in Florida: Pointers, setters, Brittany spaniels and German shortshairs. There is a host of strange breeds from Europe which trickled in, but none has much chance of gaining acceptance or lasting importance. While there are no statistics available, probably more than 80 percent of the pointing dogs in the state are pointers. Setters are barely holding their own, one reason being that people think the setter gets too hot in Florida and his coat picks up too many stickies. Brittany spaniels are definitely increasing in popularity and will continue to do so, especially if the keenness of nose is increased by selective breeding. It is unlikely the German short-haired pointer will become more popular, one reason being that it is unfairly pitted in the field against pointers.

For the utility dog, I would choose a setter or a Brittany. Generally, neither has the nose of a pointer. seldom will you see a setter or Brittany which is the efficient hunting machine that is today’s Southern pointer. But seldom will you see a pointer which has the affection, disposition, and personality of a setter or Brittany. I have never heard of a professional dog breeder who bred pointers for intelligence. Speed, nose, courage, and stamina, yes, but not for intelligence. There are a few kennels around, often run by amateurs, who still consider intelligence when mating setters and Brittains. (Naturally, I refer to the broad term English setters, the Irish setter having been bred into a nitwit by show people years ago.)

Generally, setters and Brittains are more adaptable as family pets than pointers. They are not as rough and rambunctious in the house. They are more sensitive, perceptive and friendly. They crave affection, as do most people, and they answer a family need for mutual love. They’re also easier to get into motels, few managers being able to ignore their friendly greetings.

Despite all of the failings and old wives tales connected with owning and training hunting dogs, you can have a dog which is the family pet and also a field utility dog, one capable of turning in a fair job of pointing and retrieving. A family dog, which spends several hours a day around you, knows full well when you are playing at home and when you mean business in the field. By the tone of your voice, or by simply looking at your belt, he knows.

Professional trainers, who may have spent long hard hours perfecting a dog, often cringe when the owner takes it. The trainer knows the owner will not be firm in commands, that the dog will test the owner to see what he can get away with, just like a child. Also, the owner has likely lost all rapport with the dog and will have to spend patient hours regaining it. The owner will also likely give too many commands to the dog, talk to it too much when the dog is in the field working. This is how the fallacy that you can’t have a single dog as pet and hunting dog got started, and continues.

I bought Smokey when he was six weeks old, after having known and hunted with his parents and grandparents. He was out of shooting stock, not field trial; I knew most of my hunting would be on foot. I did not want a wide-ranging dog or a real fast one. For my purposes, a steady plumber which would stay in sight and quarter back and forth was what I needed. The chances that Smokey would meet these requirements were excellent because his immediate ancestors had those qualities.

Smokey was born with a strong hunting instinct.

(Continued on next page)

Photos By Charles Dickey

Smokey, now a house companion, has earned a rest. He has worked the woodcock cover of the Northeast above, the pheasant fields of the Midwest, right, and the mountains of California for band-tailed pheasants, even retrieving Canada geese. Dogs of the flushing and retrieving breeds couldn’t be expected to master this sort of versatility.
(Continued from preceding page)
but only an average nose. As is true of nearly all English setters, he was affectionate and sensitive to the moods of people and different hunting conditions that his perception and adaptability gave the illusion of his being extra smart about some things.
Smokey was broken on bobwhite quail and then introduced to retrieving deer. Over the years, he was used as a utility dog on quail, chukar partridge, California quail, band-tailed pigeons, snipe, woodcock, puffer geese, Canada geese, and many species of ducks. He was not a great pointing dog, as good a retriever as top Labradors, of course, but he was not a great pointing dog, as good a retriever as top Labradors, of course, but if he was born with a high I.Q. or simply gained his perception and adaptability gave the illusion of his being extra smart about some things.
He hunted chukar partridge at 6,000-foot altitudes, and coastal bugs in Maine for woodcock. He retrieved geese to pit blinds in North Carolina and ran down steep mountains to fetch hand-tailed pigeons in California, which would hit and roll as much as 500 feet below where we perched. There were a few special things which made Smokey a successful utility dog. His yard training started when he was seven weeks old. He was taught to heel, sit, force-broken to retrieve, and to "whoa," all before he was six months old. During this period he was not taken hunting. "Heel," "sit," "fetch," and "whoa" were drilled into him so thoroughly that when he was taken hunting he was fairly easy to control, even when he found his first covey of bobwhite and then the singles.
As I knew Smokey would be traveling with me, I always liked his attitude. He didn't care what we hunted or where we went. He hunted in snow in 110 degrees, altitude change. Every second that I spend teaching a dog to perform a job is time spent in play and petting and just letting him be a dog.
Smokey had a natural tendency to retrieve, but I ignored it. I force-broke him to retrieve, which simply means he was trained to fetch anything I threw, bring it in, and hold it until he was told "Let go." He was made to fetch everything I threw —training pad, stick, rubber ball or tin can. With this thorough grounding he retrieved on his first hunt and all other hunts for the next 18 years. The only time he ever balked was on his first trip to a dove field, with the first dove on a hot day. He picked up a young dove and the feathers peeled like the bird had been hit with a jet fan. Smokey was hot and he dropped the bird and refused to pick it up. I put my gun away, got out my leash, and put Smokey at heel. I forced him to carry the dove for 30 minutes. It was not a question of my being unkind, but simply a question of decision on the spot who was going to be boss. After this session, I never had trouble with him again about refusing to pick up any kind of bird.
When a dog reaches the age of four months he learns that he can not play inside. At first I spent no more than 10 minutes a day on fundamental discipline. But as the dog got older I increased it to 30 minutes. The other time was spent in play and petting and just letting him be with me or ride along in the car. In hardly any time at all a dog learns when you are playing and when you mean business in a work session.
"I'm going to start you on work for woodcock, but I put a sheep bell on him and tried to teach him what the cover is. He was a social feller, always friendly, and he loved to find another hunting party and join up with them, to my total embarrassment. However, we worked out a mutual toleration of each other. He forgave me my sin of frequently missing with my shotgun and I forgave most of his transgressions. He was a friend and partner and let me be boss most of the time.
It's more fun to be afield with any manageable dog than no dog at all. If because of your particular conditions, you can only own one dog, it's still possible for you to start with a pointing dog which you can develop into a utility dog, and it can also be a family dog. Don't worry about the high standards set by field trial people; that's a different league altogether.
You know from the start that you can't have a utility dog that is capable of competing with the specialists. That was your original compromise, remember. The most important thing is that the dog suits you. You, your field, reasonably well, the buddies you hunt with.

Photos by Charles Didley

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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INTRODUCTION
A noteworthy conservation milestone was passed on March 20, 1973, when the formal report of the Committee on North American Wildlife Policy was presented to the 35th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, in Washington, D.C. The document, which is historically significant in the annals of wildlife conservation in our hemisphere, was presented by Dr. Durward L. Allen, eminent educator and author, of Purdue University, committee chairman.

That report, which is being reprinted in FLORIDA WILDLIFE in a three-part series, begins with this issue, updates another historic document, known as the American Game Policy, adopted by the 17th American Game Conference, in 1910.

As many readers know, that remarkable statement of philosophy and policy has been the guiding light for America's single generation of professional wildlife managers; indeed, it helped establish scientific game management as a profession.

The late Dr. Aldo Leopold, the "father of game management," was chairman of the original policy committee, of which there is but one surviving member, Seth Gordon, of California, who is still active in conservation work, and who also served, as an honorary member, on the 1973 policy committee.

The new report is being reprinted in its entirety for the information of FLORIDA WILDLIFE readers. It is the result of a year's work by Dr. Allen, Daniel A. Paule, committee secretary and president of the Wildlife Management Institute, and 20 fellow committee members representing different geographical areas of the nation and continent; people of various disciplines and points of view.

While we in Florida can take pride in all that has been accomplished since the adoption of the 1930 American Game Policy, it is our hope that the ideas, policies, goals, and, above all, the optimistic outlook expressed in this the new North American Wildlife Policy will be thoughtfully weighed, staunchly supported, and freely shared by all who read it, for it contains new objectives far-reaching enough to keep all of us occupied for another 43 years, at least.

Dr. O. F. Frye, Jr., Director
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

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Durward L. Allen, Chairman
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Copies of the new North American Wildlife Policy may be obtained, at $1.00 cost, from the Wildlife Management Institute, Wire Building, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Today's great environmental issues are, literally, without limit. In one context or another, we find ourselves dealing with all living things. However, in its concern with policies and management, the committee conceives wildlife to mean, most commonly, free-living animals of major significance to man.

We regard management as the application of knowledge in the regulation and enhancement of wildlife resources for human benefits. Most notably it consists in meeting the habitat requirements of all species, adopting necessary regulations, and providing for enforcement.

In the sense used here, a policy is a course of action recommended as a preferred means of serving the continuing public interest.

In proposing guidelines for administration and management, we abstract, as best we may and without consensus, the findings of experience and research. We build upon the report of 1930 in confidence that the total record will provide useful terms of reference for people who face decisions.

As in the past, the major objective is to preserve and improve the wildlife resource. This states our support for the traditional concern of conservationists, that wildlife should contribute to the greatest good of the most people over the longest time.

This report is addressed most specifically to problems we know best, those of North America. However, it offers substantial ideas that might well be exported around the world. As an independent product of citizen concern, it could help advance the cause of a universal ecology in the minds of people of many nations. We regard this as a conceptual goal for the future.

In its composition, the committee encompasses representation from Mexico and the long-established participation of colleagues in Canada. Since a majority of members are from the United States, the programs of states are frequently referred to. If any criticism is implied, we feel most free in applying it to ourselves. Where the word "state" is used, let anyone who finds it appropriate read "province," or other governmental unit.

Why again?

We find a new need to affirm or create policy because new standards and rules are emerging in our society. The last half-century has brought great changes, and more are on the way.

Although the future is unpredictable, certain trends are evident. From today's unprecedented (Continued on next page)
peak of population, there will be a further increase in decades ahead.

Our resource-consuming technology will continue to grow. Pressures on the environment will exceed anything yet seen, as every kind of natural asset is under accelerating demand.

Possibly this describes a creeping crisis. However, somewhere ahead, men on earth are likely to encounter a period of ultimate trial. That could be a time when too many people in a vastly overtaxed environment will find wisdom to match their knowledge. They may then permit their numbers to decline to a level where lives of dignity and fulfillment can be available to all.

This outlook faces some hard realities, but it offers a hopeful future and should be a constructive basis for policy making.

For now, we must prepare for tensions and shortage. Wildlife and outdoor pleasures are the most fragile and vulnerable part of our living standard. How will they rank in times of resource emergency?

They will need public acceptance as a competing value in our uses of land and water. They will require high priority in political and economic decisions. Otherwise they will be lost in the present, and their future will be foreclosed.

In a sense, our program for wildlife is a holding action. Today and in years immediately ahead, the first big job is to prevent irreversible losses—of species, populations, and life communities.

But an equal challenge is to prevent a cultural loss. Widely varied patterns of living are among the many kinds of diversity that enrich the human experience. In our rapidly urbanizing population, many are already estranged from outdoor interests, earth knowledge, and pioneer skills. These elements in our culture should remain available to generations beyond our own.

The record of progress
The first policy report was outstanding in its far-sightedness. It described problems that are still with us, but it also saw needs that have been largely fulfilled. There are important entries in the credit column:

Large acreages of land and water, in public ownership, are dedicated as wildlife habitat and devoted to public use.

Wildlife management has been professionalized. Many colleges and universities offer a wildlife curriculum and supporting courses in biological, social, and earth sciences.

Centers and programs for wildlife research have been established and funded to provide facts on which efficient management can be based. At all levels of government much has been done to free wildlife administration from the blight of partisan politics.

Energetic and well-informed citizen organizations are supporting the causes of public interest and ecological management.

Let us hasten to say that more should be accomplished in these fields. More critically, our present report describes issues—some of long standing—on which we have hardly made a constructive start. It may be that the easy solutions, if there were any, have already been applied. The future of wildlife is entangled in the total complexity of man's relationship to nature.

Principles and Promises

Decades of this century have witnessed steady gains in useful biological knowledge. Among leadership there is growing sophistication in attitudes toward wildlife and its associated resources. From both science and philosophy we draw assumptions it seems constructive to state:

Each living thing survives and plays some essential part in the operation of a self-maintaining community of plants and animals. The community and its site, including climate, constitute the ecosystem—the basic working unit of the biosphere.

Habitat is local environment. Its quality determines abundance or scarcity for any species. Habitat improvement is the fundamental need in producing more wildlife.

Man's ecosystem is the entire earth. He must plan its use, protection, and renewal. For the support of all life, its natural processes of rejuvenation and replenishment must continue to operate. This is the great challenge of environmental deterioration.

Man's dependence on living things is a reality of survival. He must be willing to share the earth with other forms of life. Their right to exist should be an acknowledged ethic.

Environmental fitness may be judged by the welfare of many creatures. Regional declines of wildlife indicate maladjustment. They bespeak remedial action.

Governmental or professional responsibility in resource management carries a paramount obligation to the general public interest.

In many useful combinations, soils, waters, vegetation, and animal life are renewable resources. From (Continued from preceding page)
There are satisfactions in human life that have been taken for granted and poorly appreciated. Freely enjoyed benefits of the natural environment are being taken for granted and poorly appraised. Historically, and particularly among people least familiar with it, wildlife has been an idle cause, easily downgraded or ignored. Many will be adjusted to artificial surroundings. Will the complexity of urban areas have greater importance for its environmental and casual uses? Since early in the century, professionals have recognized that the esthetic, "non-consumptive" enjoyment of wildlife in the out-of-doors is by far the greatest value of this resource. There are creatures and environments in dooryards, urban greenbelts, farms, and hinterlands, and in every kind of water area. They lend essential character to our human inhabitants. This universal worth defies measurement. Similarly incalculable, and even more basic, is wildlife's biological role. Every organism of the community has a function that affects all the others. Often we see specific interactions in terms of human interest, such as the abatement of insect pests by songbirds or the suppression of crop-damaging rodents by predators.

The ever-greater difficulty of finding open waters and lands; a growing scarcity of high-quality sport.... The concentration of fishermen and hunters; Increasing interest in other forms of recreation. In economic terms, fishermen and hunters contribute substantial support to outdoor recreation.

Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

Wildlife Uses and Values

The concentration of fishermen and hunters. A growing scarcity of high-quality sport... The ever-greater difficulty of finding open waters and lands. Increasing interest in other forms of recreation.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
JULY, 1973
Americans who fish outnumber those who hunt by well over 2 to 1, yet both of these traditional forms of recreation may yield off in rate of increase in future years, due in part to continuing urbanization and greater difficulty in finding open lands and waters and truly high quality sport. Sport fishermen and hunters consider the edification of fish and game the final act in rearing an end­day excellence. They owe allegiance to the financial support of nation’s wildlife management efforts, local, state and national. They give for international management too.

(Continued from preceding page)

industries and to public management agencies. Their expenditures in the field during 1970 were more than $7 billion. Their federal excise taxes totalled nearly $47 million and their state license fees $192 million. As a taxpayer, the sportsman will create incentives for intensive management. Mariculture is a promising new industry with great potential for the production of shrimp and pompano in particular.

We must recognize, in addition, the world-wide plight of many kinds of whales. Here, international control of the harvest is urgently needed and much in question. The protection and rational management of living things in international waters requires a responsible world commission. Unlimited demands for food and the continual development of more efficient harvest gear have the potential for irreversible damage. It could include not only extinctions, but major changes in the life support systems of the oceans.

Of the many uses of wildlife, those producing profits to industry and monetary gain for individuals are the most difficult to control. Where a commercial harvest is allowed, two rules of management apply: Regulations must be scientific and impartial. They must be rigidly enforced, both in the field and by the courts.

Survival: The Great Priority

As stated previously, we anticipate a continuing increase of human population and inroads on resources. The problems of endangered species will become more critical as such conditions develop. Present expedients to protect and restore our jeopardized wildlife are inadequate—a result of fragmented jurisdictions. A succession of clear and interlocking responsibilities should be established for such species from local, through state or provincial, to federal, and international levels.

This committee urges that a new world-wide perspective be promoted by the nations of North America. It would recognize that all peoples have a common concern for the survival of plants and animals still existing on earth. We regard this as a feature of the right-to-live concept already advanced. In a utilitarian sense, the preservation of species leaves options open for generations to come, who may find unpredictable uses for many organisms.

Various kinds of international negotiations are in progress to facilitate cooperative wildlife management. These efforts should be extended to include world-wide conventions on threatened species, wherever they may be. An international custody is needed now and in the future for living things that decline from any cause to the point where extirmination is possible.

This would have value of a particular kind in the United States. The federal government has received jurisdiction over many species of birds and certain marine mammals through the treaty-making powers of the President. This authority, which is restrictive upon that of states, implements treaties with Canada, Mexico, and Japan. Whether or not it is acquired in this way, a federal sharing of responsibility is needed to assure improved measures for the restoration of diminished “resident” species covered only by state laws.

Photo By Gene Smith
Fish Pond

Practices

By JOE BLANCHARD, Biologist
Fish Management

What Is A Fish Pond?

A fish pond can be any size body of water from 1/4-acre to over 150 acres. It will support anywhere from 40 to over 400 pounds of fish per acre, depending on habitat, water quality, and the owner’s desire.

Why Have a Fish Pond?

A fish pond can be a valuable source of recreation—fishing, swimming, boating, and many other water-related activities. It may serve as a land conservation measure and as a water storage area in a crop irrigation system. In addition to providing fish for food, it can provide a cash income to the owner by leasing out or selling hunting and fishing rights. Since sport fishing is now big business in Florida, a well-managed fish pond is part of good business for any landowner.

Who Can Build a Fish Pond?

Anybody who owns or leases property that has a suitable site for one. When contemplating building a pond, you should seek assistance from the Soil Conservation Service through your Soil Conservation District, or from an experienced private engineer. Whichever you consult, follow his advice!

Is the Pond Site Important?

It is most important! Careful consideration must be given to the selection of a site for your pond. The cost of construction and maintenance, and the usefulness and productivity of the pond, depend on its location. A good, manageable pond must have an adequate water supply; but it should not have too much water flowing through it. A good rule of thumb in selecting the site is to have 10 acres or less of drainage area to each surface acre of pond water.

How Deep Should the Pond Be?

For highest fish production and the least amount of maintenance, the pond should have a minimum depth of two feet at the shoreline, with a gentle slope down to six or seven feet maximum depth in the middle. Ponds with a large part of the water area seven to 20 feet deep do not produce a correspondingly higher yield of fish. Very shallow ponds, with depths of less than five feet, soon become nothing more than weed ponds.

How Can I Be Sure I Have Desirable Habitat?

All brush and trees do not need to be removed from the site. In fact, these afford shade and concealment for the fish, and provide a place for attachment of aquatic insects. In the northern part of Florida, soils and waters tend to be acid. Nearly all fish reproduce and grow better in alkaline waters, so before construction is complete, contact your county agent and have your soil and water checked. If his tests indicate a pH of less than 6, add 1,000 pounds of agricultural lime per acre to the bottom. It can be spread or placed in piles along the edges.

How Should a Pond Be Stocked?

If a pond is to provide good fishing and maximum fish production, it should be free of all fish before it is stocked. The fish should come from a state, federal, or reliable commercial hatchery, and be stocked in correct numbers. All old ponds (those holding water a year or more) and some new ones should either be drained or chemically treated to kill all existing fish. The most suitable fish for stocking in ponds are largemouth black bass, redear sunfish (shellcracker), bluegill (bream) and channel catfish. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission raises all but channel catfish in its hatcheries. Catfish can be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Soil Conservation Service, or from any number of private commercial hatcheries that specialize in producing channel catfish fingerlings for stocking purposes.

How Many Fish Should Be Stocked?

The number stocked is based on the amount of surface water of the pond, and its fertility. Your regional fisheries biologist, employed by the Game & Fish Commission, will be happy to consult with you concerning the numbers of fish to be stocked in your pond. Never attempt to "help" stock your pond with fish you have caught, or to apply to several agencies for fish for stocking. Such practices can seriously damage your pond.

When to Stock a Pond?

Because of the spawning habits and climate differences within Florida, the time to stock is best left to the biologist who is familiar with your part of the state. Bluegillss are usually stocked in the fall and bass the following spring. The bluegill’s diet consists primarily of insects, and they can live in a pond without other fish. If allowed exclusive use of a pond, however, the bluegill’s soon become over-populated and stunted for lack of food. Therefore,
Can a Pond Be Overstocked?

Yes, it can. One of the most popular misconceptions about fish ponds is that placing vast numbers of fish in them will provide better fishing. This is the exact opposite of the truth. If too many fish are stocked, or if the fish population becomes overcrowded (out of balance), the food supply will be depleted in a short time and the fish will not reach adequate size. Fishing success will then drop off. Likewise, if too few fish are stocked, a great number of offspring will survive as a group. This large group will grow until the available food supply is depleted, which usually results in an overabundance of fish that fail to reach harvestable size.

When Should Fishing Begin?

After the bass have spawned, which is normally one year after they were stocked. This assures proper control of the bluegills. The pond should then be fished regularly so as to remove surplus fish and allow other fish to grow. During the first year of fishing, bass should be removed sparingly, however, as their presence is insurance against overcrowding by the bass. Channel catfish generally do not reproduce in ponds, so when the original stocking has been about two-thirds removed, additional catfish may be added. These must be 10 to 12 inches long when stocked to avoid being eaten by the bass.

Should You Fertilize a Fish Pond?

Many ponds receive sufficient nutrients to be naturally fertile, so no additional fertilizing is necessary. However, ponds that do not receive such nutrients will often produce many more pounds of fish per acre when properly fertilized. This practice should be discussed with the biologist prior to stocking.

Why Fertilize a Fish Pond?

Because, as stated, the ability of the pond to produce fish is directly related to the fertility of the water, and fertilizer also controls underwater plants by shading them out.

Consider very carefully before stocking whether you wish to fertilize your pond or not, as this will help determine the stocking rate. Should you begin to fertilize and later drop the program, you will most certainly damage your fish pond. It is far better to fertilize a small pond and then pick up the fertilization program.

There is another option. If your pond is small and you visit it daily, you might consider feeding your fish instead of fertilizing. Any commercial fish food will do, and the fish will show a more rapid rate of growth.

How Does Fertilizer Produce Better Fishing?

The fertilizer is dissolved in the water and the nutrients therefore cause a growth of microscopic plants called plankton, which, in turn, provide food for tiny animals. Plankton will color the water a dark green, thus cutting out the sunlight necessary for the growth of water plants and moss.

What Amount Should Be Used?

Commercial fish pond fertilizers are now readily available and should be the only ones used if the pond is also to be utilized for swimming. Organic fertilizers such as manure can be used but have a very high bacterial count. The pond needs certain amounts of the nutrients nitrogen, phosphate, and potash for best results. The formula which has proven best is 3-20-5. This formula is 100% water soluble; however, it may be necessary to buy another formula and adjust it. Normally, 40 pounds of 20-20-5 per one acre is sufficient for each application. If you time your pond, or if it receives nutrients through runoff from fertilized pastures or groves, it may not require fertilizer.

When to Fertilize?

The first application of fertilizer should be made during the spring when the water temperature has reached 60 degrees F. Within a few days after the application, the water will become green or brownish-green due to the growth of plankton. If the water fails to change color, additional applications should be made in 10 days. In certain naturally dark-stained waters it may be hard to distinguish this color change. Subsequent applications of fertilizer should be made whenever the water becomes clear enough for you to see your hand when it is submerged 18 inches in the water. This usually requires application every three to five weeks. The program should be continued until the water temperature drops below 60 degrees F. in the fall.

How to Fertilize?

Fertilizer can be broadcast from the bank or poured from a boat. Sacks of fertilizer can be placed on submerged platforms, from which it will be distributed gradually by wind and wave action.

Fertilizer can be boosted into high-yield production once it's begun; it avoids later problems. By fluctuating the water levels, fish are stimulated to increase their feeding. Disease organisms and undesirable aquatic vegetation can both be controlled in this manner. The biologist can recommend the best times for this procedure.

Are All Waterweeds Undesirable?

No, a certain amount of waterweeds is beneficial to fish production in that they provide habitat for fish food organisms and shade for fish during hot summer days. It is only when weeds become too numerous that they hamper fishing and contribute to overpopulation of bluegills by providing hiding places for them, making them unavailable as forage for the bass. Generally, when one-third or more of the pond surface becomes weed infested, chemical control must be used.

How to Control Waterweeds?

1. Eliminate shallow edges and marshy conditions; deepen the edges of the pond to at least two feet.
2. Fertilize enough to shade the pond bottom.
3. Mow around pond edges when needed.
4. Keep organic matter out of the pond to prevent the formation of pond scum.
5. Utilize water level drawdown during the winter.
6. If waterweeds still become a problem, consult with a biologist on how best to control them.
The barn owl

By GENE SMITH

In appearance, the barn owl is the most unbirdlike of North American birds. Yet the habits of this trusting, curious, and extremely beneficial fellow are typical of this family of flying mousetraps—the mysterious "birds of night," the supposed "snatchers of souls," the innocent owls.

Old "monkeyface," the barn owl, has an age-old aversion to bright lights. He's a master predator of many species of barn owl in North America, is a breeding bird in practically the entire "lower 48." It makes short local migrations in the northern and central states in order to escape the worst of the winter weather, for without accessible food supplies, it dies.

In Florida, it's found statewide and is a common year-round resident, although this owl is infrequently observed unless a person is looking for it in just the right places. Barn owls may take over a squirrel's den or a woodpecker's old home, enlarge it by tearing away rotten wood with their powerful, four-toed feet, and settle down to homemaking. In the absence of a suitable tree cavity, or perhaps simply because they prefer it, a pair of barn owls may establish residence in a steeple, shed, silo, hayloft, warehouse, or any similar structure, where they may raise a family year after year, virtually under the noses of human neighbors, yet remain undetected.

Wherever the nesting site, barn owls build little or no nest. Five to eight eggs, dead white in color, are laid on a bare surface. But there have been cases where so many rolled away that up to 10 and 11 eggs were deposited in all before a clutch was incubated. Most often the male barn owl remains in the vicinity of his mate during the 32 to 34 days incubation, occasionally bringing her a mouse in recognition of her devotion to duty. (The female leaves the nest for short periods to feed, however.)

The homely, hissing young are covered with white down, as are owlets of every species, and they have proclivities and appetites. Both adult birds are kept busy through the night, every night, feeding their offspring. Soon, the ill-tempered, ill-mannered young outweigh their parents. Shortly before they are fledged, however—at seven or eight weeks old—they experience a marked weight loss despite their food intake, and the immature barn owls approach the dimensions of adults in five to six months in length, with a wingspread of some 43 inches. (They're slightly smaller than great horned and barred owls, but larger than burrowing and screech owls. All five are common in Florida.)

The female leaves the nest for short periods to feed, however.)

The barn owl's funny face is useful as well as aearing, and their facial disk serves as a sort of dish antenna that catches the faint squeaks and rustling noises made by mice and other animals scurrying through the grass below the barn owls as they fly from perch to perch in search of food.

It's to the owl family's credit that its various members haven't always been cast as portents of evil, as in Will Shakespeare's plays. Angus Cameron's delightful essay "Man and Owl," in Audubon, November 1971, reveals that in some cultures the owl has also been the hero; a symbol used to avert bad luck.

The displaying of an owl's likeness supposedly struck fear in the evil spirit presumed to be present— or about to present, a threat of some kind. For example, the Chinese built owl ornaments into the gables of their houses to protect them from fire, the owl being, to them, a symbol of thunder and lightning. Similarly, the Romans displayed owlish designs about their dwellings to ward off the evil eye, Cameron wrote.

These practices should have worked at least as well as the many old-time folk remedies using owl flesh, feathers, and eggs. Owl broth was apparently an old standby for a number of children's ailments, and owl's feet or hearts were "prescribed" for such diverse problems as gout, heart disease, and failing eyesight.

Nourishing? Sure. Stimulating? Perhaps. But hardly therapeutic, wouldn't you agree?

By Wallace Hughes
Fish Management Notes

B ECAUSE the LAKELAND south bass failed to spawn this spring, Hurricane Lake Fish Management Area, in Okaloosa County, will remain closed to fishing until further notice, according to John W. Woods, chief of the Fisheries Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee. The 350-acre lake, built in 1971, was to have opened to public fishing in June. "Our biological fish population samples indicated no bass reproduction whatsoever," said Woods, "and, in fact, the year-old fish, which normally would have spawned, appeared to be sexually immature.

Regional biologists John Crew and Charles Knight, of DeFuniak Springs, reported a substantial portion of twin-tailed catfish and channel catfish of harvestable size, but recommended against opening the lake because of the condition of the bass present and their vulnerability to predation by the remaining day crowds of anglers, to the detriment of the fish population balance. In view of the peculiar fish management problem, supplemental feedings on the lake with bass appears to be feasible and "should compensate for the lack of reproduction and result in better fishing in the coming years," said Crew, who speculates that "the high level acid conditions which persisted in this new lake for some time may have contributed to the suppression of the bass population, and their failure to spawn this year.

Hurricane Lake is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Crestview, in the Blackwater River State Forest.

The continuing saga of men against birds in defense of fish reveals still more trial and error methods are being employed by Morris Ntaggar and his crew at the Richloam Fish Hatchery, in Bunnell County, to frighten away fishing-fee haired friends from the hatchery holding ponds.

"Noisy but effective under specific conditions were cherry bombs on a fuse rope, carbide cannon, and Teleshot aeria l bombs," says Lake Management and Research Project Leader Forrest Ware, of Lakeland. "Out of an estimated three-quarter million fry successfully hatched and stocked into rearing ponds, a yield of 50,000 fingerlings successfully hatched was obtained.

Besides inexplicable losses from some ponds in which fingerlings were observed a few days prior to draining, but which failed to yield any fish upon draining, there were substantial losses in the fry culture stage this year. The symptom of "lockjaw," in which the fishes' mouths locked in the open position, causing their deaths eventually, was responsible for the loss of approximately a million stripers.

Wear reports.

On the bright side, Blackwater Hatchery, in northwest Florida, scored introduced 48,000 fingerling striper from some 300,000 fry released into two rearing ponds, an excellent survival rate.

Progress on a number of management projects was recently reported by Everglades Region's Dr. Cobia Goforth, regional biologist:

"Time was spent this month converting shell rock pits owned by Palm Beach County into fishing lakes. Nine sites were inspected to establish working priorities and formulate lake designs. Present plans call for modifying certain ponds to be used specifically for catfish ponds. The county's engineering department has been asked to the board of county commissioners for budget approval a request for $50,000 to $100,000 to get the project started. The work will be extended over the next few years—possibly five—until the nine areas have been completed."

Goforth reported a similar project on borrow pits in the Lake Park Marsh, owned by the City of West Palm Beach.

"Again," he stated, "one pond will be used as a catfish pond."

On other fronts, the biologist said, "Two fish ponds in the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area were renovated for future stocking. Spot rote

noise fish samples were taken in the Ft. Pierce Savanna Fish Management Area, as well as in the fishing pond at the Everglades Youth Camp. Controlled burning was carried out on a marsh in the youth camp ponds in an attempt to retard vegetative succession."

(Peronnel of the Commission's Game Management Division assisted with the burning operation.)

"Work continued on plans for dredging muck from Lake Osborne, and the marsh restoration project in (Palm Beach County). Permit applications have been submitted by the county to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, in Tallahassee. Hopefully, a county-owned dredge will be placed in the lake in approximately one month," Goforth's report concluded.

For the first time since 1961, Richloom Fish Hatchery failed to produce a substantial crop of striped bass, says Lake Management and Research Project Leader Forrest Ware, of Lakeland. "Out of an estimated three-quarter million fry successfully hatched and stocked into rearing ponds, a yield of 50,000 fingerlings successfully hatched was obtained."

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Florida Wildlife

Magic Circle

The simple principle behind aperture-type gun sights can make quick alignment and aiming easy even for the beginner, with practice

BY EDMUND MULAREN

ALTHOUGH riflesmen generally seem to prefer scope sights, metallic sight combinations continue to be popular, and for good reason. A carefully selected front sight and adjustable rear peep sight combination is said to beat for hunting at short and medium ranges. Even in serious target shooting competition against scope sights, the right metallic sight can hold their own. Years ago, when I was active in the competitive tournament circuit, many of the "any sight" matches were won by shooters using metallic side combinations. Some of the smallest 10-shot groups I ever saw at 100 and 200 yards were made with rifles equipped with metallic sights. The secret of success with metallics is using the right size aperture, or peep hole, in the rear sight for your eyeshot and for shooting conditions, along with the right kind of sight for your field of view.

For serious competitive target shooting by a person with reasonably good eyesight, a hooded, aperture-type front sight such as the Lyman 77, Redfield International, Savage No. 622-1, the old Redfield 73, and J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area are well suited for your needs. Some of the smaller 10-shot groups I ever saw were fired at one bullseye on a target of the proper size by skilled professional performers than unhooded blade types.

With the aperture-type front sight, the condition of your eyesight does not material affect shooting, if a sharp front sight outline can be realized. Generally, shooters will get much more uniform when using an aperture-type gun sight, one can see a circle in the rear sight, the bullseye in the peep hole, and the sight line is easier to "see". A bullseye with an aperture of proper size can be accurately aligned with a peep hole, the shooter, in utilizing the flat top for precise alignment, is able to see his game target above it.

Also, tired eyes require more light under the hood in order to see a front bead in set. Its width is equal amount of light on either side. The sight's aiming reticule, is an objective sight. You must use it on a target or on the game hunted.

For serious competitive target shooting by a person with reasonably good eyesight, a hooded, aperture-type front sight, such as the Lyman 77, Redfield International, Savage No. 622-1, the old Redfield 73, and J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area are well suited for your needs. Some of the smallest 10-shot groups I ever saw were fired at one bullseye on a target of the proper size by skilled professional performers than unhooded blade types.
A bead sight is usually not much good for conventional bullseye shooting. Simply, it is more difficult to align a bead sight with the target than it is to sight on a flat topped post sight, or "ring" a bull with an encircling black outline.

Since the aiming eye is automatically attracted to the center of the rear sight's peep hole (where the light is strongest), the shooter is helped from the start of aiming. He needs only to bring the front sight and his eye directly opposed to it, and the alignment may be made while the light is strongest, or otherwise that the eye instantly finds it and the front sight and the target beyond. For serious, slow-fire target shooting, and for sighting-in of a new rifle, I use .600" and .670" rear peep holes, depending on range light. But for actual hunting use I use only large .108" and .125" sizes, because, as a rule, the diameter sight disks—if I use an aperture disk at all—will completely block out a buck's shoulder at 300 yards, with rifle sighted to hit close to point of aim. With the front sight bead, covering so much target area, it is easier to make a sight alignment error and overshoot.

If you prefer to "shoot off the top of the bead", by using tip-top aligned on target (so that intended hitting point is clearly seen above the top of the front sight), there is the possibility that the bead sight may tend, by visualized, to shoot away from the light in the bright sun. For best results, a front sight, whether bead or blade, should be nonreflective. That's why in bright sunlight many users of bead sights temporarily blacken them in the same way that one of a candle burns a home-cooked mixture of candle wax and crushed mothballs. (But careful with the heat—bead front sights are usually made of plastic, genuine ivory, or metal alloys colored gold or silver. Ivory will break or chip in hard field use. Those of metal and plastic are far more durable, except that plastic will melt in a hurry if a flame is brought too close.) Very popular is the Williams bead sight, available in white and gold color, and in diameter choice of 1/16" or 3/32." A bead 1/16" in size naturally blots out less of the target area, but may be difficult for some eyes to see distinctly.

There is leeway for considerable experimentation in determining the visibility of different colors of front sights. You can coat a shiny metal bead sight with red lacquer or nail polish, or apply a tiny drop of white cellulose paint to achieve a white bead look.

A bead sight is usually not much good for conventional bullseye shooting. Simply, it is more difficult to align a bead sight with the target than it is to sight on a flat topped post sight, or "ring" a bull with an encircling black outline. Since the aiming eye is automatically attracted to the center of the rear sight's peep hole (where the light is strongest), the shooter is helped from the start of aiming. He needs only to bring the front sight and his eye directly opposed to it, and the alignment may be made while the light is strongest, or otherwise that the eye instantly finds it and the front sight and the target beyond.

For serious, slow-fire target shooting, and for sighting-in of a new rifle, I use .600" and .670" rear peep holes, depending on range light. But for actual hunting use I use only large .108" and .125" sizes, because, as a rule, the diameter sight disks—if I use an aperture disk at all—will completely block out a buck's shoulder at 300 yards, with rifle sighted to hit close to point of aim. With the front sight bead, covering so much target area, it is easier to make a sight alignment error and overshoot.

Also, for those users who prefer to "shoot off the top of the bead" by using tip-top aligned on target (so that intended hitting point is clearly seen above the top of the front sight), there is the possibility that the bead sight may tend, by visualized, to shoot away from the light in the bright sun. For best results, a front sight, whether bead or blade, should be nonreflective. That's why in bright sunlight many users of bead sights temporarily blacken them in the same way that one of a candle burns a home-cooked mixture of candle wax and crushed mothballs. (But careful with the heat—bead front sights are usually made of plastic, genuine ivory, or metal alloys colored gold or silver. Ivory will break or chip in hard field use. Those of metal and plastic are far more durable, except that plastic will melt in a hurry if a flame is brought too close.) Very popular is the Williams bead sight, available in white and gold color, and in diameter choice of 1/16" or 3/32." A bead 1/16" in size naturally blots out less of the target area, but may be difficult for some eyes to see distinctly.
### 1973 Hunting Season Information

#### Northwest Region  
(Jefferson County western, inclusive)
- Deer: November 10 through January 20.
- Turkey: November 10 through January 20 (Gobbler only).
- Quail and Squirrel: November 10 through March 3.

#### Northeast, Central, South and Everglades Regions
- Deer: November 10 through January 6, except-—In DeSoto, Hernando, Manatee and Sarasota counties—November 10 through 25 and December 8 through 30. No open season in the Florida Keys of Monroe County.
- Turkey: November 10 through January 6, except—In DeSoto, Hernando, Manatee and Sarasota counties—November 10 through 25 and December 8 through 30. No open season in Alachua and Sumter counties; or in that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 240 and west of State Road 47.
- Quail and Squirrel: November 10 through February 24. No open season on fox squirrels in Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Monroe, Collier, Dade and Broward Counties.

#### Statewide
- **Bear**: May be taken in Baker or Columbia counties, and on Tydall Air Force Base in Bay County, during the established open season for taking deer; and by special permit on designated wildlife management areas.
- **Turkey Gobbler: Spring Season**—That portion of the state lying south of State Road 50—March 9 through March 24. That portion of the state lying north of State Road 50—March 23 through April 7.

### 1974 Hunting Season Information

#### Archery Season (statewide)
- **September 1 through September 30**

**Legal Game**—Deer of either sex; bear (in Baker or Columbia counties, and on Tydall AFB in Bay County); turkey, quail, squirrel, rabbit, and wild hog.

No open season in Broward of Dade counties; in that portion of Palm Beach County south of SR 80; in that portion of Hendry County east of L1 and L2 levees; or in Collier or Monroe counties south of U.S. Highway 41. Hunting permitted in the tract lying between U.S. 41 and Loop Road, SR 941.

The possession or use of firearms while hunting with bow and arrow during the archery season is prohibited. The taking of deer from airboats is prohibited during the archery season. Crossbows are prohibited. The use of any unleashed hunting dog by any person hunting with bow and arrow during the archery season is prohibited. Persons holding a valid archery permit in addition to a regular hunting license may hunt designated wildlife management areas and on open lands during the established archery season.

#### Florida Hunting Licenses
- **Exempt**—Residents 65 years of age and over and all children under 15. Issued from County Tax Collector offices, and authorized sub-agents. Costs include issuing fees.

**Service men, stationed in Florida, are considered residents of Florida asinor as licenses to hunt and fish are considered.**

- **Resident, Annual**
- **Non-Resident, Annual**

#### Eligibility Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Eligibility Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LARGEMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>8 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL</td>
<td>4 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLUEGILL (BREAM)</td>
<td>1½ pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHELLCRACKER</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLACK CRAPPIE</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED BREAST</td>
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#### Bag Limits

**Turkey**—Fall seasons (for deer and red deer evidence requirements, see General Regulations Summary). Daily Bag: Season Bag: Possession Limit

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>White-tailed Deer</th>
<th>Turkey-Fall</th>
<th>Squirrel, Grey</th>
<th>Squirrel, Fox</th>
<th>Quail</th>
<th>Rabbit</th>
<th>Bear</th>
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**Archery Season Permit**

Issued from Office of Commissioner, Tallahassee

**Florida 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 applican upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

#### Application for Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation

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<th>Item</th>
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