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Florida Geese

Through the snow and blue goose occur, mainly in Louisiana during the winter, small numbers of these colorful birds come to Florida. They are usually in company with the Canada Goose. - Size from 4 to 6 lbs. - All geese frequent both fresh & salt water habitat.

THE CANADA GOOSE IS THE MOST COMMON SPECIES IN FLORIDA. SEVERAL RACES OF CANADA'S ARE KNOWN, RANGING FROM 3.1 LBS. TO 9.1 LBS. IN SIZE. THE SMALL RACES ARE RARE IN FLORIDA.

A SMALL, MARITIME SPECIES OF ABOUT 5 LBS. SIZE = EXTREMELY RARE IN FLORIDA. LOOK FOR IT ALONG THE EAST COAST.

In This Issue

Gerald Hunter 4
Born to Retrieve Charles Dickey 12
Facts About Alligators 18
North American Wildlife Policy—Conclusion 24

Departments

Hunting Season Information 8
Fishing 9
Hunting 31
Nature Notes 34

The Cover

More running slores are bagged in the U.S. than any other game bird, and Florida hunters will take some 25 million this season. Small size and speedy flight make them top upland gunning targets. See page 34.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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REGIONAL OFFICES

Northwest Region
LARRY MARTIN, Manager
4060 N. 41st Road, Pensacola, Florida 32505
(904) 432-2222

Central Region
JAMES H. BALL, Manager
P.O. Box 102, Gainesville, Florida 32602
(305) 686-9200

Southeast Region
JAMES H. BALL, Manager
P.O. Box 102, Gainesville, Florida 32602
(305) 686-9200

Everglades Region
JAMES H. BALL, Manager
P.O. Box 102, Gainesville, Florida 32602
(305) 686-9200

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

SEPTEMBER, 1973

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE
ST. VINCENT isn't the usual island, and this isn't the usual "how to," "hunter's helper" kind of story about getting there or hunting there. It is rather, a brief chronicle of its differences, which arouse unusual interest in this lovely, mostly primitive, seven-mile-long sea island wildlife refuge and management area off Florida's Franklin and Gulf counties.

The differences begin if one chooses the wrong combination of tide and wind as he tries to make the quarter-mile crossing of Indian Pass, between McNeil's Landing, on the mainland, and the western end of the island, where hunt camp No. 2 is located. For at times, it seems that all the vast liquid power of the northern Gulf of Mexico seeks to rage through that narrow slit, as it did during the last hunt of the 1972 season at St. Vincent, when it capsized a boatload of shooters—fortunately, without loss of life.

An unexpected hazard is the seasonal influx of Portuguese men-o'-war, the more virulent of the stinging jellyfish, whose poison may bring even death to victims with weak hearts. On my last trip to St. Vincent, the sea was choked with them, and there was a solid six-foot-wide band of the purplish menaces along the island beach.

Ashore, one finds other differences. Unlike the slender, reeflike structuring of Dog Island, St. George Island, and most other gulf coast islands, St. Vincent's 12,358 acres lie in a teardrop pattern. Perhaps the teardrop is symbolic of a St. Vincent oddity: Three exotic black buck, all females, and one old range cow, are all of those species that remain on the island. None will crossbreed, so the days of those critters are numbered.

Another difference is that St. Vincent Island has fresh water ponds but no drinking water. Hunter-campers and hikers there must carry their own potable water supply.

The most publicized difference on the last hunt was also the most intriguing. Of the 1,750 archers and black powder gun hunters allowed there by special permit during the '72 season, one—just one—was a woman, and a very attractive one at that. But Norma Dyer, of Pensacola, with the help of her pleasant-but-firm husband, Charles, and the .45 caliber caplock rifle he made for her, managed to hold all the two-legged wolves at bay.

There are no real wolves on St. Vincent, but the island is, and has been, home to some strange imported wildlife. Besides the three surviving black buck, a species of small deer native to India, there are a good many elk-sized Asiatic animals called Sambur, or Sambar, deer. (Actually, they're not deer; they're true members of the elk family.) The population of Samburs on the island has been estimated to number at least 100 head.

You see, around the turn of the century, Dr. Ray V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., best known for his famous bottled herb tonic, "Golden Medical Discovery," bought the island, built a great lodge there, complete with guest cottages, and turned St. Vincent into a private hunting and fishing preserve (See "St. Vincent Island," Part I, in FLORIDA WILDLIFE, September 1969.)

In addition to the abundant native wildlife he found there, plus feral cattle, Dr. Pierce stocked it with the Sambur deer, which flourished in the (Continued on next page)
splendid isolation of the big island and today is a completely protected species.

Subsequent owners of St. Vincent, the Loomis Brothers, who live in New York and Virginia, added zebras, elands, and six head of black buck—two bucks and four does—in the early '60s, making the place look like “little Africa” for a time. The black buck went wild, and the surviving ones are, like the Sambars, fully protected, but the elands and zebras were all coralled, loaded on trucks, and hauled away just before the island came into public ownership five years ago.

Until then, all private owners had rigidly patrolled the island and strictly enforced trespass laws. This taboo once irked me considerably, for I felt if any were so moved to test their luck, they might get me a few turtle eggs and a great desire to see what helicopters were like two decades ago? Perhaps the car got there about like my friend Theo Titus hypothesized one evening around the campfire. It was driven there on a dark Saturday night by a drunken pulpwood worker who missed the turnoff to Port St. Joe.

One last difference, arising from the December 1972 muzzle-loader hunt, I spent one whole rainy night with Ranger Sim Vickery assisting in looking for a lost hunter. Since he would neither answer our halloos nor return our gunshot signals, we were sure he was critically injured or dead. We found when we returned to camp at daylight, wet, ragged and miserable, that the (censored) sound-so had gone back to the mainland the previous afternoon without checking out.

The rangers certainly hope that difference isn’t repeated this coming season.

During the four years that controlled public hunting has been permitted on St. Vincent—all of it with primitive weapons, either bow and arrow or muzzle-loading firearms—2,100 hunters have averaged taking one big game animal per four hunters.

Three short hunts are staged annually. Archery-only hunts, limited to 75 bowhunters per hunt, are held in October and November, and a muzzle-loading gun hunt, limited to 250 hunters, comes in December.

This year’s dates are October 18-21 and November 22-25 for archery-only, and on these outings white-tailed deer of either sex, wild hogs of either sex or any size, raccoons, and opossums will be legal game.

The muzzle-loader hunt is set for December 13-16, and on this one only whitetail bucks will be legal game, along with the hogs, coons, and possums.

Submit applications for the muzzle-loader gun hunt are available from Refuge Manager Charles Noble, P. O. Box 447, Apalachicola, Florida 32320. The forms must be completed and filed with him by October 30th; a drawing on the 31st will determine who goes.

As for the two-archery-only hunts, permits will be issued at the check station on the island, at camp No. 2, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Write the refuge manager for any additional information you may desire about St. Vincent and hunting there. Their fact sheet, regulations, and map will cover just about everything, I believe.

The fresh water ponds toward the east end of the island provide fine fishing on delightfully different “Saint V,” where the fishing season extends from March through October. But year-round, visitors can observe a myriad of fascinating plant and animal life. Remember, though, to check in and out with the rangers, whatever your purpose for visiting St. Vincent Island. They’re proud of the fact that they haven’t lost anybody yet, so help them keep that record intact.
1973 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

Waterfowl—Ducks and Coots

Seasons: November 22, 1973 through December 9, 1973, and December 20, 1973 through January 20, 1974

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

The daily bag limit of ducks and mergansers is from one to ten, singly or in the aggregate, depending on the species or sexes taken as determined by the following point system:

1. Points assigned for the point value of each bird taken, when added to the sum of the point values of the other ducks and mergansers already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points.

2. Point values are assigned as follows:
   - 100 points—falcous duck tree
   - 70 points—hen mallard, black duck, Florida duck, wood duck, and hooded merganser.
   - 25 points—black-backed, pintail, green-winged teal, ring-necked duck, gadwall, and greenhead.
   - 10 points—scaup (bluebill), woodpecker (scaupbill), blue-winged teal, red-breasted merganser, American merganser, and all sea ducks.

The possession limit of ducks and mergansers shall consist of two legal daily bag limits.

Costs have an assigned point values. The daily bag limit of costs is 15; possession limit, 30.

There shall be no hunting of canvasback, redhead, brant, or greylag in Florida during the 1973-74 season. Leon County and Lake Miccosukee in Jefferson County: Waterfowl hunting permitted only on November 22, November 23, December 25, January 1, and Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The use of outboard motors is prohibited on Lake Leon and portions of Lake Jackson during the open season for waterfowl.

There will be a special scoop-only hunting season in certain areas of the state from January 21 through January 31 (after the regular waterfowl hunting season). During the special 11-day season, only some ducks, also called "bluebill" and "broadbill," may be taken. The daily bag limit is 5; possession limit, 10. No shooting will be permitted within 200 yards of any main shoreline during the scoop-only season. Florida's delivered scoop-only hunting areas are: All open waters of Charlotte Harbor from the Florida Turnpike and Light power line 4 miles east of the U.S. Highway 41 bridge on the Peace River and from U.S. Highway 41 (State Road 764) on the Myakka River to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Boca Grande to the mainland. All open waters of Tampa Bay. All open waters of Estero Bay. All open waters of Lemon Bay. All open waters of the Indian River from the Melbourne Bridge (State Road 516) south. All open waters of Biscayne Bay lying south of an east-west line through the center of Feather Sound, north to including Barnes Sound.

All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must have a 1973-74 Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp before hunting waterfowl (ducks). The stamp is available from any U.S. Post Office at a cost of $5.00. It is nontransferable; must bear the signature of the hunter across its face.

Mourning Dove (three phase)

October 6 through November 4
November 10 through November 25
December 15 through January 7

"During the October 6-November 4, 1973, phase, in the Northwest Region, that portion of Franklin County lying east and south of U.S. Highway 98, including Alligator Point, will be closed to dove hunting.

Shooting Hours: From 12:noon to sunset

Bag Limits: Daily Limit 12; Possession Limit 24

Marsh Hen (Rain and Florida Gallinule)

September 1 through November 9

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Bag Limits: Clapper & King Rallies—Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30 (singly or in aggregate)
Sora & Virginia Rail—Daily Limit 25; Possession Limit 30 (singly or in aggregate)
Florida Gallinules—Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30

Snipe

Snipe Hunting: November 10 through February 24

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Bag Limits: Daily Limit 8; Possession Limit 16

Woodcock

Woodcock Hunting: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Bag Limits: Daily Limit 5; Possession Limit 10

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 insofar as licenses to hunt and fish are considered.

Resident, Annual

Series A—Hunting-Fishing Combination, Statewide $10.50
Series A—State ........................................ 7.50
Series A—Home County ................................ 2.00
Series J—Other than Home County .................... 4.50

Non-Resident

Series L—State, Annual .................................. 26.50
Series M—State, 10-day Continuous ................. 11.50
Series M—County, Annual, Owners of and paying taxes on 3000 acres land ............. 11.50

Resident or Non-Resident, Annual

Series M—For hunting on licensed private hunting preserves only ........................ 5.50
Archery Season Permit .................................. 5.00

Issued from Office of Commissioner, Tallahassee

Series Y—Gold, required for guiding hunting parties ........................................ 10.00

Allen Hunting .............................................. 50.00

Compact Rods

The latest in take-down fishing rods have good action plus the added advantage of easy packing by the suitcase-traveling angler

By CHARLES WATERMAN

When I first went fishing, my elders made me whisper to keep from scaring the fish. Then there was a long period during which I figured loud talk had nothing to do with spooky fish, although it was accepted that a tap dance in a rowboat would send out undesirable vibrations.

I'm convinced now that fish can hear loud voices if the fish are very near the surface. The scientific types tell me that fish hearing under water is much like human hearing where topside noises are concerned, and you certainly can hear voices when your head is only a few inches under the surface.

Fishermen are going to new lengths to preserve quiet. The tournament bass fishermen are strong for carpeting in their boats. For a long while, tournament fishermen have known that underwater exhalations scare fish and that any turning propeller can be heard, whether it ruins the fishing or not.

Undoubtedly, a lot of fish strike in spite of the fishermen noises they hear, but it now appears that the bigger specimations are more cautious than the juveniles, something that may have contributed to their getting big in the first place. You can talk of that in generalities, but I recently heard a report that takes it out of the gueswork category, as far as I am concerned, at least.

Roland Martin, the famous tournament angler, who has made his mark both with black bass and striped bass, is a meticulous record keeper. Before taking off for a tournament, he noted that the more joints, the more chances for trouble, but the glass ferrules now so popular have done away with most of the problems of rod action. It's a simple matter of the ferrules "working" when the rod is used, allowing enough slippage to do away with the stiff sections.

(Continued on next page)
A manufacturer recently handed me a combination spinning and fly rod that was 6 feet, 4 inches long and priced to be one piece. It seemed fine to me, but I didn’t know where I could carry anything that long without a station wagon. Then he pulled it apart into five 15-inch pieces and I looked about as stupid as he expected. You may be more perceptive than I am, but the action was good enough for me. The jobster was Edwin Hae n e l t , of Ha e n e l t International Tackle, R.D. 1, Bloomingburg, New York 12721. Such rods aren’t exactly cheap, but not out of reach for anybody used to buying good tackle. This builder specializes in compact rods and makes them in a wide variety of lengths and weights, including surf and jetty rods, many of which telescope instead of disjoining. The telescoping glass pole has been used for years by bait fishermen, and now it has been refined for casting purposes and works beautifully. Sure, you have the hazards of multiple pieces, but they seem rugged enough for me. If you lean toward airplanes or compact cars, I don’t see how you can go wrong.

THE WAKE-AND-RELEASE program of the Bass Anglers Sportman Society has been a sort of running controversy for some time. At first, it was assumed that if a fish was still gulping, he’d live if you turned him loose. Then there were some tests that involved holding the released fish for a time to see if they’d really recover. First results were discouraging, with high mortality within a few days of release. Now the B.A.S.S. folks are rejoicing over the results of their latest handling methods, involving antibiotic treatments and aeration/recirculation systems, plus speedy weigh-ins. In the last test reported, Dr. Tom Wellborn, of Mississippi State University, reports that only 5.7 percent of the released bass died. Some few fish were in such poor condition after being weighed that they were not included in the 20-day survival test, but even with the addition of these injured fish, the total mortality was only 15.67 percent.

In addition to improved handling and prompt treatment for possible bacterial damage, cool water is given credit for part of the improvement in survival. At the 1973 Rebel Invitational Tournament, fished early in April, the water temperatures were in the low fifties. That’s where the last test was conducted.

The other day a good fisherman I know was doing especially well with a streamer fly he called “Blue Boy,” fishing at dawn on a canal in south Florida. He caught snook with it when nothing else seemed to work, and I whended him out of a couple of the things. Except that they were predominantly blue, I couldn’t see anything special about them, and I certainly can’t think of any bright blue bait that a snook would be looking for just as the sun begins to peek over the water. In fact, the things he was eating that morning were virtually colorless, being small killifish and little shrimp of decidedly drab hue. As if extrasensory perception might be working overtime, I came home to find a letter from Stan Lievense, of Best Tackle Mfg. Co., Unionville, Michigan 48776. Lievense, who has a reputation as a fish catcher, used to work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is backgrounded in biology. His letter had remarkably few large words. I understood it much better than I understood most letters of a scientific type.

Well, he explained that in early morning or late evening a fish can make out the color blue before others show up for him. Blue is the most visible of colors under water, he says, and can be made out in very dull light or when sun rays are striking at a small angle. Blue is distinguishable at greatest depths, with green next, and then yellow, orange and red, in that order, according to Lievense.

Now visibility isn’t the whole story, of course, although it might have a strong bearing in very bad light. I am guessing that the snook would stop to burp a little as they filled up with the killifish and then noticed this blue thing shining along, surely different from anything else in the canal. Perhaps such a pretty dunce actually looked like a frothy type of crustacean. Now that I have said cute things about blue lures (an easy way out when I don’t really understand something), I might mention that blue is a popular color in such salt water fishing. I have usually considered it important because there are many salt water baitfish that really do have a lot of blue in their color schemes, but it may be that visibility is even more important. Some good bass plugs are blue.

ANOTHER THING about Stan Lievense: His firm is making some flies called Stanley Streamers—for trolling or fly casting—in several sizes. The gimmick is that they have little plastic lips which give them wiggles similar to those of plugs and spoons. They’ve worked well on steelhead and salmon. I’m going to try them on bass.

I started to show somebody how to tie a Bimini Twist the other day. I should know how to tie a Bimini Twist because I have learned it 20 or 30 times. Anyway, I grabbed a piece of line, twisted it with my hand, flapped it over my knee—and found I had forgotten how again. This is the story of my life where knots are concerned, and while it is very nice to know a whole list of them, it’s more important to tie a few well than to forget about 20 or 30.

The Bimini Twist is a good way of making a loop in a line—possibly the best—but it is a rather complicated procedure, and persons having three hands are at an advantage. It’s a whizzer for offshore saltwater anglers. In fresh water you can generally get by with a single knot for tying on your lure and another for making splices in lines or leaders. The clinch knot or improved clinch knot (see somebody’s book on knots) handles the lure attachment, and a blood knot or surgeon’s knot works on the splices. The surgeon’s knot isn’t quite as neat as the blood knot, but it holds.

Incidentally, most of the small loops used to allow a hook or lure eye to swing freely, thus adding action to a lure, are relatively inefficient and go with breaking strength. Anything that approaches 100% of the line strength is pretty complicated to tie, and there are few of us who want to waste much time changing lures when we fish. Anyway, learn to tie a few well.

ONE OF THE SCARCEST items in American fishing is the river smallmouth bass, mainly because the kind of river that appeals to smallmouth bass is also the kind of river that appeals to people who build dams. An old friend of mine, Warren Shepard, had an interesting story in the May-June issue of Fishing World magazine, about his taking of some small lures on the Snake River and its tributaries, on the eastern edge of Washington State. From what Shep said, and I know he’s been around the smallmouth business considerably, that’s one of the best places in the country for smallmouths in moving water.

It’s true that the river bass don’t approach the impoundment fish in size, but the methods of fishing more than make up for that, and most river smallmouth fall to light tackle of one kind or another. A 3-pounder is a big bass for a river.

There’s still river fishing for smallmouths in Canada and a few spots of the northern United States. There are small fish in many of the cooler streams of the Midwest—mainly in the hill country—but this is one kind of fishing the dams have pretty well done away with, even though they have brought other anglers that’s more popular with most of the public.

IT’S BEEN a good year for bluegills, and although they’re admittedly topnotch table fare, there can be complications. Some bream lovers wouldn’t even consider eating them except with the skin on. Others don’t like the skin, and find that fish from certain waters lose a great deal by having the skin left on since the skin takes on some of the taste of the water.

We have filleted bluegills, but that means a lot of wasted fish on a specimen weighing half a pound or less. This year, my cook said she was going to skin some and then fry them “whole,” less heads, fins and innards. This cooked fine, but it’s considerable trouble, and we never did find a really easy way to do it. The best we did was to cut off the head and then start skimming back toward the tail, cutting out the fins so they wouldn’t hold the hide.

With smaller fish I guess the method of frying until the bones can be eaten is as good as any, although you’d have to leave the skin on. With a good-sized fish the bones are just too large for that.

Yes, yes, I know. Somebody is horrified at the thought of sacrificing the skin. But sometimes it does add a bad taste. Much “muddy” flavor comes from the peeling.

The "Blue Boy" streamer fly has lip similar to that found on plugs, but entire unit's light enough to cast with fly rod.
The National Championship Retriever Trials will be held November 13-16, with Tallahassee as headquarters. This is the first time the National has met in Florida.

About 75 of the top retrievers in the nation, all of them winners of a previous trial, will be put through ground and water courses, according to R. H. John-son, president of the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club, the host club. The number one trial in America is sponsored by Chesapeake and golden retrievers and Irish water spaniels are eligible.

The National is a free-for-all competition between amateur and professional handlers to determine the best retriever of the year. Trials will be conducted at Quail Valley Plantation and on Dr. Charles Harvey's Sugar Plum holdings. Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn on Apalachee Parkway, U.S. 27 South, in Tallahassee.

Retriever enthusiasts are invited to attend. Detailed information is available from the secretary of the N.F.A.R.C., Mrs. James Higgins, 2915 Princess Lane, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.

Combing work and play is Papa Jack Lauder's way of introducing pup to training. Right. This helps the trainer and trainee in establishing a proper relationship. Left, an eager performer hits the water on the way to making a clean, direct training pad retrieve. Schooling starts at an early age—when pup is around six or seven weeks old.

By CHARLES Dickey
lived in the same house ever since.

was the famous sports lady, the late Miss Frances Griscom, who hunted into her nineties—in later years from a wagon. She favored spaniels for retrieving waterfowl, dove, and quail, but her nephew preferred Labs. Papa Jack trained them all and also developed a great kennel of pointers.

He’s always taken a few dogs for training from the public. Today he mostly handles Labradors and Brittany spaniels for shooting, not trials, but I noticed his kennels had a few other breeds.

When we arrived at the training field, Papa Jack put down Rossi, a young adult full of fire and vinegar. He let her run and cut around and to heel.

The next steps are: walking the dog with a leash until it stays at heel without a check; teaching it to sit, even when the master walks away; and, one of the hardest of all, teaching the dog to stay, or whoa. These are all steps in obedience and should be taught to any sporting dog. In addition to making the dogs more manageable, this set of manners makes it easier to teach advanced lessons such as retrieving, marking, following hand signals, retrieving doubles and triples, and boat etiquette.

Most Labradors, especially those of good breeding, retrieve instinctively, and through constant practice they become the equivalent of being “force-broke”; that is, they instantly retrieve anything they are commanded to fetch. It’s stylish when they run or swim in a straight line to the training pad or bird, with no side trips, and retrieve it with dash and boldness.

A few Labs are born with little or no instinct to retrieve. These must be trained differently, the trainer force-breaking them from the start. Although it’s rare, once in awhile a Lab pops up which is timid about going into the water. It’s another case of the handler needing to give it special attention. Even a Lab pup which is showing boldness can be made skittish if it’s suddenly thrown into the water the first time it sees a pond.

When a dog, young or old, gets rambunctious—and sooner or later any dog will—it’s a good idea to put the animal through its paces of fundamental obedience, over and over until the dog steadies down to remembering who’s boss.

Although Rossi went through her obedience commands pleasantly enough, it was retrieving she was waiting for. When he got out his pad launcher, a device which propels the training pad from the force of a blank .22 cartridge, Rossi excitedly began to shake and dance. Papa Jack, in no hurry to launch the pad, waited patiently until Rossi calmed down.

When he held his arm out at 20 degrees and launched the pad, I thought Rossi was going to break. Papa Jack let her sit a few seconds and then said, “Fetch”.

Rossi was away like a streak of black lightning. She scooped the white pad up, almost on the run, and charged back toward us, her head held high and proud. She seemed to be saying, “To heck with heeling and sitting. I was born to retrieve.”

A dog with manners not only adds to the pleasure of hunting ducks from a blind or boat, but is a safe dog. If it sits quietly in the bottom of the boat or blind and moves only on command, there are no problems. On the other hand, if you have a 70-pound powerhouse scrambling over a gunner’s shoulders, you have a safety hazard, and more than one duck boat has been sunk by an untrained Labrador.

After Rossi and the other bitch, Smut, were given a good workout, Papa Jack took the two pups out of the truck. He let them run around, sniff the truck and the grass, and roughhouse each other. Ti-Boy was 12 weeks old. As he was still debating what to name the other pup, we’ll call him Eight, for the number of weeks since birth.

We walked slowly up and down the field, letting the puppies play and flush bugs. They never let us get far away before they’d come running in for some clutter and caressing from Papa Jack. He is their mother, and they weren’t taking any chances on getting lost.

Papa Jack made a small pad from a stick and his white handkerchief. While I held Eight, he tossed the stick for Ti-Boy—just a few feet. Ti-Boy went bounding for it, his little belly almost dragging the ground and his tail as merry as Christmas. With no hesitation, Ti-Boy picked up the stick and came dancing back to Papa Jack. It was his second lesson.

Papa Jack tried Ti-Boy again, and the pup worked perfectly. Papa Jack was down on his hands and knees in the grass and he grabbed the pup and praised it and petted it as if it had just won him a big trophy. As he played with Ti-Boy, Papa Jack looked over at me and smiled. “Always mix up the work and the play, especially at this age,” he said.

It was Eight’s first trip to the field and Papa (Continued on next page)
Jack had intended it as an indoctrination ride. But he was so happy over Ti-Boy that he decided to see if Eight would retrieve. He played with the dog, rubbed its stomach and practically crooned to see if Eight would retrieve. He paused a couple of seconds and then bounded in for firing blanks, and the pad launcher. I was surprised at the amount of plant growth in the pond—it’s fired and the wind, a pad can be shot for almost any distance. In a word, style. Many owners of field trial champions require the dog to work with boldness, speed, enthusiasm, intelligence and dash. The field trial judges require the dog to work with boldness, speed, enthusiasm, intelligence and dash.

Jack put Rossi at heel and explained the next series in training. A good shooting retriever must be able to handle doubles. The dog learns to mark the first duck that falls, and then a second. Under the circumstances, the dog had to learn to fetch the second duck first. It should go straight in the water again, eagerly and fast. The idea is to bring in the second duck that fell as quickly as possible so it can then go and get the first. The less time spent in the water, the less likely a duck is to float away or a cripple to swim off and hide. In field trials, a retriever is expected to handle three birds, marking the first two.

In actual hunting conditions, a lot of unexpected things happen. A cripple and a floating duck, a duck away; a crippled duck can hide in dense cover. No matter how experienced a dog in marking, it can raise its head only so high when swimming; at its eye level it cannot see far and can miss a bird, especially one which is swimming. The hunter, standing high in a blind or boat, can more easily see the duck. This is where hand signals come in. The dog depends on his master to guide him to the duck, or where it was last seen.

Field trial conditions are not artificial ones contrived to test dogs, but tough field conditions a dog might encounter. Field trials are conducted on both land and water, with more difficult problems than are expected of a shooting dog. In addition, the field trial judges require the dog to work with boldness, speed, enthusiasm, intelligence and dash. In a word, style. Many owners of field trial champions hunt their dogs; they don’t own them just for winning silver cups in field trial campaigns.

Papa Jack launched a pad high over the water lines, and Rossi sat watching it excitedly. He then moved to the edge of the water and tossed it about one or two inches deep. Eight couldn’t dive from the bank to it, boss. How do you think young David had for toys? You guessed it. Two mallard decoys!

Papa Jack had told me training dogs was much like rearing children. When we got back to his home, I met one of his grandchildren, 10-month old David Petty, who, along with his parents, was visiting Papa Jack’s home. What do you think young David had for toys? You guessed it. Two mallard decoys!
The alligator is probably the victim of more imagination and false accusations than any other species of Florida's wildlife heritage. People either like or dislike the alligator; an indifferent attitude is rare among those who come in contact with this primitive creature.

The ancestor of the present day alligator appeared on earth approximately 250 million years ago, and its appearance and habits have remained almost unchanged over the centuries. Alligators once occurred in most of the southeastern United States, but today, Florida is one of the few states in which they still survive in large numbers in spite of 100 years of hide hunting.

The population diminished to the point that in 1961 the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a regulation eliminating the hunting of fully protected species in Florida. Despite of this, both have remained in most of the southeastern United States, but today, Florida is one of the few states where the alligator thrives under conditions for its welfare. With the advance of civilization and modern standards, the demand for gator hides spiraled upward. Both poaching and the black market price for hides increased in direct proportion to the risk of apprehension by wildlife officers.

The traffic in illegally taken hides was brought to a virtual halt by Congressional passage of The Endangered Species Act of 1969 (signed into law by President Nixon in December 1969), which banned the shipment of alligators or their hides across state lines in violation of state or Federal laws. This measure, in combination with stepped-up law enforcement and strong new Florida laws enacted in 1970 prohibiting the sale or possession for sale of products made of alligator leather (effective July 1, 1971), had the effect of destroying the market for hides by eliminating the demand. The majority of Florida's gator hunters chose not to risk the stiffer penalties written into the new laws.

In the years which followed this action, the demand for gator hides spiraled upward. Both poaching and the black market price for hides increased in direct proportion to the risk of apprehension by wildlife officers.

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To look at an alligator, one would think it could take care of itself. If it escapes the considerable hazards of early life and reaches about three or four feet in length, it need fear no threat except man or, perhaps, another alligator. The animal's size, armored hide, strength, and formidable jaws protect it from most dangers.

The alligator wears a form-fitted armor of horned scales, called acutes, on its back. The viselike jaws can hold a victim relentlessly. Rarely, large animals such as deer may be killed by a big gator. When taking large prey, the gator usually pulls its victim into the water and drowns it. When hunting, the alligator floats with only the top of the back, the eyes, and the nostrils showing above the surface. Thus it is able to approach silently to within striking distance of its intended meal.

The alligator is well equipped for underwater action. Valves keep water out of its ears and nostrils, and the back of the tongue forms a valve to keep it from swallowing water when the mouth is opened beneath the water. The short legs allow only limited travel on land. In the water, however, the tail is the chief means of locomotion. By swinging this large, self-contained paddle from side to side, an alligator is capable of moving quite rapidly through the water.

In the summer, the alligator is often seen basking in the sun. During the cold winter months it lives in a cove constructed beneath a river bank, or near the edges of islands. The alligator can survive for long periods without food, and for an hour or more without coming up for air.

Although the alligator may be considered a modern dragon—an ugly creature—there is much concerning its welfare. With the advance of civilization into its domain, the gator is being forced to retreat into the remaining wilderness areas, and today many are found in state and national wildlife refuges and parks.

Wildlife biologists of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission carry on a continuing program of research and study to learn more about this ancient reptile. Studies are under way to determine their natural movement, food habits, productivity, and survival and growth rates.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about alligators, with answers based on the great body of information already on hand concerning these fascinating creatures:

Where Did the Alligator Get Its Name? It received its common name from the Spaniards, who called it "al lagato," the hazard. In time, the phrase became the English "alligator."

Where Are Alligators Found? The American alligator once ranged from the lowlands of North Carolina southward through Florida, and westward to the Rio Grande River of Texas. In many areas, however, its numbers have been greatly reduced. Florida and Louisiana are the two states where the alligator thrives under protective management. Gators are found throughout Florida, but are more prevalent in the central and southern parts of the state. They live in all types of watery habitat—rivers, lakes, canals, ponds, and, of course, in alligator holes. They even venture into salt water.

What's An Alligator Hole? An alligator hole is a small pond that is dug and maintained by the alligator. To make such a pond, the alligator uproots grass and excavates mud.

(Continued on next page)
The little enlarged area extends above the water tunnel with a small turn-around space at the end. Slashing with its powerful tail, digging with its body, and carrying debris away in its mouth, the alligator continues work on the hole that it has dug. The alligator has air to breathe while in its den or cave in the same way, often tunneling as far as necessary. The alligator continues work on the hole for the young. It digs its den in the same way, often tunneling as far as necessary. The alligator continues work on the hole for the young.

The American crocodile, seen left, has more pointed snout than the gator. They’re scariest than gators, and always have been. They are found most frequently in salt waters of the southeast coast, in water, bellow, a gator’s eyes and nostrils protrude inconspicuously. Nest, at right, is mound of vegetation plus mud. Eggs may number up to 40; need 65 days to hatch. Young are 8 or 9 inches long when they emerge, far right. They’re mature at 5 years, and about 8 feet long. Longest gator measured by Ross Allen—18 feet 6 inches.

How Many Species of Alligators Are There?

There are two: the American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) and the Chinese alligator (Alligator sinensis). The southeastern United States and eastern China are the only places in the world where alligators occur naturally.

What Are the Laws Protecting Alligators?

As native reptiles of the state, alligators are under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, but any law enforcement officer is empowered to enforce laws protecting them. Section 372.662, Florida Statutes, provides that the sale, possession, or transportation of alligators or alligator skins shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed one year, or both. Section 372.663 provides that any person convicted of capturing or killing any crocodiles, or attempting to do so, shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable by imprisonment not to exceed five years, or a fine of up to $5,000, or both. Furthermore, this section provides for confiscation by the court of equipment used in violating—weapons, vehicles, boats, etc.

When Is the Mating Season for Alligators in Florida?

Although the alligator has no vocal cords, the bull announces his availability during the spring and early summer by inhaling deeply and then, like a giant bellows, emitting a series of booming roars that can be heard for considerable distances. Female alligators remain within a fairly restricted territory near the gator hole, but the bull will travel extensively, serving several receptive females, which answer the male with their own bellow. This bellowing probably serves two purposes: it provides sexually mature individuals a method of locating each other for mating, and it serves to delineate territorial boundaries.

What Is the Nest Like?

The female alligator builds a nest of sticks, leaves, and mud in a sheltered spot near the water. She deposits 20 to 50 large white eggs in the top of the moist nest and covers them with a layer of nest material which, as it decays, generates heat and keeps the eggs at a fairly constant temperature. Incubation takes approximately 65 days, but it varies depending on temperature and humidity.

What Part Does the Female Play in Caring for the Young?

The female alligator remains in the vicinity of the nest, and some will protect the eggs from predators. As the young emerge from the eggs, they will call out from within the nest and the female will remove the layer of nesting material that covers them. Immediately after escaping from the nest the young alligators are able to move about. They then make their way to the water. Within about a week they are feeding aggressively on small aquatic organisms. The female alligator is a solicitous mother as reptiles go. Although she does not feed her brood, she will protect them as long as they remain with her—frequently several months.

How Fast Do Alligators Grow?

Alligators grow an average of one foot a year for the first five years, although this can vary considerably depending on environmental factors and the availability of food. At this time they are approximately six feet long and have reached sexual maturity. The rate of growth then slows, particularly for the female.

How Long Does an Alligator Get, and How Long Do They Live?

A female gator eight feet or more in length is considered an old one; a male will grow to a length of 13 feet or longer, and he, of course, is an old alligator. At present, biologists cannot definitely determine the age of an alligator. Twenty-five to 50 years old is considered the maximum, and at this age, one would weigh 400 to 700 pounds. There have been recorded weights of as much as 700 pounds.

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1,000 pounds for large male gators. The longest alligator on record was 19 feet, 2 inches.

How Far Will an Alligator Travel During Its Lifetime?

Immature alligators (under six feet long) move about frequently. Once female gators mature, they establish a territory from which they seldom depart. The adult male gator moves about throughout the warm weather months. He has a summer territory covering perhaps 2,000-plus acres. Biologists agree that all alligators have a strong homing instinct.

What Factors Affect Natural Movement of Alligators?

Besides the mating season, weather changes influence movement. Drought conditions affect the alligator's food supply, so he moves about in response to both these factors.

Do Alligators Hibernate During the Winter?

They do not hibernate in the true sense, but go into an inactive condition during the colder months that is much like hibernation. During this semi-dormant period the alligator usually does not eat, but as the air becomes warmer than the water, it will venture out rather sleepily to sun itself.

What is the Alligator's Greatest Enemy?

Major predators on young alligators are wading birds, raccoons, opossums, otters, and snakes. Some fall prey to larger alligators also. Perhaps the greatest menace to Florida's gator population today is the destruction of its habitat by man. As the state's human population expands and more and more wetlands are drained for housing developments, the gator finds itself out of a place to live. When humans fail to recognize and provide for the alligator's basic biological needs of the alligator, and when a contest for ownership of any given area takes place, it is always the alligator that loses. If he appears in the waterways or on the lawns that occupy his old haunts, he becomes a problem, either for the human residents or for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the local police department, or all three.

Are Alligators Dangerous to Humans?

They can be; it is true. A large alligator is quite capable of injuring a person, but unless cornered or provoked, it will usually retreat. The exception is an alligator which has lost its fear of man through constant exposure to humans. Feeding alligators is the most common cause of this problem.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission strongly recommends against feeding any wild animal, but particularly against feeding up alligators with food. Even one which has been fed for years without incident may impulsively "bite the hand that feeds it." Leave the feeding of alligators to licensed professional exhibitors.

What Should a Person Do When He Sees an Alligator?

Simply leave it alone; that way he'll probably never have any trouble with an alligator.

How Can I Tell an Alligator From a Crocodile?

The American crocodile (Crocodylus acutus) is a more slender and more agile species than the alligator. It has a long, narrow and pointed snout. In the crocodile this tooth slides outside the upper jaw and is clearly visible. The crocodile, native to Florida and tropical parts of South and Central America, lives primarily in salt water and nests on sandy beaches.

In Florida, where its numbers are greatly reduced, it is found principally along the southwest coast.

Is It True That a Crocodile's Top Jaw Is Hinged?

It is not true. The alligator's and crocodile's lower jaws are the ones that move. The upper part of their mouths is secured to the skull.

How Can I Tell an Alligator From a Caiman?

Caimans are not native to Florida; they're imported from South America for sale by the tourist industry (Spectacled Caiman, Caimans aerodon spectabilis). They somewhat resemble baby alligators in shape, but where the young gator is black with small yellow markings, the caiman is greenish, gray, or brown, with black markings. The snout of a caiman is usually a little narrower than the baby alligator's, but not as slender as the crocodile's. A hory ridge between the spectacled caiman's eyes gave it its common name.

Which Is More Dangerous, an Alligator's or Its Tail?

Because of its short, thick neck the alligator is unable to turn its head to any extent. It bends its entire body, bringing its tail around toward its head in bowlike fashion, using this maneuver to sweep prey toward its mouth. Although a single blow from an alligator's tail can break a man's leg, the powerful jaws should be considered more dangerous than the tail. The jaw-opening muscles are relatively weak, so a gator's snout can be held shut quite easily, but the muscles which close the jaws are incredibly strong.

Can I Tell a Male Gator From a Female?

No. Sex determination requires cloacal examination. Nonetheless, it is a safe bet that any alligator nine feet long or over is a male.

Conclusion

Today, the alligator is protected throughout its remaining range, and in certain areas it approaches maximum density. In Florida, as elsewhere, the great reptile is being seen in greater numbers as its population continues to increase. They will never again reach the level of the great numbers found by early explorers in Florida, but they are certainly no longer in danger of extinction.

The alligator is a picturesque and highly interesting natural resource of Florida. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission urges that these animals be treated with respect as an integral part of the wildlife heritage of our state, and pledges to do what needs to be done to keep the alligator a part of the Florida scene.
North American Wildlife Policy

Conclusion

While errors may occur, means of avoiding them steadily improve. Agencies administering hunting and fishing are committed to seasons and bag limits that protect the resource. All will agree that the taking of wildlife should employ the least wasteful and most humane methods available.

These facts and criteria are routinely applied in responsible management. They should be understood and considered by anyone who renders judgment on this use of wildlife. However, it is true that hunting sometimes is accompanied by practices we cannot condone on any basis.

Indiscriminate shooting

Public temper is especially short over the killing of nongame animals. For some shooters the season has always been open on birds of prey, species increasingly prized by the nature-oriented public. Any large bird or animal of the roadside has been a likely target.

In deploiting these activities, the conservationist habitually weighs words carefully. We emphasize that we are not talking about sportsmen, or even average hunters. We impugn, we say, a hooligan minority of those who bear arms afield. Miscreants who spoil it for everyone.

They do spoil it. Unless far more is done about them soon, public rage could take punitive action against all hunting sports. After 40-odd years of talk, we still know little about the psychology and sociology of the wanton shooter. Corrective action awaits answers to pressing questions:

Is the individual we describe simply an aggressive outdoor abeh, the same who cuts fences and tosses beer cans onto the farmer’s lawn? If so, what does this explain?

Is he acting through ignorance, because someone has not given him facts in word and picture? Is he managing wildlife according to his own misconception (e.g. about predators)?

Can he be educated? Can he be controlled through any practicable kind of law enforcement?

What is the annual turnover in individual hunters—recruitment of novices and retirement to other pastimes? What does it mean?

Should there be qualifying examinations for hunters, standards of outdoor knowledge and gun-handling skills?

We have not approached these unknowns with the tools of modern social science. They demand intensive research. State wildlife agencies, universities, outdoor and conservation organizations, and allied business interests should take the same constructive part in this issue that they have assumed in other phases of wildlife administration and management.

Society should grant and protect the right of hunters and fishermen to take crops of appropriate species under conditions that do not damage the resource. Society should likewise grant and protect the right of all people to enjoy and benefit from wildlife populations unimpaired by the arbitrary actions of a few. Let no one assume that this is just high-minded theory. Time remaining for effective action is short.

Somewhere and something to hunt

Traditionally, hunting as a total experience involves environmental satisfactions: room to roam, quiet, solitude. Hunting at its best cultivates an (Continued on next page)
increasing outdoor sophistication in the individual. He improves his knowledge and enjoyment of nature in all its aspects. He refines his sporting standards, including recognition that quality is poorly measured by the size of the bag.

Free public hunting has been an assumption with American outdoorsmen. In a sense, the hunter has been subsidized by the landowner, who produces something of common property used from which he may profit little, if at all. Yet access to private land will continue to be our great dependence in taking game crops. Maintaining relationships that will preserve the hunting privilege must be a long-term concern of sportsmen and administrators.

The problem of access is least in regions of low population. It is greatest in our growing metropolitan areas, and the reasons are evident: Although the cities produce many well-informed and well-organized sportsmen, great numbers of urbanites have been isolated from outdoor traditions. Their landowner relationships are poor, and there are too many of them for the available hunting area. The results of such conditions have become predictable:

- Dissatisfaction with the quality of sport.
- Trespass, property damage, and the posting of land.
- Law violations.
- Pressures for artificial stocking.

In time immediately ahead, it must be assumed that the area potentially available for hunting will be further reduced. In the past decade urban growth has taken three-quarters of a million acres of rural land annually. We must assume also an increase in public demands for hunting and fishing. At any given time it may not be physically possible to meet this demand. Thus, it is defensible policy to strive first for a quality experience for the individual; second, to serve as many people as possible. A number of means are in use, and to be recommended, for increasing hunting opportunities:

- The development of cooperatives to organize landowners and sportsmen for the orderly management of hunting.
- Access to commercial forest, utility, and watershed lands and waters as a public relations gesture by corporate interests.
- Paid shooting preserves and fishing waters.
- Farms and ranches managed for wildlife and waters available for recreational use, including hunting and fishing.
- Under some conditions the stocking of foreign big game, and possibly other species, serves useful purposes on private or commercial preserves. Primary requirements in issuing permits for such undertakings should be that:

  - The introduced animals can be localized.
  - In case of need, they can be totally removed by known methods.

Administrative and public viewpoints on meat-eating birds and mammals have changed slowly but steadily since early in the century. The high esthetic value of predatory animals is becoming generally recognized. The predator influence on prey species is necessary to the welfare of life communities. The functions are basic: population control. Attempts to establish new species in the wild should be undertaken only after intensive study, appropriate agreements among agencies concerned, and adequate public information. This applies to transfers of North American races and species to ranges not previously occupied, as well as to introductions from elsewhere in the world.

Among biological hazards to native wildlife are those of ecological competition, genetic infiltration, and disease transmission. Plant introductions may degrade wildlife habitats, as certain highly successful aquatics have demonstrated.

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- Natural versus Artificial

We propose as a worthy objective in outdoor programs that conditions be kept as natural as possible. However, there are realities to be faced. In areas of high human densities, hunters and fishermen, frequently dissatisfied with organized pressures for something to shoot or catch. Commonly this means pheasants stocked before the gun or catchable-size fish from the hatchery.

Many states have recognized the high costs and limited benefits of such programs. They have resisted "put-and-take" stocking in favor of "investments" in land and water habitat. But sometimes the public clamor becomes political action and produces a legislative mandate. Artificial stocking is then unavoidable.

Operations of this kind have little relationship to the maintenance of wild game or fish populations, and they should not be carried on at the expense of the average license-buyer. For legislators and administrators, it should be a standing principle that stocking for the gun or rod be supported fully by the collection of fees from those who directly participate.

The Use of Exotics

Almost on a daily basis, men are transporting plants and animals around the earth and introducing new organisms to old habitats. The character of life communities is unavoidably changing. Specialized native forms lose out as broadly adapted exotics take over. This process is degrading the diversity of the natural world. There is no cure for it, but it should be discouraged and resisted.

The importation and use of exotic plants and animals should be under rigid federal and state control. Attempts to establish new species in the wild should be undertaken only after intensive study, appropriate agreements among agencies concerned, and adequate public information. This applies to transfers of North American races and species to ranges not previously occupied, as well as to introductions from elsewhere in the world.

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Predators and Prey

Administrative and public viewpoints on meat-eating birds and mammals have changed slowly but steadily since early in the century. The high esthetic value of predatory animals is becoming generally recognized. The predator influence on prey species is necessary to the welfare of life communities. The functions are basic: population limitation and the protection of plant food resources; disease control; the culling of least vigorous individuals. Probably no relationships in nature are subject to
unconditional generalizing. But management con­
ccepts and policies concerned with predators appear
continue. In Canada the several provinces have
wild predators to protect domestic animals has been
features as new information
particularly in the western states, predator con­
hunting, they
scarcity of predators is unwarranted. Bounty payments are wasteful, and seldom,
and relationships have become evident, and these
features to be recommended in programs
are most useful when formulated in anticipation of
of all predatory species, like red-shouldered hawk, at
have long bewailed our inability to "reach" the
general public. Noisy or misused vehicles and
spheres of jurisdiction and more attentive to op­
portunities for cooperation in serving their common
safety.

Poisoning should be outlawed except for
emergency use by qualified personnel.

Regulatory and Administrative Problems

Useful regulatory innovations have appeared in
many states and provinces. We cite, in particular, some
doing widespread problems or have
value in controlling activities regarded by land­
owners and the public as important abuses.

Vehicles

In the regulation of hunting, the principle of "fair chase" should have legal support. The pursuit,
spottting, or killing of wild animals from a motor­
driven conveyance, including snow machines, boats,
and aircraft, should be prohibited. For the protec­
tion of natural values, authority should exist for
the administrative control of air traffic by public
land management agencies.

On public areas there is no such thing as a legiti­
mate "off-trail" vehicle. Recreational vehicles can
be accommodated at appropriate seasons by special
trails and by regulations that protect rights of the
general public. Noisy or misused vehicles and
boats should be excluded from public lands and
waters.

Guns

Laws in effect in some states requiring guns to be transported on public property cased or in the
trunk of a car are recommended. This requirement is complementary to regulations prohibiting shoot­
ing from or near public thoroughfares.

Trespass

In most regions of private land, access by written
permission has advantages for the legal hunter and
landowner. In permitting access for recreational
purposes, the landowner should have statutory
liability protection.

Law enforcement

Bonuses of the inadequacy of laws, conservation
officials often perform their duties at a substantial
risk of personal harm and liability. The legal struc­
ture under which officers operate should be periodic­
ly reviewed and updated by legislative
action. Consideration should be given to broaden­
ing the police powers of officers, especially where
this could be of aid to landowners.

Regulatory authority

The adoption of effective annual regulations by
state wildlife agencies requires flexibility and ready
access to technical information. This is accom­
plished to best advantage when broad discretionary
authority is vested in responsible administrators.

The policy function

Policies for the management of natural resources
are most useful when formulated in anticipation of
need by citizen boards and commissions. They are
indispensable to both legislators and administrators in defense of the public interest against ill-con­
sidered pressures.

Jurisdictions

As a worthy outlook for the future, this com­
mitee suggests that state and (federal agencies
and land management agencies. This function is producing well in federal and state
agencies and in universities, often carried out on a
cooperative basis. Modern research brings together
specialists from several disciplines, as needed, to
deal with problems in the complex field of environ­
mental science.

The long-standing mission of wildlife research has been to build an understanding of life com­
monalities that will contribute to the solution of a
wide array of management problems. A good begin­
ning has been made, but it probably is true that
now are we applying truly modern quantita­
tive methods to unlocking the mysteries of living
systems. This work will continue profitably as far ahead as anyone can see.

Our most neglected and crucial research needs are those concerning human social behavior. We
have noted the problems of the indiscriminate
shooter, the trespasser, and the law violator. We
have long bewailed our inability to "reach" the
general public with facts and create a better under­
standing of sensitive management issues. We do not
yet know the limitations of our knowledge in out­
door programs. Or how to serve best the long-term
interest of the people in decisions of quantity
versus quality.

The biologist alone, the social scientist alone, the
economist alone cannot deal with these questions.
Their combined effort is required, and it must do
great things.

(Continued on next page)
Public Relations and Education

This field has been characterized by thinly spread support and minimum services. Its possibilities are closely related to the sociological investigations of life. While progress has been made, this work is under-funded or ignored in many states.

The information function must deal effectively with citizen organizations, who need program support and minimum services. Its possibilities are closely related to the sociological investigations of life. While progress has been made, this work is under-funded or ignored in many states.

Federal and state wildlife agencies should have highly professional news and publication staffs. Newsletters, magazines, bulletins, and books have their place in an imaginative and effective public service, such a course of study should include offerings in human ecology designed to attract students in non-biological fields.

We strongly endorse environmental education of many kinds in the schools. Teacher training in ecological subjects has lagged far behind minimum requirements if we are to achieve basic goals in human welfare. There is around us abundant testimony that the environmental crises of today and tomorrow must be met in the minds of children. There is no greater challenge of our time.

We consider it appropriate to end this report with a statement of our hope and belief for the future:

Mankind emerged from the natural order; we must continue to live as part of it. We have but one earth, our home, our keep, our borrowed estate. We must accept the charge, at whatever cost, to maintain its abundance and guard its quality.

We see a future that threatens the idle, the ignorant, the improvident. But we see also, in times of crisis, the divine, the wise, the caring. We see the light of hope shining in minds and hearts, in the hands of young people who are committed to the service of their country, to the service of mankind. The future of our children and their children is in our own hands. We have the power to make it a better world for all.
probably the most popular of the modern auto­loading shotguns operating on the long-recoil system certainly merit inclusion in any discussion of satisfaction guarantee.

The Model 37's hood-style receiver, with only 20 gauge, and because of subsequent involvement in patent claims.

Ithaca shrewdly waited until the Remington-held patent expired, picked it up, improved the gun's internal mechanism, and created the Ithaca Model 37, first released in 1937.

The Model 37's hood-style receiver, with only the bottom open, adds inmeasurably to its performance and long life, since internal working parts are sheltered against rain and dirt.

You can get a real bargain in a Model 37 that has been specially bored for accurate shooting of rifled slugs for deer hunting. Using a slug-barreled barrel and a receiver peep sight, I have won numerous bets by reliably hitting hand-size targets with rifled slugs at measured distances out to 150 yards.

The Ithaca Model 37 is a rugged shotgun. Few are to be seen racked in gunsmith shops awaiting repair. The humpback-style receiver autoloading Brown­ings and the old Remington (Browning-patent) Model 11-48 autoloading shotguns operating on the long-recoil system certainly merit inclusion among workhorse shotguns. There are many of them, and they serve their owners well, even if outmoded mechanically by the improved gas-operated autoloaders.

Probably the most popular of the modern autoloaders now in use is the Remington Model 1100, a real workhorse among shotguns. It has mild recoil and is quite suitable for both hunting and clay target competition. The 1100 is successor to the Remington Model 58, which was a good shotgun in its period of manufac­ture.

Many workhorse shotguns are fitted with stocks that have generous drop at comb and heel—the so-called "upland gunning" stock. For some users, these guns tend to throw shot charges a bit lower than would be desired. Remington's Model 37, like the Model 37 Winchester sporting rifle, is not a heavy match target rifle—yet the fine accuracy is there. Although made decades ago, when prices were much lower than now, the Winchester Model 37 sporter was never a cheap 22 caliber rifle. Even as late as 1932, a year when economic depression still had a grip on the nation's purchasing power, the Winchester Model 52 bolt-action 22 sporter retailed for more than a hundred dollars. The price of a Model 37 today is only a fraction of what you'd pay without sights and sling swivels or sling. Even so, I consider my new Remington 541-S Deluxe Model bolt-action 22 a bargain. I look forward to a lot of fun with it, and if you get an opportunity to examine one closely and should it appear a few times, you'll readily understand why.

Some chemical solutions used for either gun cleaning or preservation not only do their intended jobs, but sometimes go a step further and intro­duce undesirable results.

When WD-40 first appeared on the market, I was intrigued by the manufacturer's claim that "WD-40 penetrates, lubricates and provides lasting protection to all metals, permanently lubricates choke tubes and breech bolts."

My experiments with the product substantiated that WD-40 actually did the jobs claimed for it, especially the quality of lasting protection, thin-film lubrication between moving parts. I have since used WD-40 for many different jobs with very good results. But I soon found that WD-40, when sprayed around scope sights, especially the critical points of the focal plane turrets, is prone to get into the wrong places. WD-40 sometimes works its way through lens gaskets and protective turrets, with subsequent fogging of scope optics. I now use WD-40 most judiciously around scope sights, taking time to first entirely cover a scope protectively before spraying gas or liquid hand.
October 6th in Florida. The only other thing you need is birds.

Migratory mourning doves are already arriving in Florida, where they annually join a substantial population of year-round resident doves. Flocks of the restless migrants normally linger to feed in the agricultural areas of north Florida before winging downstate to spend the winter in the central and southern peninsula.

Some doves departing from the northwest Florida panhandle apparently pass over the open waters of the Gulf to reach their destination, many of them making the flight at twilight.

When the nervous birds are flying thick and fast, they like plenty of room to come and go, to sight and to take off, and to perch. It is part of their natural defense; openness makes it easy for them to see approaching danger. This characteristic of dove behavior dictates that feeding areas have a fair amount of "landing strip," for they won’t sit down in tall vegetation.

Another trait is togetherness. Doves don’t like to be alone. Flocks are large and flocks are small—sometimes just two birds—but these creatures seek each other’s company. That’s why many successful dove hunters take the time to stick up a few dove decoys at the edge of a field, in a dead tree, perhaps. It tends to attract passing birds, which always have an eye out for a few of their kind who might want some company.

It’s not surprising that dove hunters are gregarious too. Organized shoots of 10 to 20 hunters are not uncommon in a large field. Such affairs are by invitation only, of course, except on public dove fields operated by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission or a private landowner in cooperation with the Commission. (Inquire at the regional offices listed on page 3 for information about locations, fees, and open shooting days for public dove fields in your area.)

In an effort to learn more about the mourning dove, banding studies are conducted yearly in Florida. Birds are trapped, banded, and released at various banding stations around the state. The result is additional information on flock dispersal, survival, and flight patterns—but only if hunters finding banded birds take the time to send the bands in. Florida hunters have an excellent record of sending in bands recovered from game birds, and are commended for their cooperative efforts and encouraged to keep it up. Just follow the instructions on the band, or flatten it and mail it to the Tallahassee office, attention Game Management Division, with the basic information of when, where and how the carrier bird was taken.

The Mourning Dove
By GENE SMITH

Florida hunters have an excellent record of returning bands to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Such cooperation is necessary to keep results current and meaningful for management purposes.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S FISHING CITATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS...8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL...4 pounds or larger

BLUGILL (BREAM)...1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER...2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE...2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST...1 pound or larger

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 data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

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

Name (please print),
Address
City State Zip No.

Type of Tackle

Weight Length

Date Caught

Place Caught

Registered, Weighed By
Signature of Applicant

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK