

Texas Game and Fish

APRIL

1956

20 CENTS



ROBERT JOHNSON

When Is a Fishing License Required?

Early spring heralds the opening of the fishing season for many Texans. Then there is the frequent question, "Do I need a fishing license if I fish . . . etc., etc."

There are three general classes of fishermen who do NOT need a license if they fish for sport. You do NOT need a license if

1. You fish for sport in salt water only.
2. You are under 17 or over 65 years of age.
3. You hold a commercial fishing license.

Even though you may not fall into any of the above exempt classes, there are other circumstances under which you may fish WITHOUT buying a license. The diagram below should help you understand when you do and do not need a license.

The price of a fresh-water sport fishing license is \$1.65.

Non-Residents—License required for any type fishing in fresh water; none needed for salt water. Cost—\$1.65 for 5 days; \$5.25 for season.

When Fishing in Your Home County

A license is required ONLY if you use ARTIFICIAL lures in FRESH water.

When Fishing in an Adjoining County

A license is required ONLY when fishing in fresh water

- (1) With ARTIFICIAL lures
- (2) Or with LIVE bait (live bait as defined by this law means only minnows or fish).

When Fishing in the Rest of the State

A license is required of everyone using any kind of bait or lure in fresh water outside his own or adjoining counties.

Texas Game and Fish

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF OUR NATIVE GAME AND FISH; AND TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUNTING AND FISHING IN TEXAS.

April, 1956

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★ In This Issue ★

When Is A Fishing License Required?.....Inside Front Cover

Salt-Water Game Fish in Texas Fresh Water..... 4
 By LEO D. LEWIS and WALTER W. DALQUEST
 This exciting experiment may bring inland anglers new thrills.

The Rock Squirrel..... 6
 By ROBERT R. RAMSEY
 The story of this month's cover subject.

Northeast Texas Deer Checking Stations Pay Dividends..... 7
 By EWART G. CARNEY
 Hunter cooperation leads to better deer management.

Outdoor Enthusiasts Form Statewide Organization..... 9
 By TOWNSEND MILLER
 Local clubs unite in Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas (SCOT).

SCOT Constitution and By-Laws..... 11

Proposed Work Program for SCOT..... 10

Alcoa Lake Caters Only to Anglers..... 12
 By THERON D. CARROLL
 The fisherman is king at this industrial lake, open to the public.

How Farming Affects Fishing..... 14
 By DR. R. W. ESCHMEYER
 Practices detrimental to farming also harm fishing.

Wood Wildlife Conservation Awards Program..... 15
 By JEAN RICHMOND
 1955 awards are given and the 1956 program gets underway.

The Whooping Crane..... 16
 By ROBERT P. ALLEN
 Second in a series about endangered wildlife species.

The Shark Remora.....Inside Back Cover
 By PATRICIA PEW
 This interesting fish rides the seas without paying fare.

Letters..... 2	Quail Wing Returns..... 25
Bass Tourney Scheduled.... 3	Doubled..... 25
Law Requires..... 8	Audubon Week Slated..... 27
Preserve Reports..... 8	Pond Owners Warned..... 28
Texas Tracks..... 18	Against Poison..... 28
Guns and Shooting..... 20	Things You May Not Know..... 29
Postage Stamps..... 21	Counting Shark Teeth Can Be Dangerous..... 31
Honor Wildlife..... 21	Outdoor Books..... 32
Where Are the Texas Walleyes?..... 23	



The Cover

The Rock Squirrel, a little dark brown to black mammal 'salted' with gray, is common to the western half of Texas and makes its home on rocky bluffs and cliffs. For its size, the rock squirrel can eat tremendous amounts of grain, fruit, or melons and is considered a pest by farmers. Original cover painting by Robert Johnson. See story on page 6.

Letters to . . .



Big Catfish

Editor:

I am sending a picture of a 92-pound catfish I caught in Eagle Mountain Lake. My trotline was baited with cut-up carp and strung in about 25 feet of water. I hadn't run it in several days, and it was quite a surprise to find this huge fish on my line. Since I was by myself, I didn't know just what

to do and started to cut the line and let him go. Finally after a struggle of over an hour, I got him into the boat. The fish weighed 92 pounds and was 54 inches long.

B. R. Scott
Scotty's Fishing Camp
Route 1, Box 75
Azle, Texas

Starfish Eyes

Editor:

We would like to correct an error in your November, 1955, issue of TEXAS GAME AND FISH. On page 21 you stated that a starfish had an eye in each arm and could see in all directions. According to our school biology book, a starfish cannot actually see but moves by means of eye spots that sense vibration, heat, and light.

Marvin Miller
D'Alton Holder
206 Sunset
Amarillo, Texas

(It is absolutely correct that a starfish actually cannot see, and although the sensitive spots in the arms are called "eyes," perhaps the term was used too loosely in the magazine.—Ed.)

Bucking Buck

Editor:

It may be a tale you won't believe, but it happened. And there is one young Cuero deer hunter who can substantiate the story with a resolution never to ride down his game again. The young man is Robert Wagner, University of Texas student.

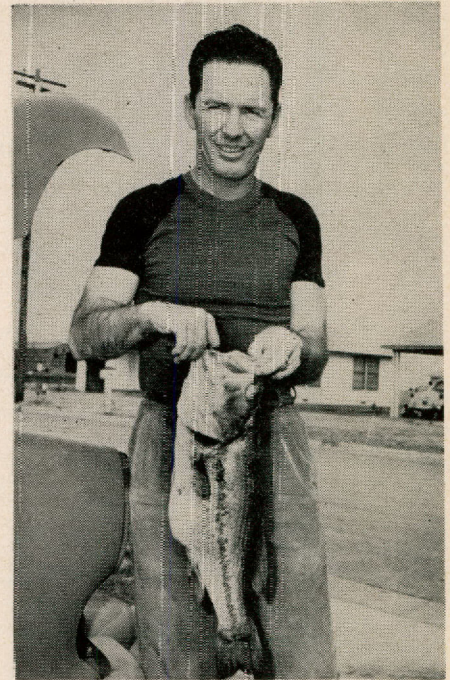
It took a shot from a 30-30 rifle, a wrestling match and an impromptu rodeo performance for this hunter to make his first kill of the year.

Hunting with his father on Sandies Creek near Cuero, Wagner drew bead on a six-pointer. His shot dropped the buck in its tracks, and laying his gun aside he rushed in to complete the kill, reaching for his hunting knife as he ran. Wagner was astride the deer, antlers firmly gripped, before he realized the knife had been lost.

The deer bounced to its feet, Wagner still aboard, and headed for the creek. Deer and hunter hit the water with a splash. Holding the deer's head under water, he managed to subdue the floundering, high-kicking buck.

Meat has been "dear" for a long time, but never so "dear" as that deer.

Harry C. Putman
Wildlife Reporter
Cuero, Texas



"Over Yonder"

Editor:

One of our local boys making good in the black bass department is Bill Ritchie, shown here with an eight-pounder snared in Hickory Creek of Lake Texoma. But the only trouble is he won't tell us eager-beavers precisely where he caught this beauty. He just points and says "over yonder." The point is, have you got a lie detector or some such to help in pinning down these evasive experts?

Lornie Wooten
State Game Warden
Gainesville, Texas

Coral Snake Identification

Editor:

Your magazine coral snake cover and the brief instructions on how to tell the coral snake from the harmless mimic reminded me of an elderly Negro guide I knew. He knew well the things of the wild, and he had a little verse that went something like this:

"If his nose is red, go ahead,
But if it's black, go back,
Or your kinfolks will be wearing
black."

Ralph M. Williams
Box 41
Arbuckle, Calif.

(The verse of the Negro guide is quite accurate. All the North American species of coral snakes do have black noses.—Ed.)

Are You Changing Your Address?

Then please fill out the following form and send to TEXAS GAME AND FISH, Walton Bldg., Austin, Texas, so that you will continue to receive your copies of the magazine. The magazine is sent second-class mail and cannot be forwarded by the post office nor remailed from this office. Allow six weeks for processing.

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City, State

Please look on the mailing label of your magazine, find the number which appears on the right hand side, and copy it here:

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Markswoman

Editor:

Our daughter Martha Lou Anderson has proved herself to be quite a marksman. In one day of hunting near Hunt, Texas, where we have a summer home, she bagged two (2) eight-point deer, an eighteen-pound gobbler, and a red fox. She got all four with four shots. She is 17 years old.

Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Anderson
402 E. Harrison St.
Harlingen, Texas

Challenge

(The following bit of challenging verse was submitted to TEXAS GAME AND FISH some time ago. Unfortunately, the author's name was misplaced. However, we like the verse so well, we are printing it here anonymously.—Editor.)

If you are a guy that thinks it's smart
To go out and violate the law,
You should see yourself as others see
you:

A despicable a guy as you ever saw.
The buck you slip around to shoot,
That costs you nothing, you think,
Should just as well have been stolen.
In a real sportsman's book, you stink!
He buys his license, and pays his lease,
On prospects he has seen.
You go sneaking out and spoil it all.
Now don't you feel sort of mean?
You laugh and brag around your kind,
Yes, it's funny to your little clan;
For once try acting like a sport
And see how it feels to be a man.

(If the original author will drop up a line, we'll gladly give him credit!)

Bass Fishing Tourney Slated

Who is the best bass fisherman in Texas?

Anglers from throughout the state have a chance to find out May 3, 4, 5, and 6, when the Waco *Tribune-Herald* sponsors the First Annual Texas Bass Tournament on Lake Whitney.

The tourney is said to be the first of its kind ever held in this state, and all outstanding anglers in Texas are eligible to compete. When it's all over on Sunday, May 6, a mighty proud angler will be wearing the crown of Texas' bass champion!

It all started a year ago, when *Tribune-Herald* Outdoor Editor Earl Golding held an invitational tournament on Whitney. Golding invited 146 ace anglers from a 16-county Central Texas area. They competed against each other last May 15, fishing as two-man teams.

The tourney was such a success that a clamor followed for another in '56. Golding started getting requests from other parts of the state, asking that the meet be enlarged to take in all anglers. So the *Tribune-Herald* decided to go big league this year, and the result will be a tournament for the state bass catching championships.

Fishermen will fish as teams, with two men to the boat. Each team must fish during one of the first three days, and the top 75 teams will be advanced to the finals, May 6. Golding says that the entry roster will be limited to 250 teams, or 500 fishermen. He anticipates many more than that will apply but thinks more than that would make for a crowded situation, even on a lake as big as 55-mile long Whitney.

Fishermen will check out from the tournament headquarters at 4 o'clock in the morning, and must check back in, to weigh their strings, at 2:30 in the afternoon.


Only black bass will be weighed, and fishing will be limited to artificial lures. There will be no trolling.

When the *Tribune-Herald* held its invitational meet last year, the entry roster was closed at 150 fishermen. All but four turned up to fish. The champion of the big meet matching Central Texas' finest anglers was C. E. Dansby, a Valley Mills farmer.

The team champs were John Sanders and D. M. Parnell, two of the most-famed bass takers in Waco. Sanders and Parnell also finished first and second in the big bass division.

They'll all be back to seek new laurels in May. And Sanders on March 26 issued a warning he'll again be hard to beat when he caught a 6-pound, 14-ounce largemouth on Whitney. His lunker measured 22³/₄ inches.

To enter the tourney, write Earl Golding, Waco *Tribune-Herald*, Waco, Texas, for complete details.



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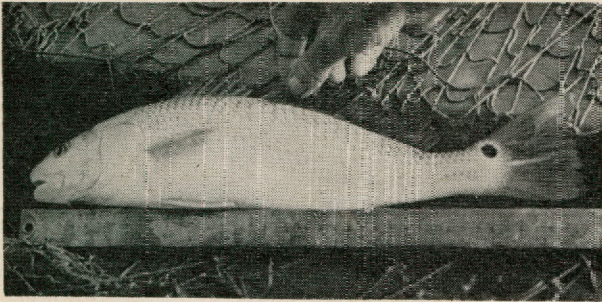
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Redfish

Salt-Water

IN TEXAS

Many salt-water fish will live in fresh water. In fact, some grow faster and larger when transplanted. Now the Game and Fish Commission is experimenting to see if two exciting marine gamesters can be established in inland lakes.

By LEO D. LEWIS and WALTER W. DALQUEST, Aquatic Biologists

An exciting experiment is under way in north-central Texas. If it is successful, the future of fishing in some inland lakes and reservoirs may be profoundly affected. Two kinds of the Texas coast's most popular salt-water game fishes, the redfish (*Sciaenops ocellata*), sometimes called channel bass, and the speckled sea trout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), also called spotted weakfish, have been introduced into Lake Kemp.

Lake Kemp is an artificial lake formed in 1923 by a dam across the Big Wichita River in Baylor County about 50 miles west of Wichita Falls. The resultant impoundment measures about twenty by eight miles at spillway level and contains approximately 560,000 acre feet of water.

For a number of years the lake furnished splendid fishing, but eventually it followed the pattern of other impoundment lakes. The natural fertility of the lake

became depleted, and the rough fish population, principally gizzard shad and river carpsuckers, increased to such an extent that the game fish population was "squeezed out."

Moreover the headwaters of the Big Wichita River lie in the soft rocks of the Blain Formation, which contain large amounts of sodium chloride (table salt) and calcium sulfate (gypsum). In drouth years these salts were not diluted by rainfall, and built up in the lake until the waters were far too salty for human consumption. The natural salts were augmented by salt from oil well pollution, and it was questioned whether the lake was suitable for range cattle or irrigation. Game fishes were injured and sometimes killed by the heavy salt concentrations, and the more resistant rough fishes were favored in their competition with the game species. A detailed study of the fish



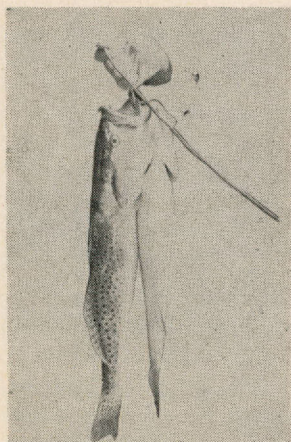
Typical shoreline of Lake Kemp, near Wichita Falls, new home of the salt-water fish, left. The surrounding area contains a great deal



of salt and has built up salinity in the lake's water. If salt-water species fare well here, they may be tried in fresher waters.

GAME FISH

Fresh Water



Speckled Trout

population of the lake, as part of a Dingel-Johnson Federal Aid Project, from 1953 to 1954, showed the lake to be in a critical condition.

At almost the exact time that the poor condition of the sports fishery in Lake Kemp became obvious, we heard of some preliminary experiments of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Texas Game and Fish Commission. The biologists at Rockport had learned that redfish would live and grow in fresh water. If the fish would thrive in fresh water, why would they not do equally well in a saline lake with an abundance of food and conditions even more similar to their native homes?

In June and July of 1954, two preliminary trips were made to the Texas coast. Although very poor luck was experienced in attempts to obtain young redfish, some important questions were answered. It was found that the redfish could be easily transported the 400 odd miles to Lake Kemp in a hatchery truck, and could stand successive dilutions of the Gulf water with fresh water. They arrived at the lake in fine shape, and when the 50 fish taken were released in the lake, they darted off to deep water.

The total number of larger fishes present in Lake Kemp was estimated to be between one and three

• Continued on page 31

Questions and Answers...

... concerning experimental attempts to introduce salt-water redfish and speckled trout into Lake Kemp near Wichita Falls.

Why stock redfish and specks? To make more and better fishing for the public. Also because both species are predaceous and will help to reduce the rough fish population of Lake Kemp, and therefore improve conditions for the native game fishes.

Are redfish and specks good game fishes? Excellent. They are swift, hard fighters and fine food fish.

How big do they get? Specks commonly weigh up to five pounds and above; redfish to 50 pounds.

Will they reproduce in fresh water? We do not know. The redfish is a "surf-breeder," and may not breed. The speck breeds in masses of aquatic vegetation, and there is suitable habitat for this species to breed in the lake. The striped bass, a salt-water species recently stocked in fresh-water lakes in the southeast, has been found to reproduce, and stocking of salt-water-taken fish has been discontinued. We hope the same will be true for the redfish and speck.

How soon will we know if they will reproduce? Not until 1958, at least, and probably not until 1960. The 1500 redfish placed in Lake Kemp in the spring of 1956 should be mature by 1959.

Will these introductions destroy the natural balance of the lake? There is no "natural" balance in Lake Kemp. The lake is artificial and most of the fish species present in it are non-native. The known balance in these forms has shifted steadily in the direction of dominance by species undesirable to man.

What will the introduced species feed upon? We hope they will feed on gizzard shad and other rough fish species when grown. Smaller fish may eat water fleas, aquatic insects, fresh-water shrimp, and minnows.

Will the introduced forms compete with native species? We do not know. From known habits we would expect the redfish, a bottom species, to compete with the drum (fresh-water drum or fresh-water sheepshead (*Aplodinotus grunniens*)). The speck is an open-water, surface fish, with habits most like those of the white bass (*Morone chrysops*).

If the redfish will live and grow in the lake, but not reproduce, will continued introductions still be worth while? We think so. The cost of capturing and transporting the fingerlings is considerable, but the opportunity offered the inland fisherman to capture a fifty-pound game fish may be worth the cost.

Why place the fish in Lake Kemp rather than other nearby lakes? Because Lake Kemp is large and saline and offers best conditions for the survival of the fish. If stocking there proves successful, we plan to place both species in other inland lakes to which the fishing public has access.

How many redfish and specks will be necessary to constitute a fair test? About five thousand of each species should furnish ample data.



The Rock Squirrel

The Story of This Month's Cover Subject

By ROBERT R. RAMSEY, Wildlife Biologist

THE ROCK squirrel, *Citellus variegatus* (Erxleben), common to the western half of Texas, is a mammal with many sides to his character. Observed basking in the sun atop a boulder by the roadside, he is a cute little bundle of black, brown and greyish-white fur and the very picture of relaxed contentment. And certainly no one could object to the tons of cedar berries he and his family devour during the year, nor to an occasional side dish of Spanish walnuts, wild or native pecans, wild cherries, chinaberries, hackberries, acorns of all species, red and black haws, agarita berries, wild grapes, grasshoppers and other soft insects, or the seeds from dozens of species of grasses.

These are some of the natural foods of the rock squirrel, and his annual consumption of any one type of food depends on its abundance and availability during all seasons of the year. He is a very resourceful fellow, and, should there be a scarcity of natural foods, he will seek food elsewhere, and usually finds it. It is here another side of his character takes charge, much to the annoyance of the nearest farmer or rancher with a garden, orchard, grain field or poultry enterprise.

The ability of the rock squirrel to carry off produce of the farm is amazing. Once near Uvalde I shot a particularly active pecan thief and removed eight medium-sized pecans from his cheek pouches. I relieved another rock squirrel of 11 Spanish oak acorns. What a dozen of these two-pound rodents can do to a cornfield, cantaloupe patch, or peach orchard is absolutely unbelievable.

One of the rock squirrel's most notorious habits is his fondness for an occasional meat course. I have watched them pursue, catch, and eat tame turkey poults that were over two weeks old. On June 18, 1939, Arthur H. Cook and W. Herman Henry, Game and Fish Commission biologists, saw two rock squirrels in the Hill Country catch and consume two (week-old) wild turkey poults. Many ranchers in that area have witnessed this same occurrence, as well as destruction of the eggs in the nest, perpetrated by this fellow of many facets.

Ray Ramsey, Uvalde County rancher and father of the author, is well acquainted with the rock squirrel, having lived in close proximity to them all his life and having had several as pets. He recalls two particular rock squirrels he took from their rocky den before their eyes were open. These squirrels were raised on a bottle and had the run of the house. They were so curious and full of mischief, however, that access to the house had to be denied them before they reached two months of age, and quarters were set up for them in the tool shed.

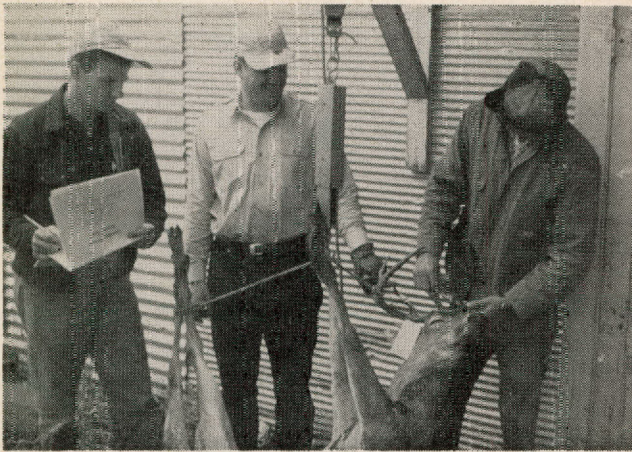
Fall came along and 40 ten-pound pumpkins were stored in a barn near the tool shed. Then came Thanksgiving. When Dad went to the barn for a pumpkin, he found that his two plump, playful pets had hollowed out every single one of the 40 pumpkins in the barn, eating the meat and transferring the seeds to a storage place beneath the floor of the tool shed. Those who know the rock squirrel's habits and capabilities will not be surprised to learn that two two-pound squirrels ate or carried off four hundred pounds of pumpkin in less than one month's time!

In Texas the rock squirrel ranges from the Balcones Escarpment throughout the "Hill Country," westward to El Paso, and northward to the Panhandle. These squirrels inhabit semi-open country in the northern parts of their range where they may be found in clearings, around overgrown fields or wherever brush and logs provide good cover. Farther south they may occur in open brush or on rocky hillsides. They occupy an altitudinal range from about 300 feet above sea level up to an elevation of 8,000 feet or higher.

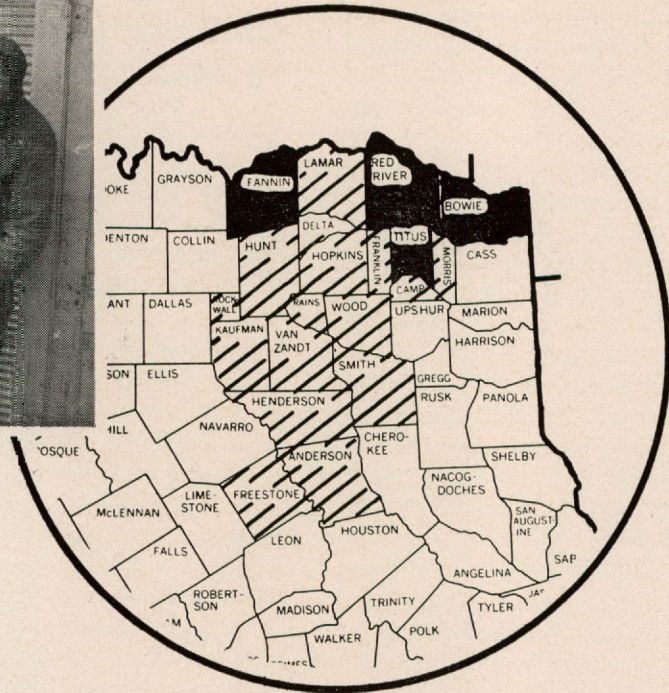
The young of the rock squirrel are born in the spring, with the number varying from six to twelve. Only one litter is reared each year, usually in a cave or crevice in a bluff or very steep hillside. Hollow logs and cavities under single boulders are also preferred sites for rearing the young.

The rock squirrel, unlike his near relative, the ground squirrel, which prefers comparatively level ter-

● Continued on page 29



The game of hunters who stopped by check stations provided valuable information.



Area covered by the Northeast Texas Game Management Survey. Commission has responsibility of setting game laws in four darkened counties.

Northeast Texas

Deer Checking Stations Pay Dividends

Big deer grow in East Texas. And the cooperation of hunters is leading to wiser management of the herds.

By EWART G. CARNEY, Wildlife Biologist

FOR YEARS, Northeast Texas has been the subject of extensive game research, restocking, and habitat restoration, particularly in regard to deer and turkey. In 1953, the Legislature transferred to the Game and Fish Commission the responsibility for setting game and fish laws in Titus, Red River, and Fannin Counties, and the Commission inaugurated the Northeast Texas Game Management Survey.

This continuing project now embraces 20 counties, with studies intensified in Titus, Red River, Fannin, the Bowie Counties, the latter added in 1955 to the other three counties of that region for which the Commission has regulatory responsibility.

As one phase of the work, checking stations were set up in Bowie, Red River, and Fannin Counties to examine deer killed by hunters. At one of these last fall, wildlife biologists of the Commission watched the fifth and final day of the limited deer season draw to a close. The highways and countryside had practically emptied of hunters. The parade of deer through the check station had slowed to a trickle. In a few hours the 1955 season would be over—for the hunters. Then

the biologists could begin tallying the results. Within the final figures would be answers to such questions as "How did the 1955 season compare with 1954?"

At one time the answer to this question was mostly conjecture on our part. Fortunately, through the interest and cooperation of hunters who brought their deer to the check stations, we now are able to calculate the total deer harvest much more accurately. Other vital information also is gained from the hunter and from a close examination of each deer. Taken together, this information contributes greatly to a more adequate deer management program.

The hunter is able to furnish a lot of valuable information; for instance, how much time he and his buddies spent in the woods hunting deer (hunting effort) and how many bucks they killed (hunting success). Material of this nature provides a much better picture of how many guns it will take to harvest a given number of deer. For example, hunting success in Red River County increased from 42 per cent in 1954 to 44 per cent in 1955, and the number of hunters increased from 259 to 379.

● Continued on next page

Data gathered from the examination of each deer is the key which may open the lock to many management problems. For instance, at the check station we age the deer according to known characteristics of the teeth (much as you might age a horse or a sheep), placing them in annual classes (1½, 2½, 3½ years old, etc.). Knowing the number of deer in each age class gives an idea of breeding success. Also, knowledge of age classes indirectly indicates a wide or narrow spread of the buck-doe ratio within the herd. So this one step "age determination" taken at each check station supplies information vital to good management.

Deer were weighed at the check station in a field dressed condition—all viscera removed, including heart, lungs, and liver, with only the hide, head and feet intact. All antler measurements were taken. These included the diameter of the antler beam, the length of the antler beam, the greatest spread between the beams, and of course the total number of points (one inch long or longer). Samples of stomach contents were gathered from a few deer for identification of foods eaten. External and internal parasites were noted and collected when necessary for further study. All of this data provides a better insight as to the past, present, and future conditions of the deer herd.

The gradual reduction of antler size often indicates poor nutrition. The diameter of the antler beam is particularly subject to reduction in size when the quality of deer range is reduced; this is especially true of the "long-yearling" deer (1½ years old). Subsequently, if our data should indicate that the trend of antler beam diameters of the long-yearlings is decreasing, we "stop, look and listen." This condition is often brought about by an over-population of deer and points up needed management measures to remedy this ailment. Reduction in spread, points, and beam size also may be brought about as the result of very old age—a direct result of poor nutritional functions.

Deer weights are usually affected

Law Requires Holders Of Preserve Licenses To Make Kill Reports

Ranchers, landowners and other Texans who took out shooting preserve licenses for the last hunting season are urged to turn in their final report to the Game and Fish Commission according to state law.

A total of 5480 such permits were issued last fall, and the data is urgently needed to compile information on the annual wildlife harvest as a basis for game management plans and for other purposes.

The law requires holders of the licenses, which cost \$5 each, to keep a factual record of hunters' names, dates, and what they shot, if anything, and forward the document either to their local game warden or to Commission headquarters in Austin. Persons not complying are subject to prosecution.

by two factors. One is the immediate condition of the range, and the other is the age composition of the herd. Mr. P. T. (Red) Taylor of Clarksville, an enthusiastic sportsman, is vitally interested in the deer situation in Red River County. Even before the Northeast Texas Game Management Project set up its first deer check station three years ago, "Red" Taylor had a personal check station dating back to the first season in Red River County at his hardware-sporting goods store in Clarksville. He kept excellent records on deer weights, points, greatest spread, and of course who killed what and where.

As shown by our combined records, the average over-all weights have been dropping each season. Mr. Taylor wanted to know why. As he stated it, "Kit, what is going on? How do you account for this consistent drop in deer weights? Surely we don't have an over-population of deer?"

"Not yet, Red, or at least not of major proportions," I answered. "Deer numbers have reached a maximum population in relation to the carrying capacity of the range in some sections of Texas, but generally

speaking, the deer herd in Red River County is healthy and in an expanding condition. Here there is still a lot of deer country which has yet to be inhabited, but this takes time."

I went on to explain that deer don't willingly move out of their range which they have learned as a fawn at their mothers' side. They have to be pushed out by various environmental pressures. The deer on the peripheres of the herd gradually spill over into unoccupied but suitable ranges. This does take time. It is a gradual but continual process that goes on until all available deer range is inhabited within the area.

Martin Stiles received the first 49 deer brought into Red River County by the Texas Game and Fish Commission for restocking purposes back in 1939. Between that time and 1955, 1,311 more deer were released in northeast Texas by the Commission in an effort to provide a start toward a huntable population of deer.

In the fall of 1949 the hunting season opened on deer for the first time in many, many years. Since 1939 these deer had been protected. They had more than enough to eat, their range being new and of good quality, and, consequently they grew big and fat. Since man wasn't harvesting any of these deer, the OLD-ER deer far outnumbered the YOUNG. These deer were "big." They had lived on a lush range and were not hunted. They were big and not difficult for the average nimrod to "down" either, for their wits hadn't been honed to a razorsharp edge. Necessity didn't dictate that man was their enemy and to be avoided. As a result the deer bagged the first few seasons were of "gran-pappy" size.

But by the time this herd had been hunted six seasons, those "he-bucks" had been cut down considerably—and the YOUNG bucks outnumbered the OLD. Let's take the last two seasons for example.

The average weight of all deer in the 1954 season was 100.3 pounds, as compared to 94.45 pounds in 1955. Why the decrease of 5.85 pounds? It's not due to the condition of the range; rains were good throughout the summer of 1955 and



Outdoor Enthusiasts Form Statewide Organization

**A state federation of local clubs is formally organized
to promote the welfare of fish and wildlife**

By TOWNSEND MILLER, Editor

Photos by the Author

A STATEWIDE federation of local outdoor sportsmen's clubs, Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas (SCOT), was formally organized at a meeting in San Antonio March 24. In attendance were delegates from 33 clubs, ranging geographically from Odessa to Beaumont and from Marshall to the Rio Grande and representing a minimum of ten thousand organized sportsmen.

Before the day ended, the some two hundred enthusiastic but dead-serious persons present put the finishing touches on a constitution and adopted it, embraced a suggested

work program, and installed in office a president, four vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and seventeen directors.

The meeting was the third of a series of organizational meetings and represented months of work and painstaking planning to assure a strong, workable organization based on sound principles and worthwhile goals. Previous meetings had been held September 24, 1955, when a handful of inspired outdoor enthusiasts initiated the movement, and January 21, when an expanded group named the new statewide as-

sociation and voted to continue work on the proposed constitution and organizational structure before final adoption and election of permanent officers.

(See pages 10 and 11 for a list of officers and further details about the constitution, which includes the organizational structure, and the proposed work program and goals of SCOT.)

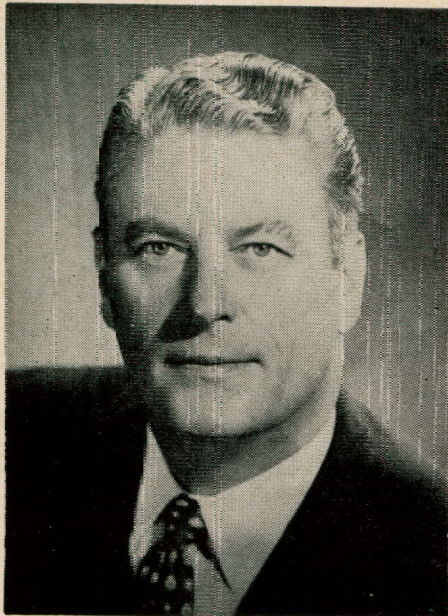
The new SCOT is an organization made up of the state's outdoor clubs and, although provisions are made for individual memberships, voting power is limited to delegates of the clubs. Basically, SCOT's purposes are to study methods for improving the welfare of fish and wildlife, to disseminate such information to the interested public, to encourage outdoor sportsmen to back legislation beneficial to hunting and fishing and to guard against legislation detrimental to wildlife welfare, to serve as a medium for the exchange of ideas between local clubs, and to cooperate with other organizations with similar interests on local, state, and national levels.

Immediately following the general meeting March 24, the board of directors voted to affiliate with the National Wildlife Federation, a sportsmen's organization with state affiliates in 47 states. The NWF recognizes only one representative from each state and previously had agreed to recognize SCOT in place of the defunct Texas Wildlife Federation.

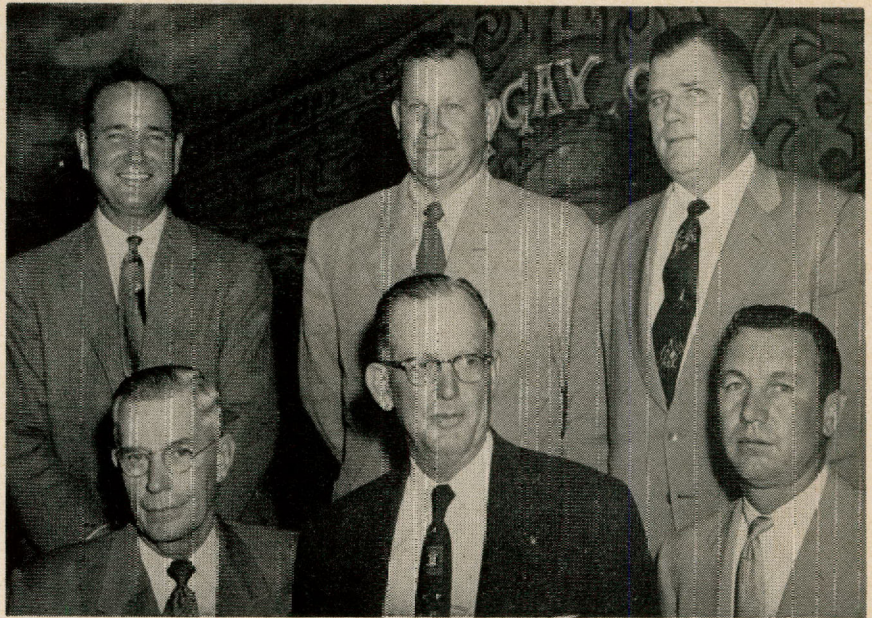


The new board of directors met immediately after SCOT's formal organization. Vice-President Charlie Haas, Corpus Christi, (back to camera) presided. Left to right around the table are Wilson Southwell, San Antonio; Don Craft, Palestine; James A. Goble, Odessa; Estil M. Linnens, Beaumont; Dan Auld, Kerrville; Ed Harper, San Antonio; Charlie Tabor, Hillsboro; W. T. Hunt, Baytown; Don Maxwell, Odessa; M. C. Raney, Lake Jackson; Herbert M. Cole, Beaumont, and a stenographer.

• Continued on page 25



ELECTED as the first full-term president of SCOT was Harry Jesig, San Antonio industrialist and well-known sportsman, left. The other six officials elected, right, were, upper row, Vice-Presidents Charlie



Haas, Corpus Christi; James Goble, Odessa; and Herbert Cole, Beaumont. Lower row, Secretary Kenneth Foree, Dallas; Treasurer Charles Tabor, Hillsboro, and Vice-President Ed Harper, San Antonio.

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Proposed Work Program for SCOT

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Shortly before the March 24 meeting of SCOT, an informal discussion meeting of interested persons was held to consider the needs of Texas outdoors and how the new SCOT might help answer these needs.

In attendance were such wildlife authorities as Ira N. Gabrielson, former director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and now president of the Wild-

life Management Institute; H. S. Lloyd, former director of the Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service; Clarence Cottam, former assistant to the director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and present director of the Sinton Wildlife Refuge; W. C. Glazener, assistant director of the Sinton Wildlife Refuge; Val Lehmann, wildlife manager for King Ranch; various SCOT officials, and representatives of the Game and Fish Commission.

As a result of this meeting, a suggested work program was outlined for SCOT as follows:

In accordance with objectives specified in the Constitution and By-laws, the following activities are recommended for consideration in 1956:

A. ORGANIZATIONAL

1. Obtain the strongest possible leadership.
2. Secure pledges of at least \$50,000 per year for a minimum period of two years for basic operating expenses.
3. Establish a State Headquarters in Austin.

B. RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

1. Thoroughly explore the possibilities for expanding: (1) the State Park System; (2) the State Forest System.
2. Build a fund to supplement available public funds to bring wildlife research projects of especially pressing importance (salt water fish resources and their management, the feasibility

of fish passes, life history and management of the white-winged doves and other threatened species, etc.) to early conclusion.

3. Endeavor to re-establish the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Texas A. & M. College on its previous basis with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Wildlife Institute.

4. Establish a technical committee to

• Continued on page 26



MUCH CREDIT for SCOT's organizational structure, as outlined in its constitution and by-laws, went to Wilson Southwell, San Antonio, left, and Baylor Bell, Corpus Christi. They split duties as chairman of the constitution committee through the months of work involved.



ED HARPER directed much of the organizational work of SCOT, serving as president pro-tem through the formative months following the original meeting last September.

SCOT Constitution and By-Laws

The following is a condensed version of SCOT's Constitution and By-Laws, as adopted by delegates at the March 24 meeting. It is not complete as published here. Parts have been deleted for the sake of brevity, but none of the wording has been changed.

Copies of the complete constitution will be sent to any local club requesting it, according to Ed Harper, vice-president. Write Harry Jersig, P. O. Box 2060, San Antonio, Texas.

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Officers and Directors of SCOT

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The following officers and directors were elected at the March 24 meeting to serve during the first year of SCOT.

Officers

President—Harry Jersig, San Antonio industrialist.

Vice-Presidents (four) — Charlie Haas, Corpus Christi oil operator; Ed Harper, San Antonio tire distributor; Herbert Cole, Beaumont insurance agent; and James Goble, Odessa oil man.

Secretary—Kenneth Foree, Dallas News outdoor editor.

Treasurer—Charlie Tabor, Hillsboro investment counsellor.

Board of Directors

- Region 1—Not represented.
- Region 2—Grady Hill, San Angelo. Don Maxwell, Odessa.
- Region 3—W. T. Hunt, Baytown. M. C. Raney, Lake Jackson.
- Region 4—Jack Biggerstaff, Abilene. Loy Brown, Brownwood.
- Region 5—Herb Klein, Dallas.
- Region 6—Tom C. Browning, Karnack. Ross Sport, Marshall.
- Region 7—Dan Auld, Kerrville. Wilson Southwell, San Antonio.
- Region 8—Pen Jackson, Cleburne. S. L. (Don) Croft, Palestine.
- Region 9—Arnold Youngblood, Port Arthur. Estil M. Linnens, Beaumont.
- Region 10—Evan Hurst, Harlingen. F. S. Scibienski, Corpus Christi.

ARTICLE I—NAME

This organization shall be incorporated as a non-profit corporation . . . and its corporate name shall be: Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas, Inc.

ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVES

(Unchanged as published in March issue, page 18.)

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Any duly organized and recognized sportsmen's club and the members thereof, within the State of Texas, who have as their primary objectives the purposes above set forth in Article II shall be eligible to membership in this Organization. . . .

Sec. 2. Each such organization, having complied with Sec. 1 of this article and all other requisites, shall be entitled to representation at all . . . general meetings . . . as follows: One voting delegate for each club of 100 members or less, two voting delegates for each club of 101 to 300 members, three voting delegates for each club of 301 to 500 members and five voting dele-

gates for each club having a membership in excess of 500 members.

Sec. 5. Each affiliated club shall have the privilege of voting by proxy the total number of votes to which it may be entitled. . . .

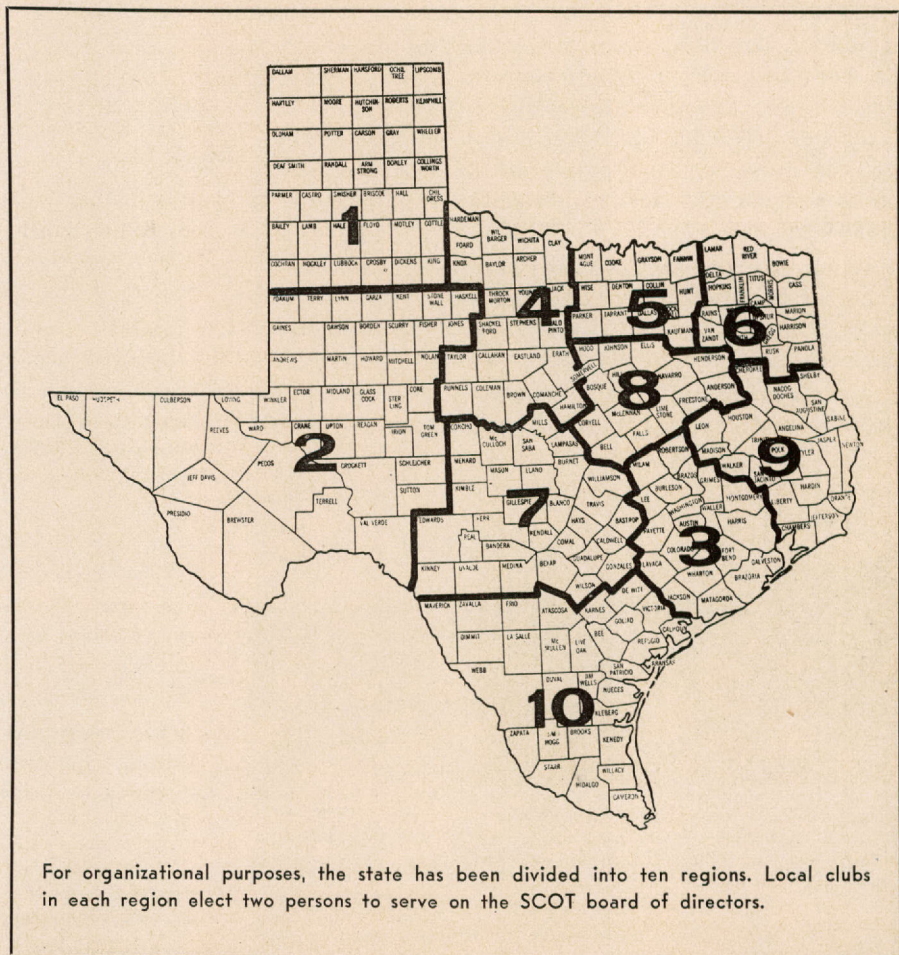
Sec. 6. The number of delegates . . . shall be determined by the dues paid by each affiliated club as provided for in Article IV.

Sec. 7. For purposes of organization, the State of Texas shall be divided into 10 (ten) regions of approximate equal size . . . designated by the attached map of the State. . . .

ARTICLE IV—FEES AND DUES OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

Sec. 1. The initiation fee for each member club shall be \$25.00 for each delegate to which the club may be entitled in accordance with Sec. 2, Article III, which amount shall be in full payment for all dues for the current year following club admission to membership.

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Staff photo by Bob Myers

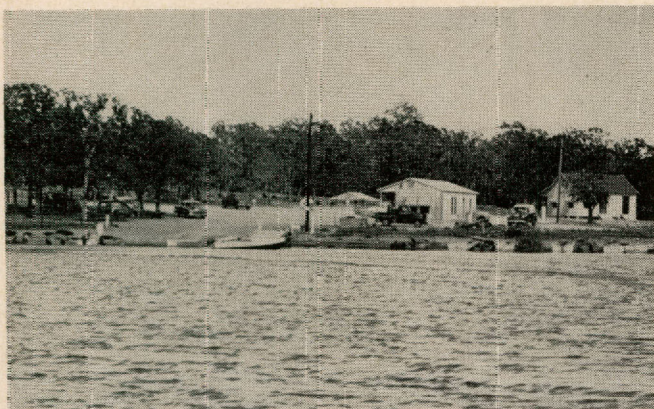
**This lake, built for industrial use,
put an emphasis on fishing,
now provides sport for employes and the public.**

Alcoa Lake

A LAKE was born seven miles south of Rockdale in February, 1952. In that month the first bite of earth was gouged from the sandy soils of Milam County to make a reservoir for the Aluminum Company of America, the industry which would utilize local lignite deposits to generate electric power for the smelting of aluminum.

When this reservoir (actually two lakes connected by a mile-long channel) was completed and filled with water drawn from Little River, some twelve miles away, industry had brought another mountain to Mahomet.

Alcoa's primary use of the water is for cooling, but they realized from the beginning that their lake could



ALCOA photo

Alcoa Lake headquarters—boat docks, concession house, restroom building (far right), and picnic area.

serve other needs. A progressive industry today is concerned not only with the safety and welfare of its employes on the job, but helps to provide off-duty recreational facilities for its workers.

A lake committee was formed consisting of six Alcoa employees headed by Mr. R. E. Fritz. This committee asked for a Game and Fish Commission aquatic biologist to work with them in developing the lakes' recreational possibilities. Ken Jurgens, area biologist for the Commission, worked with them in analyzing needs of the lakes and securing proper game fish fry from the state hatchery at San Marcos for stocking the waters.

The first stocking was made on May 3, 1953. One year, two months, and twenty-one days later the lake was opened to fishing. Alcoa employees had the first five days all to themselves, but since that time the public has been invited to try their luck.

In the interest of safety, plant security, and continued fishing, the committee was assigned the job of formulating a set of rules and regulations for the users of the lake.

The larger lake, which covers some 730 acres, is the only one open for fishing. The smaller lake serves as a natural hatchery which funnels its excess population through the connecting channel to replenish the crop



Bob Myers

Although only a few years old, Alcoa Lake at Rockdale is yielding fine catches of sizeable bass. The fisherman is king, for large out-

harvested from the larger body of water. Since a parade of churning outboards could cause excessive erosion on the canal banks, it has been placed "off limits" for boats, too, and a 3/4-inch steel cable, bouyed by floating metal drums, seals its mouth.

Since any part of the open fishing lake is within a few minutes reach with a small motor, the committee decided to restrict boat motors used on the lake to ten horsepower or less. This rule has proved very popular



ALCOA photo

boards are prohibited. The public is welcome to share the facilities and fishing with company employees.

area with tables and benches, rest rooms, and docks. A fee of fifty cents is charged the private boat owners for using the boat launching ramp which adjoins the docks.

Sportsmen find these rules make for a safe, efficient operation of the lake facilities. Mr. Whatley and his friendly, courteous co-workers work extra hard to make sure that everyone enjoys his trip to Alcoa.

That the fishing is good can be vouched for by a

Caters Only to Anglers

By THERON D. CARROLL
Supervisor of
Conservation Education

with the fishermen who can enjoy their sport with no fear of being swamped by some aquatic hot rodder.

Firearms and intoxicating beverages are barred from the premises—another sane safety measure. Thousands of migratory waterfowl take advantage of the no-hunting regulation and use the lakes as resting areas. Mallards, pintails, redheads, gadwalls, and other water birds can warm their cold feet here in safety.

Some of the other rules and regulations prohibit swimming, night fishing, and fishing from the banks, except in certain designated areas. Youngsters under sixteen must be accompanied by adults when fishing from boats. Each boat must carry a life preserver for each occupant, and no boat may be overloaded with passengers.

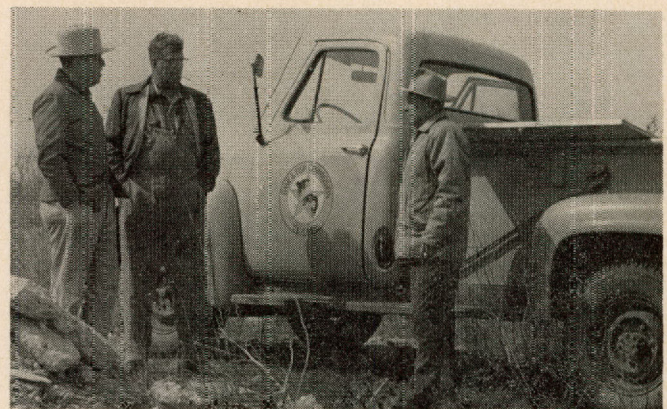
A concessions building, which also serves as fishermen's headquarters, is operated by the lake manager, Mr. W. T. Whatley. Here food, cold drinks, bait, and tackle are for sale, and boats and motors may be rented. Although there is no charge for fishing, all fishermen are required to register at the concessions building and obtain a permit before going on the lake. Fishermen are required to return their permits and report their catches at the end of the fishing day.

Adjoining the concessions building is a free picnic

local angler, Mr. William Talasek, winner of the \$25 prize to the fisherman catching the first bass weighing five pounds or more. The \$35 prize for the first six pounder is sure to be claimed soon.

Cooperation between industry and state has been a keynote in the development of this now famous fishing spot. State hatcheries provided 23,677 bass, 3,200 blue-

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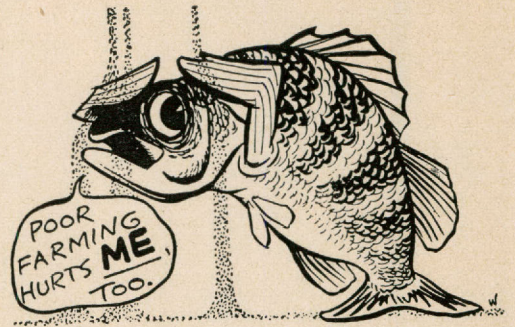


Bob Myers

Proper fishery management has been stressed from the first. Recently a Game and Fish Commission truck picked up much-needed hatchery brood bass valued at nearly a thousand dollars which were conated from Alcoa Lake.

HOW

FARMING AFFECTS FISHING



Top soil run-off is ruining many good fishing streams.

By DR. R. W. ESCHMEYER, Sport Fishing Institute

When settlers first came to America, they found much of the country covered with forests. Farther to the west, there were miles and miles of prairie land, covered with prairie grasses. The streams were clear, and were teeming with fish.

Most of the rain which fell on the forest and prairie soaked into the soil. Some of it emerged later as clear, cool springs, feeding water to the streams.

In the forested areas, the settlers cut some trees for log houses and other buildings. They cut other trees so that there would be clearings for raising crops. On the prairie, the grassland was plowed to make room for fields of grain.

As more and more people settled the country, more woods and prairie were used for cultivation. Much of the soil was rich in plant nutrients. It raised good crops.

Gradually, there was a big improvement in farming equipment. A farmer could cultivate more acres. There was growing demand for the farm products, too, as the villages and cities grew in number and size.

The farmers who cultivated the fields plowed straight furrows, even on hillsides. They noticed that, during heavy rains, some of the plowed soil washed

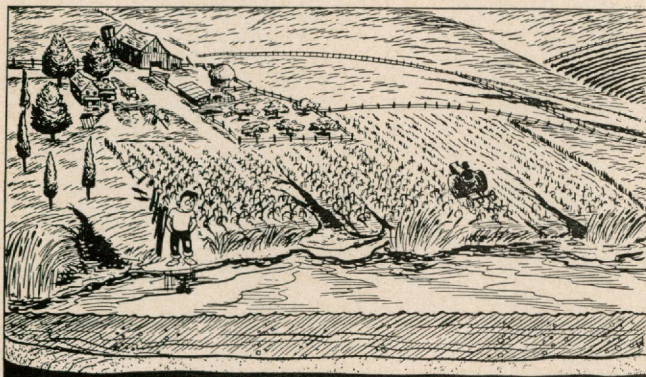
away. It muddied the streams. The farmers didn't worry about it. If they happened to "wear out" a farm, they could move elsewhere and start another one. Or, they could clear some more of the woodland remaining on their farm, or plow some more grassland if they lived on the prairie.

As the population grew, more land was cultivated. Finally most of the farmable land was being used. A person who "wore out" a farm could no longer move to a new farming frontier. More of the topsoil washed off the farms each year. As the rich topsoil washed away, the land raised less food. Many thousands of acres couldn't be cultivated at all, because gulleys had developed.

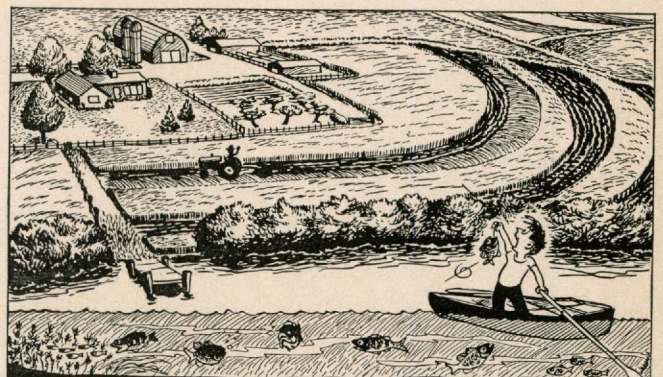
Much of the topsoil which washed from the fields was carried into the streams. Many mill ponds were filled with silt. Stream beds were silted, too. In many places the food producing gravel riffles were covered; they no longer raised many insects and crayfish for the fish to eat. Deep pools, where the fish hid, were filled, too.

Downstream lakes and reservoirs received much of the silt load. Some became muddy and became poor

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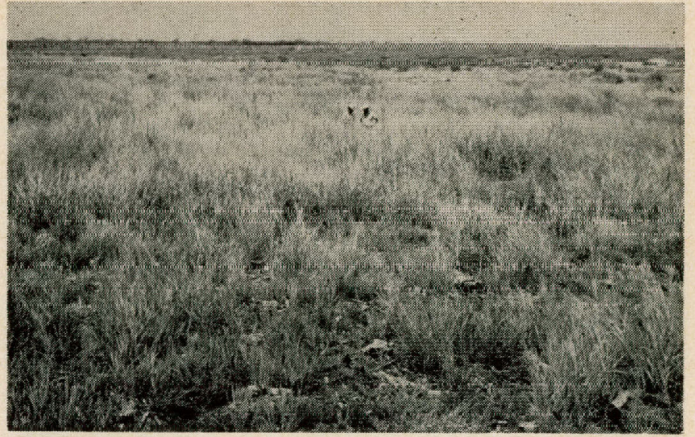
Poor Farming — Poor Fishing



Good Farming — Good Fishing



Improvement of wildlife habitat constitutes a major portion of conservation programs carried on by winners of Frank M. Wood Wildlife Conservation Awards. Left, David Pate, Voss, FFA winner shows Frank



Wood, Wichita Falls, his improved habitat. Right, Ray Bellinger, San Antonio, winner of the state farmer-rancher award, demonstrates the amount of quail cover on his land.

Awards Totaling \$5000 Offered in the

Frank M. Wood Wildlife Conservation Awards Program

By Jean Richmond, Editorial Assistant

A CONTINUATION of the Frank M. Wood Wildlife Conservation Awards Program is being planned this year similar to the 1955 program in which awards totalling \$5,000 were offered. Farm youths, adult farmer-ranchers, and sportsmen will be eligible to compete for awards ranging from four-year college scholarships to plaques and certificates of achievement.

The accent in 1956 again is expected to be on youth, with top awards of two \$1,200 college scholarships and one of \$600. Two students currently are attending college with the assistance of scholarships awarded in the 1955 program; a third scholarship winner was announced in February. And adults again will share in

the awards as in 1955 when cash prizes and other awards went to farmer-ranchers and sportsmen for conservation and game and fish management activities.

Frank M. Wood, Wichita Falls oil man, rancher, conservationist and member of the Texas Game and Fish Commission founded the program two years ago with three principle objectives:

- (1) To preserve for future generations the many types of wild game that face extinction in Texas;
- (2) To familiarize the young people of the State with the importance of conserving game and fish; and
- (3) To build better hunting and fishing for every-

• Continued on page 26



Some of the 1956 Wood Wildlife Conservation Award winners included left, Maj. R. E. Freeman, Matagorda Island, special award, and Ray Bellinger, San Antonio, state farmer-rancher award. Center photo, Garvis Marsh, Uvalde, state sportsman award. Right, a group

of district and area winners; bottom: G. Y. Gillespie, Goodlett; C. L. Boynton, Quanah; C. A. McDaniel, Odessa; Joe P. Cunningham, Wichita Falls; top: Maj. Freeman; Floyd Jackson, Olney; Bellinger; Dr. Douglas R. Daniels, Gilmer; Duran Harrison, Ore City, and Marsh.

Second of a series about endangered wildlife species featured during National Wildlife Week

The Whooping Crane

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service photos
By W. F. KUBICHEK

By ROBERT P. ALLEN
National Audubon Society

FOR AN incredible number of years the whooping crane (*Grus americana*) has been one of the rarest birds in the world. But during the last two decades many organizations, agencies and individuals throughout the United States and Canada have been cooperating in an effort to save this magnificent species from extinction.

You have only to see a whooping crane to realize why there is such widespread concern for its safety and preservation. It is the tallest bird native to the North American Continent, standing more than five feet in height and with a wealth of pride and dignity in its carriage. In plumage it is entirely white—except for patches of red and black on the head and the jet black of the wing tips. The crown is carmine red, and there is a black mus-

tache-like area of feathers across the cheeks. The eyes are yellow and when seen at close range they appear to have a special quality of grim fearlessness. The long heavy bill is chiefly olive gray or brown, with pinkish or flesh color towards the base. The long legs are black. A large adult male may weigh as much as 25 pounds.

But you must see these great birds in their native habitat in order to appreciate fully the wild sort of beauty that is their trademark. On the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, where the surviving flock spends each winter, you may come across a pair foraging for acorns in the brush on the rim of the coastal marsh. When you are still some distance away their heads will come up and immediately you will hear the shrill, bugle-like notes—*Ker-loo! Ker-lee-loo!* Then they run forward, necks outstretched and huge wings

flapping, and they are off the ground and hurtling away in ponderous flight. Once airborne they exhibit surprising grace and speed. The wings, more than seven feet from tip to tip, are raised in quick, powerful strokes, rather narrow in their complete arc and with a decided flick—very short and rapid—on the upbeat. Still sounding their challenging call the giant birds move off with ease and competence and come to earth a full mile away, landing close to the shore of the bay. As they bring their weight to earth they run a few steps and break the momentum of their forward motion by slow flaps with half-closed wings.

From mid-October until mid-April the whoopers live in winter quarters on the Texas coast, most of them on the Aransas Refuge, where they are rigidly protected by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the late spring and summer, and until sometime in September, they are on their northern breeding grounds in Canada, a remote area that was not discovered until 1954 and which was explored for the first time on the ground in June and July of 1955 by biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Audubon Society.

A century ago the principal breeding range of *Grus americana* extended from central Illinois through northern Iowa, western Minnesota and northwestern North Dakota to suitable habitats in southern Mani-

• Continued on page 30



This unusual photograph shows a pair of whoopers giving their shrill, trumpet-like call which has earned the big birds their name of whooping crane.

These whooping cranes in flight over the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge are typical of those which may be seen migrating from the Texas Coast to Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, a newly-discovered breeding ground. Twenty-seven of these rare birds are making the long flight north this year.



The whooping crane, the tallest bird native to the North American Continent, stands more than five feet in height, left. The plumage is entirely white except for the black underwing primary feathers (not usually seen except in flight), patches of carmine red on the crown of the head, its long, black legs, and olive gray or brown bill.

A male whooping crane will adopt a feeding range for himself, mate, and young and jealously guard it against intrusion of other whoopers. But he will tolerate other birds. At right, a pair of gray sandhill cranes feed peacefully among the stately white whoopers.



Fish Reports Field Data

Texas Tracks

By JAY VESSELS

CONTRASTING METHODS

Now you keep 'em and now you don't! Those are the opposite techniques involving two current fisheries tests in Texas. Aquatic Biologist Leo Lewis has asked anglers catching redbird in Lake Kemp near Wichita Falls, to quickly size up the catch as to length and weight and then hustle them back into the water, of course noting the tell-tale black spot at the base of the tail. Meanwhile, Chief Aquatic Biologist Marion Toole of the Game and Fish Commission urged anglers to preserve any walleyed pike they might catch in Lake Travis or Devils Lake.

The contrasting methods were adopted because the redbird were transplanted from the Gulf of Mexico to salty Lake Kemp in comparatively small numbers, because of the difficulty of seining and successfully transporting the redbirds. But the walleyes which were hatched in Texas by the hundreds of thousands were introduced into the two lakes in great numbers. Positive proof that they really have thrived in the lakes for three years is vital to piscatorial posterity. Because if it is found that some survive, even if only a few, greater consignments may ultimately be authorized to further the experiments.

PAGE ONE STUFF!

Phil Dibert, who runs the Page One column in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, frequently gives priority to wildlife affairs. He led off recently with a piece about Red Thompson of Grand Saline dispatching a wolf with a pocket knife after the beast had been ambushed by his hounds. A hunting companion effectively blinded the beast with a small flashlight while Thompson maneuvered for the coup-de-grace.

MORE OF THE SAME

Gus T. McMammal, the layman observer, noted an AP item from Derby, England, that got Page One display. It was about thieves stealing a statue who mercilessly drained a pool full of live fish to accomplish their plot. The yarn stressed the plight of the fish. Gus thought the article was overplayed since, he said, such crimes against wildlife are daily occurrences. "Papers are full of stuff about hunters carelessly starting fires that destroy vast areas of habitat," said Gus.

LET'S GO, IZAAK!

W. D. Bond, West Texas fishing-philosopher of the *Abilene Reporter-News*, has got that feeling again to wit: "A person sensitive to surroundings while fishing can easily be stirred into the mood that urges a fishing trip. The notes of a cardinal, or the brief burst of music from the throat of a mockingbird as I heard it a few minutes ago, can fill me with a longing for the watery places that I cannot readily stifle."

BOUQUET, TEXAS STYLE

Editors invariably can forget their own modesty and find room for compliments. But the Editor of this magazine was spared the embarrassment of having to ignore this one. A letter routed directly to *Texas Tracks* was scrawled in childish hand and stated: "Enclosed is \$2.00 to renew my subscription. *Texas Game and Fish* is the mostest to say the least. It's got the bestest in articles and those cool pictures by O. Rice and Wooldridge. I also like those crazy pictures and cartoons with the mouse and the cob-Webb."

COW CARNAGE

A West Virginia big game hunter mistook a pair of Black Angus cows for deer and shot them. The price to the farmer was \$320. The court added \$30 in fine and costs and picked up the man's license for five years. Gus T. McMammal, the little man with the big vocabulary, invited Texas courts to match this weird case.

WHAT FOR LAWS?

Clyde Foster, Sports Editor of the *Marshall Messenger*, who spices his daily column with wildlife tidbits, put it on the line to the rank and file with this approach: "Any time there appears to be a decrease in the number of birds, animals or fish in any area there is an immediate demand that laws be passed to protect animals. Texas already has protection laws for most animals but these laws are only as good as the outdoor sportsmen.

"No game wardens can be expected to see everything that goes on in an entire county in Texas. Twenty men could be kept busy enforcing the laws in Harrison County and still would miss some violators. Until the sportsmen are ready to help with the enforcement project any number of new laws is not going to mean any great change in hunting and fishing. As long as the policy of many hunters is 'I've been doing this all my life and a law isn't going to stop me,' the game wardens are battling their heads against a stone wall."

WAY BACK WHEN

The *Denison Herald's* resume of community news of 77 years ago includes details of how a hunter mistook a man for a partridge and shot him but not fatally.

Press Views Game Notes

MERMAIDS DEBUNKED

University of Miami's Marine Laboratory is not cooperating very well with the Texas Gulf coast tale tellers who periodically report seeing mermaids. It does admit that "somewhat human heads on fish-like bodies" of sea lions, sea cows and dugongs help sustain the myth, but it maintains that persistence of the fable is due partly to the dried specimens brought home by travelers in Africa and Asia. These consist of a head and shoulders of a monkey cleverly united by wire to the tail end of a fish, usually the Nile perch. The outfits come complete with documents purporting to be signed by witnesses of the capture of the "mermaids."

STATISTICALLY YOURS

The growing crop of deer in East Texas is producing some good-sized bucks, according to figures compiled by Game Warden Hill Lawrence of Denison. He said: "Our deer check station records show that the average weight of adult bucks (2½ years or older) in Fannin, Lamar, Red River and Bowie counties was 106 pounds field dressed."

FEATHERS PLEASE!

A Missouri brave, explaining modestly he is just "one-half Indian," wrote Game and Fish Commission headquarters in Austin for "190 tail feathers or less" from golden eagles with which to make a bonnet for his uncle, a Sioux tribal chief, to wear at coming pow-wows. He said he would like to have "real eagle feathers" because "they mean something to me." He added: "They remind me of my grandfather and his grandfather before him." The request was referred to far West Texas where golden eagles are considered predators by some ranchers.

KEEPING POSTED

Alan Plummer, outdoor editor for the Beaumont *Enterprise*, devoted an entire Sunday issue column to state fishing laws. He quoted various provisions and then suggested: "Many anglers and nimrods have been fined simply because they did not know the trespass law. We suggest that you visit your game warden and pick up a Game and Fish Law Digest."

HE SAT ON TARGET

United Press reported from Roscommon, Michigan, that seventeen year old Arthur Everts "will breathe a sigh of relief every time he walks across the rug he is having made from a bearskin." While deer hunting, Arthur sat down in a hole to rest and routed a black bear. The growling beast sent the lad scurrying but he retrieved his dignity and returned to the scene to retrieve the pelt.

READY! AIM! FIRE!

Outdoor Editor Roy Swann of the Corpus Christi *Caller-Times* challenged the shooting accuracy of the deer hunting army last fall: "The shoot was well received by hunters but poor marksmanship kept the toll lower than expected. In one county alone over 1,500 hunters bagged just 500 deer—where they were plentiful and nearly every hunter got at least one chance."

LUCK OF LIFE

Announcement by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that LIFE magazine was assigning a crew to "shoot" an Arizona bow and arrow javelina hunt, recalled the lion hunt set up for LIFE in West Texas some time back. The Game and Fish Commission's personnel worked with the magazine crew on two separate jaunts all the way from Dallas to the Big Bend. And they got a fine collection of scenic color shots, rugged ranchers and pretty women folk. They wore out almost everybody's hounds trying to flush the lions. But they had to finally give it all up, without one photograph of the main target. The lions simply wouldn't cooperate.

WATCH OUT WALLEYES

Marion Toole, Chief Aquatic Biologist for the Game and Fish Commission, said time is running out on discovery of walleyed pike planted three years ago in Devils Lake near the Mexican border and Lake Travis of the Highland Lakes near Austin. Toole said lack of positive identification of any walleyes so far is not altogether discouraging since it took five years for the fighting pike to appear in fishermen's creels in New Mexico. If the walleyes do thrive in the two lakes, he hoped to release them in other large Texas lakes and reservoirs, since the pike are noted for both their fighting and edible qualities.

OPEN SEASON DEP'T

A Bowie County widow responded to a Game and Fish Commission questionnaire distributed at random by stating: "The only thing I've been hunting for the past twenty years is a husband but there seems to be a shortage of them in this county." She signed her real name, too.

MESQUITE, AHOY!

Gus T. McMammal, the wildlife man about Texas, has observed that persons in appointive public office may not have to carry on—er kiss babies—like the elective officials. But the opportunities for service are ample.

The Uvalde Sea Scouts wrote C. W. Reid, Director of Coastal Fisheries for the Game and Fish Commission. Did he know of an old ship, abandoned as unseaworthy, that could be hauled to the South Texas city for use as "Ship 83" headquarters? It was a new "opportunity" for Reid and after an exchange of letters about hauling facilities, reports were that the order for a derelict might be filled.

The Uvalde "sailors" might have been short on seaweed but they were long on transport talk and inland know-how. And they didn't have a rowboat in mind either. One letter stated ambitiously: "We would like to have as large a ship as would be practical to haul on a trailer or a tractor with a set of dollies such as is used with large oil well casing."

GUNS

and

SHOOTING

SOME HAND-LOADING TOOLS

A beginning hand-loader is presented with a wide choice in loading tools. I have yet to try one that would not load good ammunition, although some are much easier to use than others.

My purpose in this discussion is to show how one can start at the bottom and work up. I do not intend to infer that any particular tool is better than any other. The ones I will discuss represent a particular type, and serve to illustrate the different tools available.

The most economical tool from the standpoint of original cost is the Lyman 310, or so-called "nutcracker" type. As I have previously said, this tool will load perfectly good ammunition, but to me, it requires too much effort. I would not recommend

it to anyone except the man who plans to load on a reduced scale.

The next step up is to the class of the Lyman Truline Jr. This is a nice compact little bench press with an indexing head that holds all the dies necessary to load one caliber. It is a fine little tool, and one which I have used to load many times. Its cost is little more than the Model 310, and is well justified, in my opinion.

The Truline Jr. requires four separate dies to load one caliber. The neck sizer, decapping pin and expanding plug, and the bullet seater each screw into a separate hole in the indexing head. The head rotates to place the desired die over the shell holder. The press is too light for full-length resizing. I sus-

pect that this is the best buy available for the beginning handloaded and casual handloader, but the Belding and Mull Straightline loader and the Johnson Readhead tools run it a close second.

Heavy Presses

The next step up is into really heavy duty presses. There are many, too many, in fact, to mention, but they all fall into two general classes. Presses like the Pacific, Hollywood, and Harters are called "C" type presses, while those like the C&H Magnum press and the Dunbar are the "H" type. I have at one time or another used both fairly extensively, and my preference, for no particular reason, is the "C" type. Actually, either type will serve equally well. It is largely a question of getting used to the type you have.

The Pacific tool is one of my favorites. It is the "C" type press, and is capable of handling the roughest hand-loading chores, such as full-length resizing and bullet making. Resizing is done on the upstroke, so that the press requires a rigid mounting place. My greatest objection to the Pacific is that it is a bit more trouble to change shell holders in the press than some others. But this isn't much of an objection, since holders aren't changed very often.

The Hollywood Senior press is a very substantial one, and will do any reloading chore. This press operates on the down stroke, and can therefore be used on a light table. It is a bit easier to change shell holders, and since the tool mounts completely on top of the table, it can be used in a little smaller space than some of the others.

A new entry into the reloading

Shootin' Shorts

I have given two new Remington rifles a good workout, and will report on them in next month's column. Numerous jackrabbits have fallen before my fine little 244 Remington, Model 722, and some of the drop tests I have made absolutely amazed me. A full report in next month's column.

The Remington 740 Semi-Auto shoots better than I expected. With both round-nose and spitzer bullets of various makes, mine has held rather consistently into 2-3" groups. This with one of Bill Weaver's 2½ scopes with what looks like about a 3-minute flat-top post. More later.

The National Bench Rest Matches will be held in Texas this year. San Angelo Gun Club's range is the location, and the tentative date is

about the middle of October. I sat in on a planning session a couple of days ago, and was frankly amazed at the mass of detailed planning necessary. Looks like a mighty fine meet. I'll give final plans as they develop. If you want to meet a bunch of dedicated shooters who really know their business, plan to attend. San Angelo has one of the finest ranges in the country, and a fine local group of shooters.

Rumors of yet another fixed barrel auto from one of the major makers. Winchester is rumored to be bringing out another large bore for the African hunter. Remington is already out with a new .44 handgun case. Doubt if the gun business ever saw more activity.—John Masters

tool field is the line of presses marketed by Herters of Waseca, Minn. I have one of these tools at present, and I am very well pleased with it. Mine is the two-holder model. It is a rugged "C" type press, and seems capable of doing any job. It is similar in construction to the Pacific but has the novel feature that only the tip of the shell holder is changed when changing calibers. There are several models available at quite attractive prices.

The only "H" type presses I have used are the Dunbar and the C&H. Both of these are good strong presses, and will do a fine job of loading or bullet making. Both are well machined, and should last a lifetime in normal usage.

Powder Measures

Powder measures are as numerous almost as loading presses. I have three, and all do a good job. The one made by Redding is my favorite, partly because of the ease of setting it up, and partly because it holds almost a pound of powder. One can load for quite a while without recharging the hopper. It mounts on the edge of the loading table with two wood screws. Thus, when changing powders, it is a bit more trouble to empty the hopper.

The old reliable is the Lyman #55. I have used mine for a long time, and have found it to be absolutely dependable. The late model with the micrometer adjustment on the slides is easier to set up. It mounts on the edge of the table with a clamp, so it is simple to remove to empty the hopper.

An interesting new measure that I have used for only a short time is the Herters. It features baffles in the hopper which is supposed to keep a uniform pressure on the cavity. Seems to work, too. Mine has thrown very uniform charges for me. My biggest objections are the rather coarse scale on the adjusting screw and the small size of the hopper.

There are a number of other good measures. I have not used any other measure extensively, but I have talked to many loaders who prefer a measure other than those mentioned, and I am sure that any of the well-known measures will do a fine job.

Powder Scales

No measure can be set without the use of a good powder scale. I have a Redding scale that I have used ever since I started loading. I find it to be completely reliable. The Redding features sliding weights on a graduated beam, and is to my notion just about as fine a measure as you can buy.

The Herters scale seems to have been cast in the same mold as the Redding. It is almost exactly the same thing, and as near as I can tell, works just as well.

Both these scales as now made have a little paddle attached to the main beam. This paddle extends down into a cavity which, when filled with oil, acts as a damper on the beam and makes for faster weighing. Personally, I do not like this feature, but it is finding wide acceptance.

The Pacific scale is completely reliable, but requires the use of separate weights. Personally, I prefer the Redding and Herter types.

Two highly desirable tools for the hand-loader are case length gauges and case trimmers. Fired cases tend to stretch and occasionally have to be trimmed. The case length gauge will indicate when trimming is necessary. Two good case trimmers are the ones made by Wilson and Grigsby. Either will do a fine job.

Selecting Equipment

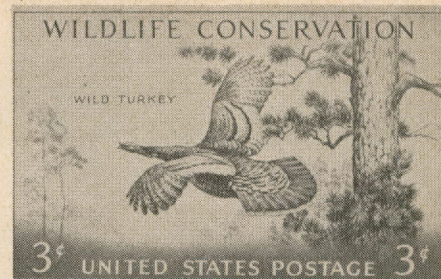
In selecting reloading equipment, it is my conviction that the best and cheapest buy in the long run is one of the more expensive presses. There are a number of good ones not mentioned in this article. Select the one that you think will suit you best, and buy the best one you can afford.

Loading dies are lifetime investments. Buy good ones, and your ammunition will reflect the quality.

Keep your press well lubricated, and keep a good dust cover over it. Clean the moving parts occasionally with naphtha, and you will reduce wear.

Particular care should be taken to keep dies clean, and clean cases when sizing will do a lot to extend the life of your dies.

Above all, BE CAREFUL. Loading tools are beautifully made in-



Three Postage Stamps To Give Recognition To Wildlife Resources

For the first time, United States postage stamps this year will be used to call attention to the country's important wildlife resources. The first of three stamps of this special 3-cent issue will be released at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, May 5.

The wild turkey, subject of the first stamp, is the largest and fastest flying of upland game birds. Active conservation work has restored them to their original haunts in many southwestern, eastern, and middle western states.

The subjects for the other two stamps to be issued will be the pronghorn antelope and the king salmon. Bob Hines, noted Artist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior made the drawings for the stamps.

The designs selected by the Fish and Wildlife Service representing a mammal, a bird, and a fish, have been chosen because they are three different species of typical American wildlife and because they offer outstanding examples of conservation work carried on by the federal and state governments.

struments and will do you a good job, but they won't think for you. Never load when you are tired. Incidentally, powder and alcohol don't mix any better on the loading bench than they do in the field. Use your head and you will be in no more danger when reloading than you will be when watching television.

A world of pleasure and knowledge awaits the beginning loader. Few thrills have surpassed those I have gained from killing game with home-brewed ammunition.

Quality Eggs

From Gunn Bros. Game Farm in Amarillo, Texas

GIVE YOU QUALITY CHICKS



**Reserve
Your Eggs and
Birds Now!**

EGGS AND BREEDING STOCK from Gunn Bros. will pay big dividends in healthy, vigorous, good looking game birds. Established breeders, beginners and sportsmen are all invited to send in orders now for guaranteed future delivery. Our scientific breeding program, plus modern production methods and facilities will enable us to produce 150,000 game bird eggs and 60,000 game birds during 1956!

Minimum Order of Eggs: Total of 30.

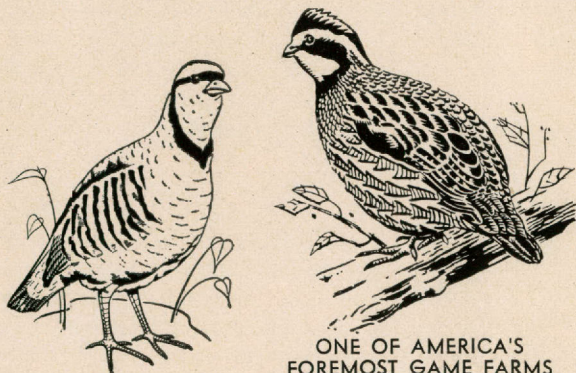
Minimum Order of Each Kind of Bird: 20 day-old chicks or 10 birds of other ages listed.

BOBWHITE QUAIL

EGGS (Available in May, June, and July)
500 or more, 16¢ ea. Less than 500, 18¢ ea.

LIVE QUAIL

1 day old, beginning May 18.....	39¢ ea.
5 wks old, beginning June 15.....	90¢ ea.
9 wks. old, beginning July 15.....	\$2.30 per pr.
12 wks. old, beginning Aug. 5.....	2.50 per pr.
Mature birds, beginning Aug. 19.....	3.00 per pr.



ONE OF AMERICA'S
FOREMOST GAME FARMS

THIS HUSKY BOB-WHITE QUAIL CHICK
IS HARDLY DRY BEHIND THE EARS.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGES

SORRY — WE HAVE SOLD OUT
OF CHUKAR EGGS AND
CHUKAR CHICKS FOR 1956

PHEASANTS

EGGS (Available in April, May, and June)
100 or more, 20¢ ea. Less than 100, 25¢ ea.

LIVE PHEASANTS

1 day old, beginning May 9.....	43¢ ea.
5 wks. old, beginning June 13.....	\$1.25 ea.
10 wks. old, beginning July 18.....	1.85 ea.
14 wks. old, beginning Aug. 15.....	2.25 ea.

MALLARD DUCKS

EGGS (Available in April, May, and June)
100 or more, 20¢ ea. Less than 100, 25¢ ea.

LIVE MALLARDS

6 wks. old, beginning July 15.....	75¢ ea.
Mature ducks, beginning Aug. 1.....	\$2.50 ea.

Gunn Bros. Game Farm

Box 2450 Amarillo, Texas

Phone Drake 3-4301

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(SAFE DELIVERY GUARANTEED)

• Continued from page 14

habitats for game fish. Some became too shallow to support fish life.

A study of the effect of farming on fishing, showed that a valley which once had 150 miles of good trout stream now had only 60 miles of trout stream. Even these were poor trout waters.

Today, siltation is probably our biggest destroyer of fish habitat.

The early settlers depended heavily on our streams and lakes for their food supply. The fish in these waters were an important source of fresh meat. Now, though, there's plenty of meat. If we want fish, we can buy it at the market. We would still have enough to eat, even if our lakes and streams didn't produce fish. So, why worry about the fishing? There are two good reasons why we should be concerned about the fish production in our waters.

Sport fishing has become a big business. The 25 or 30 million anglers spend more than a billion dollars per year on bait, motors, boats, fishing tackle, transportation, and the other fishing costs.

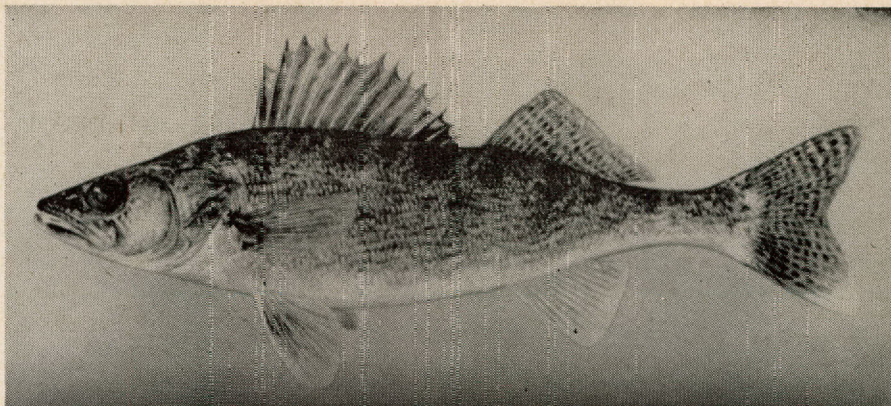
More important still is the value of fishing to our health and well-being. Living has changed since pioneer days. We do less physical work now, but the problem of "keeping up with the Joneses" has become a nerve-racking matter. We need to relax every now and then. Fishing is a favorite form of relaxation.

Too, the silt which destroys our fishing, is badly needed on the land. Without the good topsoil, farmers can't raise good crops. They can't earn much money. Everyone loses when the topsoil washes into our streams.

America has become great because of its wealth of resources—its soil, water, forests, and minerals. If we destroy these resources we also destroy our strength and our high standard of living.

In countries where the topsoil has been destroyed, many people are hungry. In these lands there isn't any sport fishing. Hungry people fish for food, not for fun.

So, let's keep the soil on the land. The farmers need it; the fish don't want it!



Where Are the Texas Walleyes?

Science is counting on that great unorganized army of plain fishermen in two Texas areas to help prove success of a restocking experiment. This project concerns the walleye pike, a delectable fighting fish which was stocked in Lake Travis of the Highlands Lakes chain near Austin and in Devil's Lake, on the Mexican border, three years ago.

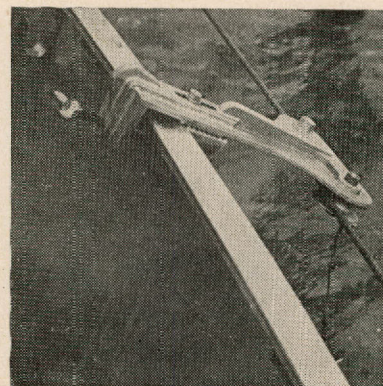
No confirmed discovery has been made of this distinctively marked fish, although several tales have filtered through to Game and Fish Commission headquarters in Austin, about some walleyes having been caught in Lake Travis, particularly in the Bee Creek area.

The Commission is most anxious to obtain specimens caught in Texas. If the experimental release of the one million walleye fry in the two big lakes three years ago does prove successful, it is likely that further stocking of the highly prized game fish can be arranged for other Texas water areas meeting habitat requirements.

Walleyes are colored a brassy olive-buff, shading to yellowish sides and whitish belly and are mottled with black and brown blotches. The spinous dorsal fin is well separated from the soft dorsal fin, giving them two distinct fins on the back. They prefer clear water with rocky and sandy bottoms.

They are game fighters and have equally desirable traits as foodfish.

BOAT GUIDE FOR Trotliners



(Patent Applied for)

Trotlining Made EASIER And SAFER

Guide keeps moving boat and line parallel as stagings and line pass on alternate sides of two pulleys.

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Height 8", across top 9", and 14 1/2" across bottom, clip style. Add 75c for packing and postage. Send four negatives and color instructions; or we will use scenes of the Alamo, S. A. Missions, or river scenes, or hunting scenes. Will be hand colored in rich oils. 35 m.m. slides can also be used, processing charge 55c each. Prices very reasonable, other sizes and Western Bases, on request.

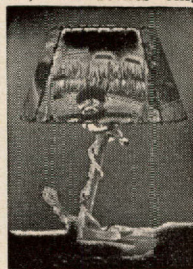


Photo Shade (as shown) \$7.75
Anchor Lamp Base \$8.50
(Packing and Postage 75c)

CONAWAYS

Box 7261
San Antonio 10, Texas

Sec. 2. The annual dues shall be based on provisions of Sec. 1 of this Article. . . .

ARTICLE V — MEMBERSHIP (non-voting)

A. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP shall be limited to those organizations which are interested in the conservation of our natural resources but do not want active membership. Any such organization may become an associate member of this organization by making application to the Board of Directors or to an officer of this organization, and if said application is approved, then said organization shall be deemed to be an associate member of this organization upon payment of \$10.00 annual dues.

Associate membership groups . . . shall not have the right to vote.

B. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS shall be open to those individuals who subscribe to the purposes and objectives of this organization. Said individual may make application for membership in this organization, and upon approval by the Board of Directors and the payment of \$5.00 annual dues, shall be entitled to all benefits . . . but shall not have the right to vote nor to appoint himself as a delegate or director of the organization.

C. BUSINESS-INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all business establishments which are directly or indirectly interested in the conservation of our natural resources, and have indicated their interest in the affairs of this organization by lending financial support, shall enjoy the following privileges: (1) the right to display in their place of business an Organization Supporting Membership Certificate; (2) the right to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the organization without the right to vote; (3) all

other benefits and courtesies extended active membership groups.

ARTICLE VI — CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. To qualify for membership in the Organization, application must be made through the Secretary or other officer of the Organization on a formal Membership Application. . . . Such application will be considered at the following meeting of the Board of Directors, and if approved by a majority vote, the applicant shall become a member upon payment of dues. . . .

Sec. 2. No organization shall be admitted to active membership in this organization whose paid-up membership is less than 20 persons.

ARTICLE VII — OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The elective officers of this Organization shall be:

A. PRESIDENT, whose duties shall be to preside at all meetings of the Organization and of the Board of Directors; to appoint committees; (etc.) . . .

B. VICE PRESIDENTS: there shall be elected four vice-presidents . . . from separate regions. Their duties shall be to assist the president . . . and one of which shall be designated by the president to act for him in the event of his absence from any Board or General meeting. . . .

C. SECRETARY: The secretary shall keep a permanent record of the minutes of all meetings and all business transactions of this Organization and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

D. TREASURER: The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies, funds and securities of the Organization which are received in the form of dues or fees as prescribed in Articles IV and V of this Constitution and all other monies received. He shall disburse funds as directed by the Board of Directors; keep an accurate and permanent account of all monies received and disbursed and submit quarterly financial statements to all member clubs. . . .

E. The treasurer shall be specifically

charged with the duty of ordering an annual audit of the books and records. . . .

F. The treasurer and any other persons who shall be empowered by the Board of Directors to countersign all checks . . . shall produce a surety bond in such amount as the Board of Directors may order.

Sec. 2. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS—At least 30 days prior to each annual general meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee of ten members, one from each region, and it shall be the duty of such committee to place in nomination one or more candidates for the various elective officers of this organization. Nominations also may be made from the floor by any accredited delegate. Election shall be by a majority vote of the accredited delegates of this organization in convention assembled. All officers elected shall hold office for one year and/or until their successors have been duly qualified and elected.

ARTICLE VIII — THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of: (1) The seven duly elected officers of the Organization as set forth in Article VII, Sec. 1. (2) Two directors representing each of the ten regions of the State, . . . each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting by vote of delegates from clubs within their region.

Sec. 2. The management of this Organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors. . . . They shall be empowered to fill, by election upon majority vote, any vacancy that may occur between meetings of said board in any of its own or other offices.

Sec. 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at the place and on the day preceding each quarterly meeting of the Texas Game and Fish Commission or upon call by the President or upon request in writing by at least five members of said Board. Fifty (50) per cent or more of the Directors will constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX — THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sec. 1. There shall be an Executive Secretary appointed by the Board of Directors, whose compensation and duties shall be determined by said Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X — MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The annual general meeting shall be held at the place and on the day following the January quarterly meeting of the Texas Game and Fish Commission.

ARTICLE XI — AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be submitted by an active member group.

**CHUKAR PARTRIDGE
BLUE SCALE QUAIL
BOB WHITE QUAIL
RINGNECK PHEASANTS**
Eggs and baby Chicks April thru August.
Breeders in unrelated pairs. Order Now.
OAKRIDGE FARM
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NOW SET OR TAKE UP TROTLINE IN 5 MINUTES

2-WAY SWIVEL SAVES FISH
FISH TAIL-SPINS
FISH CARTWHEELS

SLIP HOOK IN GUARD WHEN NOT IN USE
SLIP HOOK OUT OF GUARD TO BAIT

Octopus Roll-Up Trotlines have brass 2-way swivel hook guards — eliminate tangling and dismantling. Fish can't twist off! Needle sharp 4/0 hooks legally spaced.

FULLY ASSEMBLED — READY TO BAIT

80 ft. TROTLINE on winder, 16 assemblies	\$3.95	Cotton Seine Cord 155-Lb. Test	\$5.75
100 ft. TROTLINE on winder, 20 assemblies	5.50	All Nylon Seine Cord, 420-Lb. Test	6.95
150 ft. TROTLINE on roll-up reel, 24 assemblies	7.95		9.95

Brass swiveled hook guard, \$1.20 doz. Brass U-shaped brads, 15¢ doz.

FREE WITH ORDER: "Trotline Fishing Secrets," 20-page booklet written by experts. Tells how, when, where to set trotline, illustrated. Baits, trotline laws, tackle. Booklet alone 50¢. Trotlines guaranteed. Postpaid.

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Included in the proposed work program adopted at the meeting was a proposal to set up a budget of \$50,000 yearly for SCOT operations and to employ a full-time paid executive secretary with headquarters in Austin.

Elected to serve as the first president of SCOT was Harry Jersig, San Antonio industrialist and well known outdoor sportsman and conservationist. Ed Harper, San Antonio, presided over the meeting and had served as president pro tem. throughout the organizational period.

For organizational purposes, SCOT divided the state into ten regions. The constitution provides that two directors shall be elected from each region by clubs in that region. Each of the four vice-presidents also must be from different regions.

The constitution and organizational structure of SCOT, which underwent final revision during open discussion at the March 24 meeting, was the result of long planning and study by successive committees headed by Baylor Bell, Corpus Christi, and Wilson Southwell, San Antonio.

The proposed work program presented and approved at the meeting was drawn up from suggestions of interested persons who met at King Ranch earlier. This group was composed of what may well have been the greatest assembly of fish and game authorities ever to meet at one place in Texas.

Further information about SCOT may be had by writing Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas, P. O. Box 2060, San Antonio.

Clubs which sent official delegates to the meeting were:

- District One—Not represented.
- District Two—Odessa Rod and Gun Club.
- District Three—Lavaca-Colorado Game Protective Association; Freeport Boat and Hunting Club; Bayshore Rod, Reel and Gun Club; Champion Employees Rod and Gun Club.
- District Four—West Texas Sportsman Club (Abilene).
- District Five—Parker County Sportsman Club.
- District Six—East Texas Wildlife Association.

Quail Wing Returns Doubled

Reports from hunters confirm earlier indications that bobwhite quail are making a substantial comeback in Texas. Quail management authorities generally deduce that the quail comeback resulted from a combination of improved weather conditions and greater public interest in habitat improvement.

One factor indicating an increase is a tabulation by field men which shows that more than twice as many quail wings were sent in by quail hunters this year. A new combined total was recorded for this voluntary effort.

The previous years' wing receipts approximated six thousand, whereas

the total wings tabulated from last fall's shoot apparently will exceed thirteen thousand.

One significant feature of the wing collection was that an estimated one half, or 6,478, came from the Panhandle, showing that the quail population is definitely up in that northwest Texas area.

The wings from that area this year totaled about five times those received last year. Some of this is accounted for by the increased hunter cooperation, but the greatest factor in the fine showing is attributed to an increase in quail.

South Texas, in the area below Austin, made the worst showing in the wing receipts, although the quail population there has shown above-average increases.

Technicians use the quail wings to chart whether the hatching season was early or late; the number of young birds that matured per adult hen; the general hatching success, and the hunting success and pressure.

Age of the birds and per cent of young in the bag are determined by markings on the wings.

- District Seven—San Antonio Anglers' Club; San Marcos Sportsmen's Club; Medina County Wildlife Association; Wrangling Wrecks of San Antonio; Bee Cave Association; Sportsmen's Club of Kerrville; San Antonio Target, Hunting and Fishing Club; Capitol Rod and Gun Club; Wildlife Unlimited; Universal Hunting Club; Burnet County Wildlife Protective Association.
- District Eight—Red Lake Fishing and Hunting Club; Hill County Hunting and Fishing Club; Hood County Hunting and Fishing Club; Johnson County Gun and Rod Club.
- District Nine—Rocky Creek Hunting Club; Trinity Valley Boat Club; Gulf Coast Rod, Reel and Gun Club; Mud Bayou Hunting Club; Sabine-Neches Sportsman's Club.
- District Ten—Laguna Madre Fisherman's Association; Valley Sportsmen's Club; Tri-County Game Preserve; Rockport Sportsman's Conservation Association, Inc.; DuPont Employees Sportsman's Club; Maverick County Quail and Ale Club.

CAMPING and FISHING

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work with a committee already established by the Texas Game and Fish Commission to promote improvements in Game and Fish Administration such as the following:

a.) Early reactivation of a land purchase program to establish wildlife "experiment stations" and to help threatened species such as Attwater's Prairie Chicken and the white-winged dove.

b.) Summarize existing research management data in suitable form for public use.

c.) Better year-long utilization of available game warden personnel in such activities as education, habitat improvement, predator control, etc.

d.) Expansion of the Educational Division and its activities.

e.) The initiation of thorough field checks for accurately determining the results of liberation of pen-reared quail for the Tyler Hatchery.

f.) Exploration of the feasibility of establishing a new division, a Division of Wildlife Management.

g.) Thorough re-check of the game management and public hunting ground potentials of all lands owned by the State or Federal Government including coastal waters.

h.) Evaluation of the fresh water fish hatchery program and the possible desirability of charging for hatchery fish stocked in private waters.

i.) The handling of predatory animal control operations through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Predatory Animal Control Association with the State and Private Landowners contributing financially.

j.) The publication of the agenda of Texas Game and Fish Commission meetings at least 10 days in advance of such meetings to allow hearings from all interests on controversial issues.

C. LEGISLATIVE

1. With the assistance of expert legal talent, and well in advance of the meeting of the next Legislature (preferably by July 1) write and carefully select sponsors for progressive legislation including the following:

a.) A law granting to the Texas Game and Fish Commission regulatory responsibility for setting open seasons, bag limits and methods for taking and disposing of game and fish. This is for the purpose of avoiding

wildlife wastage in drouth and other emergencies, to allow efficient and profitable harvest, and to eliminate confusion resulting from presently conflicting regulations.

b.) A law or laws increasing minimum and maximum penalties for serious infractions such as: (1) the night hunting of game birds and animals; (2) netting in closed waters; (3) pollution.

c.) A law requiring the purchase of a license by everyone over the age of 17 years who hunts or fishes within the State of Texas and its tidewaters.

d.) A law requiring that all game reared in captivity for restocking purposes successfully pass rigid physical examinations to establish: (1) the absence of disease; (2) freedom from pathogenic external and internal parasites; (3) sub-specific sameness to the native game stocks they are intended to replenish.

D. EDUCATIONAL

1. By means of a well thought-out form letter, ascertain the conservation attitudes of all candidates for the offices of Governor, Legislature, County Judge, Sheriff, and Justices of the Peace, well in advance of elections. Publicize replies.

2. Endeavor to secure the appointment of qualified and interested legislators to the Fish and Game Committee.

3. Better inform SCOT members and the public at large on current and long-range conservation problems.

4. Through the State organization and member clubs, expand education on conservation and safety practices for both juveniles and adults.

5. Whenever feasible, encourage local clubs to sponsor specific wildlife preservation and/or restoration projects.

6. Publicize club accomplishments.

7. Begin to build a film rental library and assemble funds for the specific purpose of supplying adequate literature on the wise use of wildlife and other important natural resources for all public and private schools.

E. COOPERATION

1. Affiliate with the national Wildlife Federation.

2. Advise all organizations with similar interests of the SCOT program; solicit their support in legislative and other matters.

one through the program.

The program is under the direction of J. C. Porter of Wichita Falls, Chairman of the Awards Committee, and the joint sponsorship of three State agricultural organizations. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service sponsors entries from 4-H Club members; the Vocational Education Division of the Texas Education Agency, entries from members of the FFA and NFA; and the Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors entries from all landowners or operators and non-landowner-operator or sportsmen. Contest rules are set by committees of these three organizations and the Game and Fish Commission. Entries are judged by committees of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

For detailed information on how to enter the contest, contact any of the following: County, District or State Agriculture Extension Agents, Texas High School Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Area Supervisors of Vocational Agriculture, the Vocational Agriculture Division of the Texas Education Agency (Austin 14, Texas), Soil Conservation District Supervisors, State Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors (First National Bank Building, Temple), Local, Area, and State Soil Conservation Service technicians.

The awarding of prizes to 4-H Club winners in February marked the closing phase of the 1955 program. Winners in the adult sections were announced January 19 in Lubbock at the convention of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors, and FFA and NFA awards were announced in June and July, 1955.

The farm youth groups competed for four-year college scholarships and savings bonds. Winners in the adult groups—rancher-farmers and non-farmer-sportsmen—were awarded cash, savings bonds, and plaques.

David Pate, Voss, was the 1955 FFA state winner. He received a \$1,200 four-year scholarship and \$50 Savings Bond, presented at the State Future Farmers' Convention in

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Houston last July and is now attending McMurry College in Abilene. His project covered a five-year period, during which he worked out a quail management program. With the financial aid of two sportsmen-hunters, he provided feeders, food, and cover for the birds, protection against predators, and planted grasses for natural food and cover.

The NFA state winner in 1955 was Glasier Crawford, Marshall, who received a \$600, four-year scholarship and \$50 Savings Bond at the State NFA Convention, June, 1955. He is now attending Prairie View A. and M. College. His project, a complete and satisfactory quail improvement program, consisted of work with quail in providing cover, feeders and controlling hunting and predatory animals.

Ernest Butler, Mabank, won the state 4-H Club award, receiving his \$1,200 four-year scholarship and \$50 Savings Bond in February, 1956. In addition to soil and water conservation, he provided food, cover and protection for game animals and birds on the Butler farm, and stocked the tanks with fish. One of the principals in the organization of the Kaufman-Van Zandt Game Management Association, he served as its first president.

The state farmer-rancher award of \$150 went to Ray Bellinger, San Antonio. He won largely through his year-long efforts to improve the wildlife habitat of his 665 acre ranch on the Frio River near Pearsall. Supplementary feeding for quail, doves and turkeys, installation of water facilities, and improvement of habitat over the entire acreage were parts of the program. Bellinger has been an active leader during the past year in youth activities dealing with conservation.

Garvis Marsh, writer of a weekly outdoors column in the Uvalde News Leader, was the state winner of the sportsman award of \$50 and a plaque. A leader in all of the area's wildlife conservation activities, he is one of the organizers of the Southwest Texas Wildlife Protective Association. Land around Uvalde has been developed in a manner to provide cover and feed for wildlife largely through his efforts. He is an

active worker with the youth and Boy Scout groups on conservation programs.

The state winners were chosen from nominees selected in various areas and districts throughout the state. In addition to the state awards, area and district awards were made to winners in the various divisions.

In the youth divisions \$50 Savings Bonds and Certificates were awarded the various area winners. These included FFA winners Floyd McKinnerney, Richland Springs; Doyle R. Whitehead, Killeen; Ernest Butler, Mabank; Donavon Houdashell, Clarendon; Terry Affolter, Rio Hondo; Johnny Latimer, Joaquin. Fifty Certificates of Achievement were designated for the district FFA winners.

In the NFA area winners group were Thomas Brothers, Luling, and Temp Sanders, Teague. Fifteen Certificates of Achievement were offered to the district winners in this group.

The 4-H Club area winners included Wayland Quisenberry, Goodlett and Gene E. Mikeska, Rogers. County Certificates of Achievement offered in this group numbered 254.

\$75 cash awards and certificates were given to the area winners in the farmer-rancher adult division. Winners of these awards included G. Y. Gillispie, Goodlett; C. A. McDaniel, Odessa; Duran Harrison, Ore City and Joe P. Cunningham, Wichita Falls. Certificates of Achievement were offered in 179 local Soil Conservation Districts.

Area winners of Certificates of Achievement and plaques in the sportsman division included Charles Boynton, Quanah; Wesley Mabrito, San Antonio; Dr. Douglas Daniels, Gilmer; Floyd Jackson, Olney. Certificates of Achievement were offered to 179 local Soil Conservation District winners.

A special achievement award was presented to the 4004th Air Base Squadron, Matagorda Island, represented by Major Richard E. Freeman, Commanding Officer, for an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation, and improvement and understanding of wildlife needs on Matagorda Island. Areas were improved so that more and better cover and feed were provided for the wild-

'56 Audubon Week Slated April 22-28

"Audubon Means Conservation" will be the general theme of the 1956 National Audubon Week to be observed April 22-28. During this week the National Audubon Society will stress the importance of public understanding of the interrelationships that bind together our natural resources of soil, water, plants and wildlife. Focal point of the observance will be April 26, Audubon Day, honoring the birthday of John James Audubon, pioneer artist and naturalist.

Virtually all birds and many mammals are now protected by federal and/or state laws. The Society stated that the public is gradually coming to understand that there are no "harmful" kinds of wildlife, and that each has its function in the wildlife community. Individual birds and mammals may have to be controlled because of damage to man's interests, but payment of bounties and other indiscriminate control campaigns against predatory species are losing favor.

National Audubon Week is dedicated to reminding Americans that our great heritage of wildlife is in need of better public understanding and protection, as well as fuller recognition of its dependence upon our other renewable natural resources.

life of the island. Fresh water supplies for wild life were increased, hunting areas improved, regulations set up which would improve hunting and hunting conditions, and additional fishing areas were provided by the construction of fishing piers.

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Caution Urged in Use Of Fish Control Poison

Game and Fish Commission said technicians are "going slow" about embracing some of the new poison creations for disposing of unwanted fish.

An example is a chemical called "toxaphene" which has been widely heralded as an improvement over the more commonly used rotenone for treating overpopulated fresh water lakes, streams and tanks. The principal recommendation for toxaphene was that it killed everything in the water area treated at a much cheaper cost.

Reports indicate, however, that the effect of the mixture might be lasting in some waters in Texas, thus making these locations unfit for fish for years to come.

This particular drug settles to the bottom of affected waters and if the lake water does *not* have chemicals present to neutralize the toxaphene, fish-killing silt will be circulated every time wind action stirs up the bottom of the treated place.

Marion Toole, chief aquatic biologist for the Commission, cautions Texans that "toxaphene should never be used without advice from one of our qualified aquatic biologists." He warned that the chemical is so powerful that if used incorrectly it would kill human beings and could especially endanger domestic stock and wildlife.

Northeast Texas Deer

• Continued from page 8

the deer were fat. If we had not aged the deer at the check stations we might not know the answer, but here's what we found:

In 1954, 66 per cent of the kill were adults; these adults averaged 111.4 pounds. In 1955 only 47 per cent of the kill were adults; they averaged 111.1 pounds. Not much difference in these average weights, but about nineteen per cent fewer adults were present in the kill this year than in last year's kill. The long-yearling deer of 1954 and 1955 averaged 81.2 pounds—no difference whatsoever in their average weights. But they made up a larger portion of the kill in 1955.

"Red" Taylor, with that look of just discovering something which he had actually known all along, said, "Why sure! The loss in weight is brought about by fewer adult bucks and more long-yearlings making up the herd. The long-yearlings, being lighter than the adults, are going to bring down the over-all average weights."

"That's it in a nutshell," I answered. "Maybe later on our range may become depleted due to an overpopulation of deer. Naturally this would reduce the weight of all the deer. But we hope to avoid a situation like that by keeping our fingers on the pulse of the deer herd. We do this through such studies as the deer check stations, deer censuses, food studies, and periodic checks of deer movements. Compiled material of this nature points up rather accurately the developing situation within a deer herd."

The first deer check station established in the Northeast Texas Game Management Survey this project area was located in Clarksville in 1953. This station was so successful and had such an enthusiastic reception by the hunters that we decided to set up two stations in Red River County during the 1954 hunt, one to be located at Clarksville and the other at English. We couldn't ask for a more congenial and cooperative group of hunters. Many of them went completely out of their way to check their deer at one of the stations.

This past season we set up two

more check stations, one in Bowie County, located at New Boston, and the other at Lake Crockett, located in Fannin County. This gave us four stations in which we examined 221 deer during the 1955 season. The computed kill for this three county area was 322 deer.

Let's take a brief look at the results of the 1955 and 1954 seasons in Red River County. We find that 103 deer were examined in 1955 as compared to 81 deer in 1954, a 25 per cent increase. Including nineteen additional verified kills, Red River County had a known kill of 122 deer in 1955. The total computed kill for 1955 was 167 deer as compared to an estimated 120 deer in 1954. The computed kill was based upon the ratio of "deer checked" to those "unchecked" (62.50 per cent to 37.50 per cent as recorded on special hunting preserve record sheets given to preserve operators. This ratio was then applied to the "checked" kill (103 deer), resulting in a computed county-wide kill of 167 deer.

The largest bucks taken in Red River County during the 1955 season field dressed at 154½ pounds. Surprisingly enough, two bucks weighed in at this amount. The heaviest deer bagged in 1954 weighed 158 pounds. The records compiled by "Red" Taylor of Clarksville show that in 1949 a buck weighed in at 192 pounds—field dressed! Though this was a big buck, there were a good many 180-, 170-, and 160-pounders, these deer—a product of good range and approximately thirteen years of complete protection—have all but passed from the picture after six years of hunting.

This past season we found the deer to be in excellent physical condition, even a little better than last year. This resulted from a lush summer and fall plant growth brought about by fine summer rains. However, the antlers were smaller, with a greater number of freak antler conditions occurring. Freak antler conditions are most commonly brought about by either injury during the formative stages of antler growth or poor nutrition during this same period. The winter 1954-55 was dry, rough on wildlife as it was on live-

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stock; consequently, deer feed was probably scarce resulting in smaller and freakish antler formations.

In the past, it was generally believed that a deer's age could be determined by the number of points it had, but now we know that points have little relation to the actual age of deer. For example the average number of points found on adult deer (2½ years or over) in Red River County was seven; the long-yearlings (1½ years or under) averaged five points. This long-yearling group constitutes the youngest age group of antlered bucks. We once believed that the deer in this group were "spikes" (two-pointers), but it is estimated that not over ten to twenty percent of the long-yearling deer are "spikes," the rest having three or more points. We found that the long-yearling deer which were examined in Red River County had a range of two to nine points per rack. This data points up the fallacy of attempting to age deer according to their points.

Generally speaking, antlers do become larger in all dimensions with older age—the spread is greater, the antler beams are larger and rougher,

The Rock Squirrel

rain, is more at home on the face of a cliff. He seems to prefer this habitat because of the protection it affords from his enemies, which include man (topping the list), hawks, eagles, foxes, raccoons and snakes—particularly rattlers. He also prefers bluffs and cliffs because of the ready-made den sites and crevices which act as storage bins for nuts, seeds, and berries he stores up for the winter.

It might be well to inject some comment about effective control measures in case anyone is having rock squirrel trouble or contemplates having trouble as a result of past experience. Certainly the most sporting way to control the rock

Things You May Not Know

"Black as a crow"? The Clark's Crow, named after explorer, Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, is a gray and white bird, with black trimmings.

Under ideal water conditions, adult Pacific salmon have been known to leap 8 to 10 feet in the air during upstream spawning migrations.

Birds have a third eyelid or membrane which not only aids in keeping the eyeball moist, but also serves as a shade in strong light through which the bird can still see.

and the points more numerous—but often antlers degenerate with very old age, becoming freakish in shape, sometimes assuming a "cow-horn" condition.

The excellent spirit of cooperation the sportsman have demonstrated in this area toward our deer check stations will go a long way toward insuring wiser management of our deer herds in northeast Texas.

Deer antlers are made of solid bone and are shed once each year, while horns have only a bony core surrounded by a horny sheath and are a permanent fixture, never shed except in the case of the prong-horned antelope.

A dragonfly can use its feet for perching on a limb, but its legs are useless for walking.

Unlike the Atlantic salmon, which enters the fresh-water streams to spawn and then returns to the sea, the Pacific species spawn in fresh water and then die.

The chameleon's changes in color are due to temperature, variations in light and the lizard's feelings.

Of the larger varieties of whales, only the sperm whale has teeth in the adult form. It also is the only one with a throat large enough to swallow a man.

The snapping turtle never feeds out of water because it cannot swallow unless its head is submerged.

• Continued from page 6

squirrel is with a long range .22 caliber rifle with open sights. However, if one will substitute one of the more powerful varmint rifles, complete with scope, more squirrels will be bagged.

The most effective way to rid a given area of rock squirrels, if not the most sporting, is with poison. Because of the residual effect of most poisons used in the control of rodents, great care should be taken in placing the poison so that only rock squirrels, rats and mice will get it. The best way to do this is to soak a pound or more of milo maize in an old coffee can containing lukewarm water to which has been added a pinch of strychnine. Allow this to soak overnight. Then, using a large spoon, which may later be buried along with the coffee can, toss spoonfuls of the poisoned grain well back into cracks and crevices out of reach of poultry, wild turkeys, doves or livestock. Usually, one application is

all that is necessary to rid a particular bluff of rock squirrels.

Personally, I like the .22 method because you just cannot get them all that way. This little animal provides such excellent rifle practice that I would hate to think I would never hear another one of the little rascals send his piercing alarm whistle up a rocky canyon.

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The Whooping Crane

Continued from page 17

toba, southern Saskatchewan and east central Alberta. Outlying nesting locations were also reported from Northwest Territories, Cape May, New Jersey, and within a restricted area on the Louisiana coast where a small population evidently continued to nest ever since Pleistocene times, when for long periods the normal breeding area lay beneath vast sheets of glacial ice. In winter whooping cranes occupied a seasonal range extending from the Atlantic Seaboard (New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia) and a Gulf Coast strip from about Marsh Island, Louisiana, south and west to the Rio Grande Delta Plain, and still farther

west and south to the grassy plateaus of central Mexico. This last region carried them well below the Tropic of Cancer and within little more than 100 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Their most northerly breeding sites, on river deltas of the Arctic Sea, were some 3,600 miles distant.

Between these extremes of distribution there were a number of migration pathways, the most important of which moved across the great grasslands lying west of the Mississippi to what is now the eastern borders of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

A century ago there were relatively large numbers of whooping cranes inhabiting these widely separated areas, but we believe that actual totals were less than 2,000 individuals. We know that they were once a much sought after game bird, almost from that day in April 1805 when Lewis and Clark noted them near the mouth of the Little Missouri. But it is equally clear that loss of nesting habitats accounted for their rapid reduction as well as hunting. When the grasslands were ploughed for corn and wheat and the prairie sloughs drained, the whoopers began to diminish. Since about 1910 they have been considered to be on the ragged edge of oblivion, yet by some miracle they have survived.

Today the last surviving flock of whooping cranes numbers between 23 and 28 birds. The breeding grounds in Canada are restricted to a single wilderness region to the south of the Great Slave Lake, and the wintering grounds in Texas comprise an area not more than 15 miles across from east to west. The migration pathway is a thin line across the map of Canada and the United States. It is still an impressive 2,500 miles in over-all length.

The greatest losses continue to occur along this migration route—in Saskatchewan, the Dakotas, along the Platte River in Nebraska, in

Alcoa Lake

Continued from page 13

gills and rears, and 5,000 channel catfish for the initial stocking. The lake committee and aquatic biologists have worked together in setting up size and number limits on catches. The limits are liberal and also help to equalize the harvesting opportunities for all anglers.

Alcoa and Mr. Whatley offered their facilities and time to the Game Department's television staff and helped them film bass-catching sequences on the lake.

Recently the committee heard that the state hatchery at San Marcos needed some brood bass. After Biologist Jurgens assured them that some controlled cropping would actually be beneficial to their smaller "hatchery" lake, they offered some of their

brood stock to the state. Thirty-eight bass, averaging about three pounds were taken. All of these fellows made the trip to San Marcos without event and soon their offspring will be restocking other waters.

Mr. Marion Toole, Chief Aquatic Biologist for the Game and Fish Commission, says each brood bass in a state hatchery represents approximately a \$25 investment. On this basis, \$950 worth of brood bass already has been harvested from Alcoa's original stocking, which cost the state \$478. But the biggest return has been the fishing pleasure provided to thousands of fishermen, for the Game and Fish Commission's job is not to make money but to provide better fishing for Texas sportsmen. The job is not always easy but it can be a pleasant and worth-while one when industry and sportsmen cooperate.

Alcoa's vision in making multiple use of their clean water lakes is a working example of industry using water without waste or pollution.

The fisherman's payoff for cooperation in this new venture may be found in the record. By the end of 1955 Alcoa Lake had been used by 30,122 fishermen (permits issued) who had taken 21,122 legal bass and 11,462 catfish, crappie, and other small sunfish from these new waters.

That six pounder is waiting for one of the thousands of fishermen who are sure that 1956 will be a hot year on Alcoa's new cold lake.

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Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The annual fall campaign to publicize the need for caution on the part of all hunters in these areas should be furthered in every possible way. In addition, major stopping places en route, especially on the Platte and in parts of Kansas, should be patrolled by special wardens during the fall flight, or closed to hunting during this migration. The Federal Government should be urged to extend the present boundaries of Aransas Refuge to include portions of adjacent islands on which some of the whoopers winter. It should also extend to a safe distance the limits of the

Salt-Water Fish in Fresh Water

millions, on the basis of gill net samples and rotenone samples. The possibilities that any of the 50 fish released would ever be taken by a fisherman was remote indeed. Nevertheless, at least two of the fish were taken and identified by a game warden. One, taken about a year after the original stocking, had increased from approximately nine inches to twenty inches in length! This checked with reports of the rapid growth of the redbfish in fresh water.

In 1955 the State Game and Fish Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service approved a Federal Aid Project that included the experimental introduction of exotic fish species into lakes in north-central Texas. Project approval arrived too late in the season to permit capture of large numbers of fingerling redbfish in the spring of 1955, but some important experimental work was completed. Several large redbfish, from three to five pounds in weight, were placed in the lake, as well as a few more individuals about eight inches long.

In the spring of 1954 we also considered the speckled sea trout as a possible species for introduction into Lake Kemp. Research showed that the "speck" lives in some rivers

closed area bordering the refuge as has been done decently. The Canadian Government should be supported in its plan to establish a closed area that will take in the entire northern breeding grounds, such closure to include low-flying aircraft, especially those of the helicopter type.

The whooping crane has been fighting a losing battle against ever-increasing odds. All conservationists should join hands to assure these added safeguards in a renewed effort to preserve this living symbol of America of the past for the Americans of the future.

in Florida where the water is scarcely more saline than Lake Kemp, and specks regularly enter Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. In the latter lake, black bass may be taken when the water is less saline and specks an hour later when the water is more saline.

This seemed decidedly promising, but further checking was less so. We were told that the speck was such a delicate species that it could scarcely stand capture and release and would almost certainly die on the long trip to Lake Kemp. Hearsay is no substitute for experience, however, and in late August a week was spent on the coast studying the speck in its natural habitat.

It was learned that the speck is extremely susceptible to gasses that form in the bottom mud, and it requires considerable oxygen. However, if the fish are placed in live boxes fastened near the surface in deep water, where mud and gasses stirred up by wading do not reach them, the speck is an extremely hardy fish. Even some specimens that were so seriously wounded that death was certain lived for several days in the live box.

Twenty-five specks were placed in a hatchery truck and started for Lake

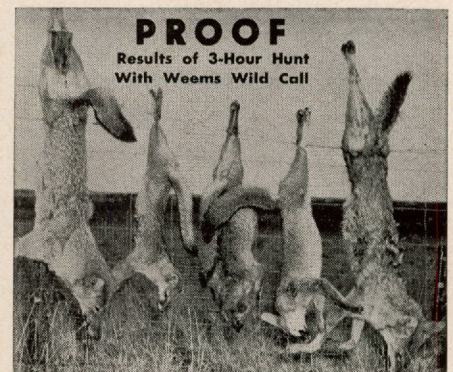
When You Count Shark's Teeth, Count 'Em Fast!

Patricia Pew, Biologist at the Game and Fish Commission's Laboratory here in Rockport, placed her arm in the mouth of a presumably dead bull shark to record teeth measurements. Just after she had completed the routine, the seven-foot shark, which was caught in the local boat basin, came to life and chewed up a heavy boat oar which had been used to pry its mouth open.

• Continued from page 5

Kemp. The sea water was diluted before starting and again en route. Every fish arrived alive! Some of these specks were in poor condition at the beginning of the trip, having been used in other experiments before being transported to Lake Kemp, and it is probable that many died in the lake. Nevertheless, the practicality of introduction of the speckled sea trout was established.

The first serious introduction of redbfish into Lake Kemp took place on March 18, 1956, when approximately 1500 fingerlings were put in the lake and one of the deeper, saline headwater streams. Along with the redbfish, approximately 75 specks were released. The introduction of additional redbfish and specks is planned for the future.



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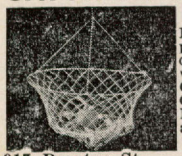
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Outdoor Books

HOW TO BUILD BIRDHOUSES AND FEEDERS by Walter E. Schutz. 134 pages generously illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Published 1955 by The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin. \$2.95.

The author has made a detailed study of wild birds and their habits and has attempted to present in one book all of the information needed on attracting wild birds and caring for them after they have arrived. Discussed are the feeding of wild birds, their selective habits in shelters, various methods of providing water and preferred foliage, and the kinds of baths birds will use. As various kinds of birds use different types of shelters, many detailed descriptions and diagrams illustrate clearly the easiest and least expensive means of providing these shelters. Anyone with ordinary skill can follow them.

The book is not limited to the bird enthusiast. Those who enjoy handicrafts, woodworking, and landscaping will also derive a great deal of pleasure and information from the discussions contained in the book.

Because of the detailed how-to-build-it diagrams, the hobbyist and teachers of handicrafts and woodwork should find this book a valuable addition for the home, school or shop library.—J.R.

FLORIDA FISH AND FISHING by Phil Francis. Illustrated with photographs by the author. Published 1955 by The Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y. \$3.95.

The average fisherman is the man who works all week and does his fishing on the week-ends. The author considers himself such a fisherman and has written this book to show why he thinks Florida is the nearest thing to a fisherman's heaven that can be found without leaving the United States.

This excellent book on fish and fishing is based on the author's own Florida fishing experiences. Detailed descriptions are given of all of the major game fish which are found in the Florida waters, as well as data on some of the less known varieties. Since the author is partial to light tackle and artificial lures, he has emphasized the use of this type of fishing gear, and spin fishing in particular, for all types of salt-water fishing. Scattered throughout the excellent narrative are true fish stories of his own experiences. The book is well illustrated with black-and-white photographs taken by the author.

An excellent appendix of over 100 common game fish of the Florida waters and the where-when-how about fishing for them is a valuable and in-

teresting addition to the book.

Phil Francis, a well-known writer of fishing stories, is at present a consulting editor for THE FISHERMAN magazine.—J.R.

WONDERS OF THE WILD by Jacquelyn Berrill. 85 pages well illustrated with black and white drawings by the author. Published 1955 by Dodd, Mead & Co., 432 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. \$2.50.

The sub-title of this book "Animal Portraits and Private Lives" is quite descriptive of the book's contents. The author has, by means of black-and-white drawings and excellent narrative, portrayed many of the strange and more spectacular animals of the world. Not only are the descriptions and better known habits of the animals discussed, but the author has also included general information in such chapters as those entitled "Why Animals Live Where They Do," "Language," and "Play."

The book is written in a manner easily read and understood by anyone from 8 years old up, and would be an excellent introduction for children to the strange animals of the world.

Jacquelyn Berrill is a well known author and illustrator of animal books, her latest previous book being "Strange Nurseries."—J.R.

ALL OUTDOORS by Jack Denton Scott. 268 pages. Published 1956 by The Stackpole Co., Telegraph Press Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. \$4.95.

This book is full of valuable information for the average lover of the outdoors. Divided into two sections, Book I deals principally with fish and fishing, including chapters on trolling, skin diving, accurate discussions of various game fish, list of the various game and fish departments, and recent findings of the aquatic biologists. In Book II are discussions of hunting, shooting, and guns, as well as a list of the shooting preserves over the United States. The author, a lover of dogs, has included a chapter on hunting dogs.

Written in a simple, clear manner, the information contained is presented in a most entertaining way. Personal anecdotes and comments keep the reader amused and interested. Answers to many of the average reader's outdoors questions are answered, and sources for additional information on outdoor subjects are given. The book could be considered an encyclopedia of hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

Jack Denton Scott, well-known and extremely versatile writer, has written a book which would be an excellent addition to the library of anyone interested in any phase of the outdoors.—J.R.

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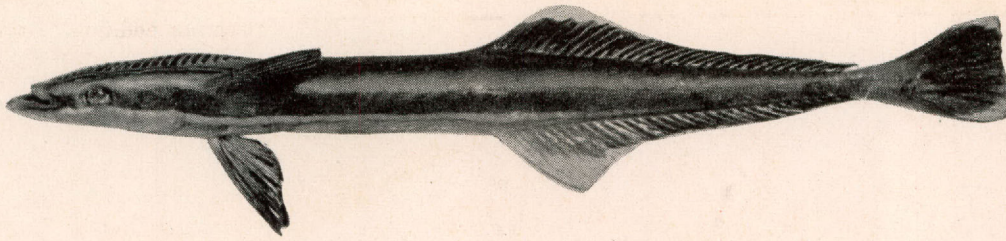
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Photos by Pat Pew

THE SHARK REMORA

. . . hitch-hiker of the sea

By ROBERT J. KEMP, JR.

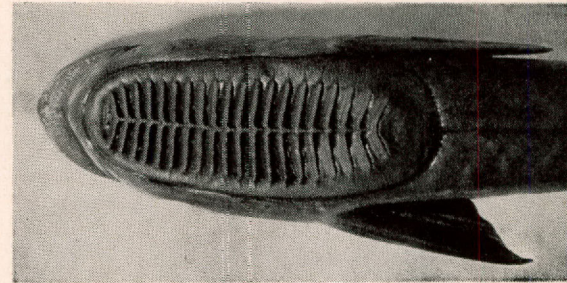
Marine Biologist

The remora is the hitch-hiker of the sea. This peculiar fish is equipped with a large sucking disc on the top of its head by means of which it attaches itself to large fishes. It is not a parasite in the true sense of the word, since it merely goes along for the ride and feeds on the remnants of its host's meal.

The remora occurs in warm seas throughout the world; but, as is the case of many open water species which have little or no economic value, very little is known about its life history. There are several species of remora, all of which resemble one another. This species, the shark remora, *E. naucrates*, reaches a length of four feet, though over two feet is unusual. It has the general body shape and coloring of the cobia (ling).

Although usually seen attached to another fish, the remora is capable of high speed under its own power. Thus it is able to capture its own food when scraps from a host fish are not available.

The remora's sucking disc, which is a modified first dorsal fin, has such holding power that in the south



The disc by which the remora, or shark sucker, attaches itself to its host is on top the head.

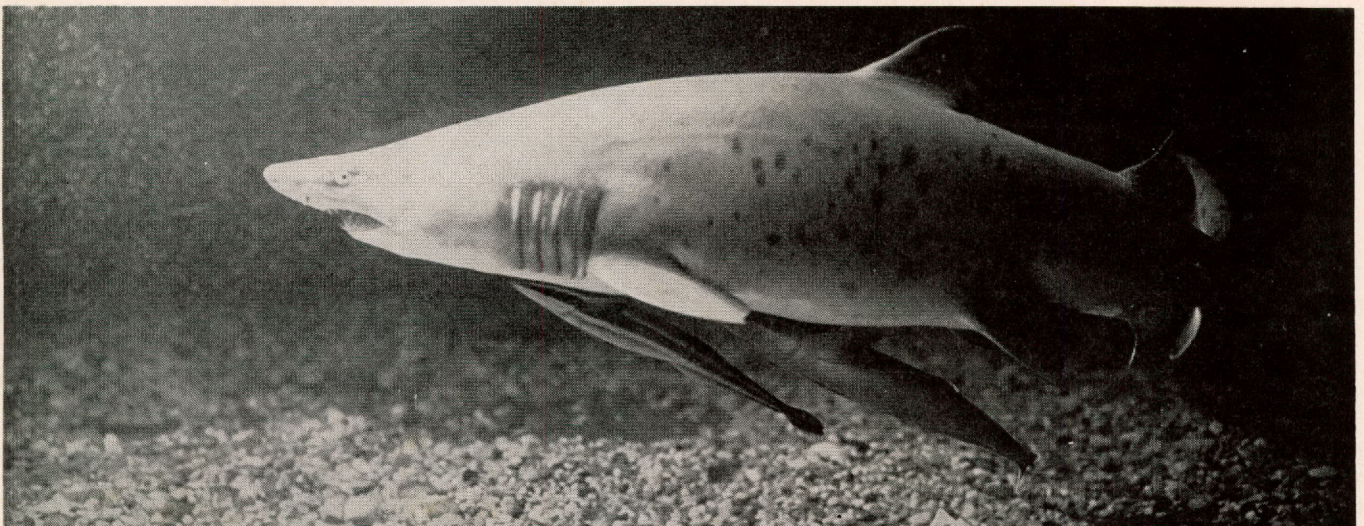
Pacific remoras are used to catch turtles. The natives tie a rope around the remora's tail and throw it into the water near a large turtle, to which it promptly attaches. The turtle is then towed to shore.

Remoras may be found attached to the larger shore sharks, tarpon, sailfish, swordfish, other large fish, turtles, and sometimes even boats. Very small specimens have been found attached to the gills of sailfish.

Remoras are very particular in that they will transfer rapidly to the largest fish in sight. They attach themselves to the midline on either the dorsal or ventral surface, and if these positions are already occupied, they assume symmetrical positions on each side of the fish. Thus, a shark or other fish with four such uninvited passengers arranged symmetrically on each side affords a curious picture.

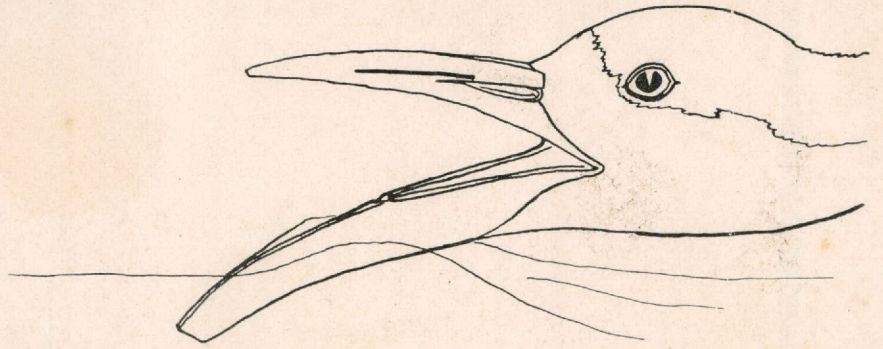
The remora will take any type of live or dead bait and once hooked, puts up a strong, if unspectacular fight. Its flesh is edible.

Remoras, such as those attached to this sand shark, are not true parasites, since they merely eat scraps of food left by the host fish.

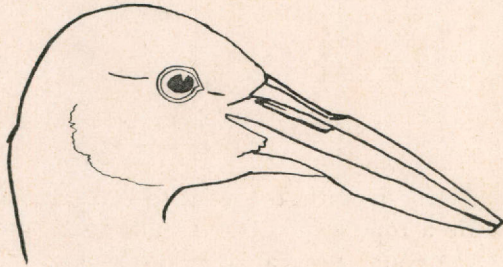


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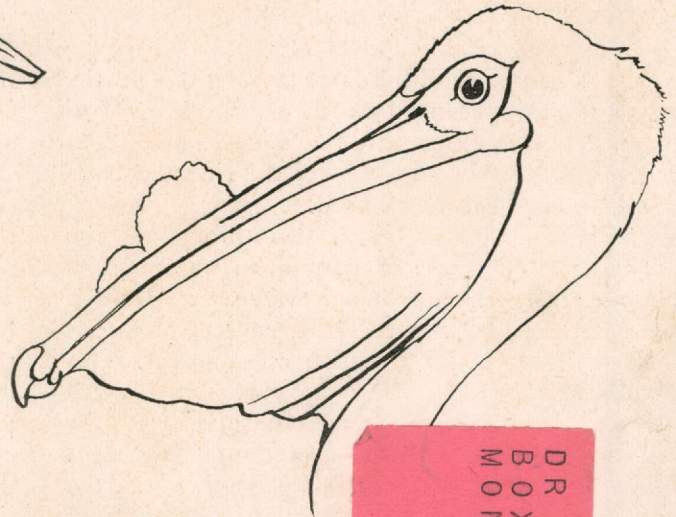
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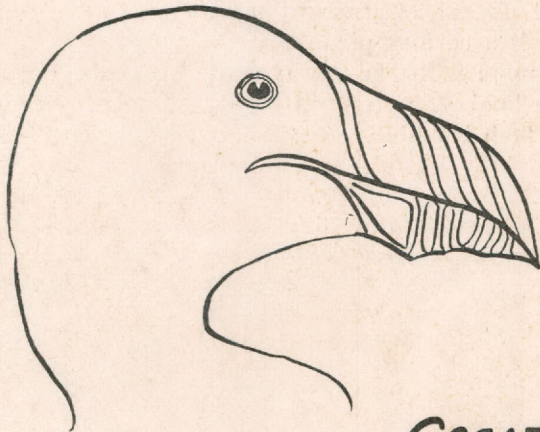
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