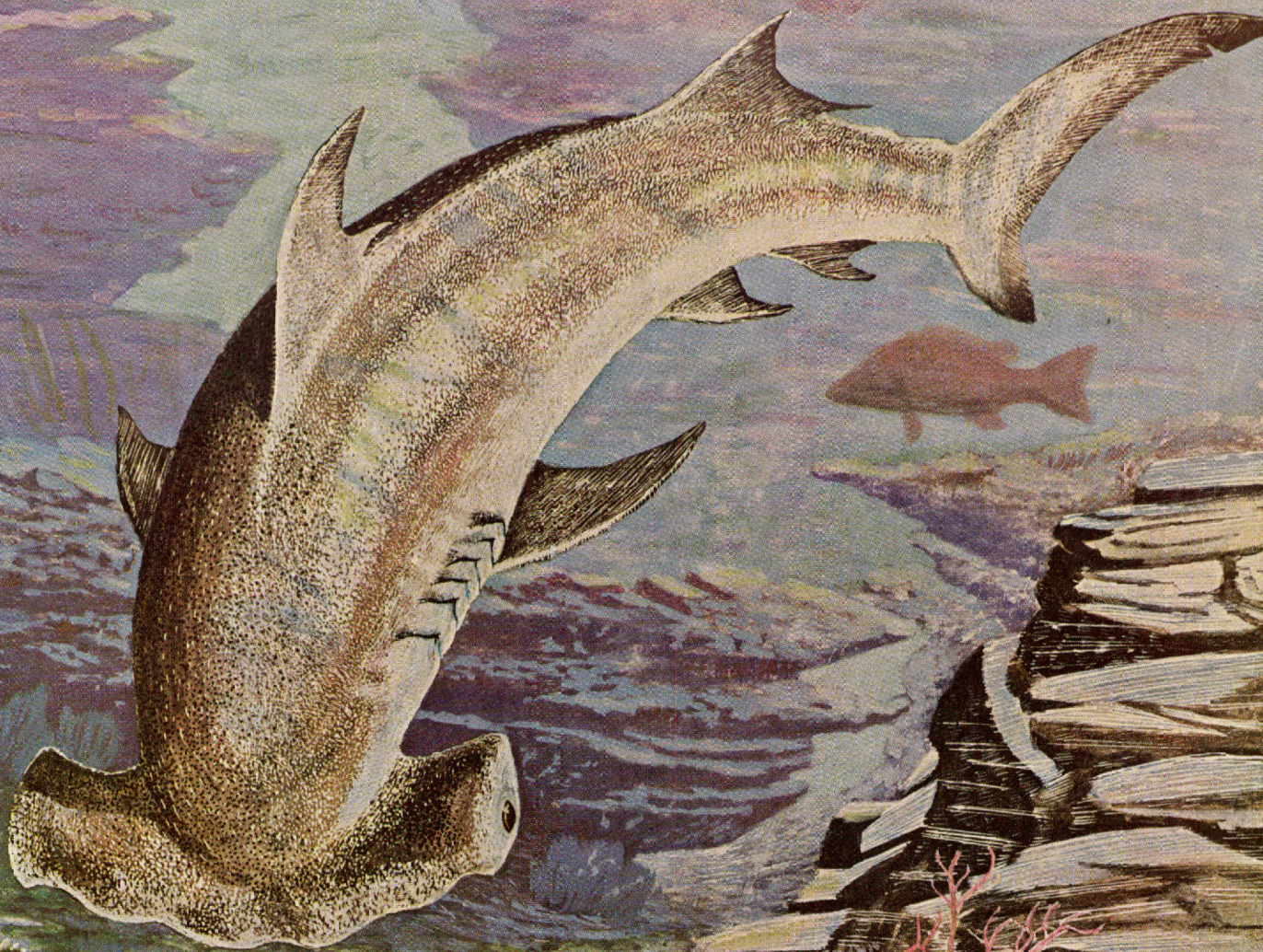


Texas Game and Fish

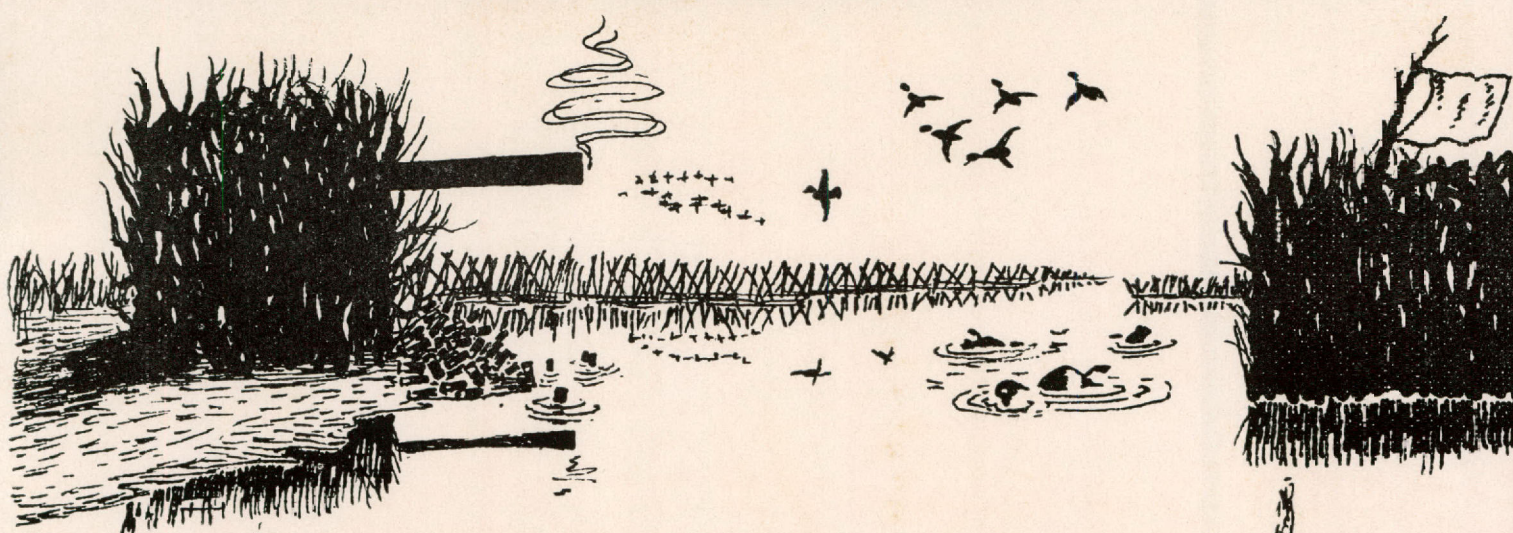
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Target – Fair or Foul!

Whether or not Confucius say, one of the oldest digs as between one man and another concerns the irate label of an animal.

Of course, the ancient vituperative custom is co-educational. Although it certainly would not be very nice to hear the little woman call her spouse a “rat,” much less a “skunk.”

But the problem of the moment, with the hunting season back with its assorted ramifications, is not calling somebody “a something” but rather mistaking somebody for “a something.”

Because one of the more commonly stated causes for hunting tragedies is that the offender mistook the victim for fair game—usually a deer.

Yet humans, in the words of the bereaved gunners, have been mistaken for everything from foxes, wild turkeys to squirrels. These extreme errors in targets, so the investigators say, actually mean that the unhappy shooters were trigger happy and “shot at anything that moved.”

Everyone who has sampled the ecstatic pleasure of stalking wild game knows the tenseness incidental to an expected shot could prompt an unstable person to fire without being certain that he was aiming at legitimate game.

Gus T. McMammal, self-appointed commentator on such crises, said the situation calls for drastic action, but he doubted the wisdom of one Texan’s challenge that anyone mistaken for a squirrel should be blitzed.—JAY VESSELS.



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.

November, 1956

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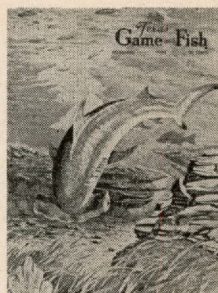
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The Cover

The hammerhead shark, subject of this month's cover painting by Walton Cude, is one of the more unusual forms of marine life found on the Texas Gulf Coast. It inhabits both deep and shallow waters, and often swims with the dorsal or back fin showing above the water surface. Those caught by fishermen near the shore are usually young fish two to three feet long. The adult fish, as found in Texas' waters, are usually 6 to 10 feet in length.

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Don't Hunt With Matches

W. A. SMITH

Associate Forestry Educator

Sometime during the latter part of November, 1955, a match-and-gun-armed hunter set fire to a hollow tree in Trinity County. He was probably out after squirrels. Coming upon this tree, he may have first used a long stick to see if the squirrels could be poked out. This evidence was found near the tree by an investigator. Not being successful, he possibly gathered a few twigs and leaves and set fire to them inside the base of the tree. Probably within minutes, the flames were leaping up and starting to burn the hollow, punky interior of the tree.

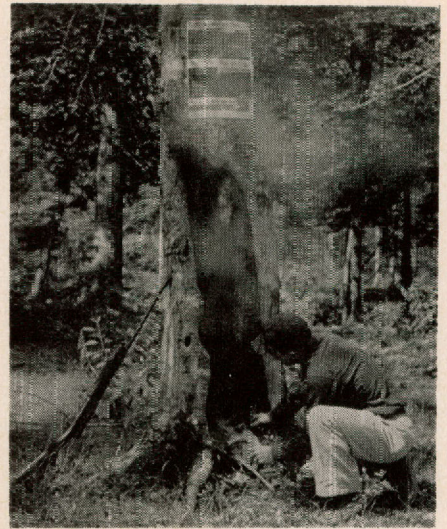
This hunter made an attempt to contain the fire. Not having been able to drive the squirrels out after half an hour or so, he kicked a circle free of ground litter, with his boot, about ten feet in diameter around the tree. This assured him that he was doing his part to prevent forest fires.

Did the hunter really prevent this fire from burning the woods? The tree having a hollow interior may serve as a chimney. In many cases, there may be a hole to the outside

air near the top of the hollow center. This exit can provide a fine draft and soon the whole inside of the tree may be burning. Possibly taking as long as a week, the wood on the lower portion of the stem that supports the tree may be burned away. If the tree falls, sparks and hot coals could be scattered in all directions. Most of them well outside of a small cleared area.

During 1955 there were 115 wild forest fires in East Texas attributed to burning game out of trees. To make it easier to hunt game, an additional 26 fires were purposely ignited. Altogether, these fires amounted to about 7 per cent of the total number of forest fires in East Texas last year.

On November 29, 1955, the Texas Forest Service was notified of a fire in Trinity County. Due to the hot, dry weather conditions, the fire was spreading rapidly by the time the Service personnel and mechanized equipment arrived on the scene. When the fire was controlled, it had burned about 46 acres of forest land and caused an estimated damage to



the timber alone of about 450 dollars. The cause of the fire was a hunter attempting to burn game out of a tree. Evidence was found to substantiate this.

The hunter was probably long gone from the scene of this fire. Possibly by the next hunting season, if he happened to be in the area, he might make the remark that forest fires such as this were the reason for the poor game population. He might even go further and say wildfires not only destroy timber resources and watershed areas, but are one of the main reasons for poor hunting.

This fellow is not what might be called the true hunter or the true sportsman. Wild forest fires, as every true sportsman knows, destroy the food and cover necessary to ensure good game crops and good hunting in years to come. The true sportsman is careful with cigarettes, cigars, or pipe ashes. He uses his ashtray while traveling in a vehicle; grinds out his smokes with the heel of his boot; and builds his campfires in a safe location—making sure they are completely out before leaving.

The match as a weapon in seeking out game is not part of his hunting scheme. He gives the game a sporting chance. He does not use manufactured smoke-producing cartridges because even they may cause a forest fire. Above all, he knows that next year's hunting depends in part upon this year's fire prevention, and applying a fire torch to game may mean the destruction of future good hunting.

Diving Biologists Spy on Fish Homelife

Commission biologists diving to observe black bass discovered new deep water information about nesting Rio Grande perch, reports Marion Toole, Chief Aquatic Biologist of the Game and Fish Commission.

They spotted a nest of the subtropical species in eighteen feet of water in Lake Travis of the Highland Lakes chain, although members of the perch family ordinarily spawn in shallow water.

Also the crew, which was penetrating to a maximum depth of fifty feet in spying on the black bass, determined that both Rio Grande perch parents participate in the nesting routine.

Ordinarily, Aquatic Biologist Ken

Jurgens pointed out, the female fish lays the eggs and then turns over the family responsibility to the male.

This Lake Travis Rio Grande perch nest was marked by the smaller of the two, possibly the female, "sitting on" the nest (which amounts to staying over it and fanning its tail). The other family member swam around the nest in a virtual circle.

Rio Grande perch occur in fresh waters, about as far north as the San Gabriel drainage which includes Williamson County, north of Austin, which is about as far northward as they range. They are classed as "hard to catch," said Jurgens.

Letters to . . .



Good String

Editor:

Recently G. H. Crownover, left, and Horace Goodson, myself, right chose to try medium-deep lures or the big bass in North Concho Lake. Here is picture-proof of catch—20 fish weighing a total of 54 pounds, all caught casting. We were fishing from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The largest five of

the fish weighed four pounds. The others ran around three. I believe this will be a new record for the five-year-old lake.

H. A. Goodson
District Clerk
San Angelo, Texas

Chigger Remedies

Editor:

An article in the September issue told how to treat chiggers. Here's how to keep from having any to treat. Dust socks with powdered sulphur and rub powder on legs and under the knees. Dust collar, allowing powder to sprinkle down to the waistline. For more than 50 years sulphur has kept us from the misery of chiggers.

Ansel L. Rosenthal
722 Robin Road
Dallas, Texas

Editor:

The soapy lather treatment for chiggers as described in the article has worked better than anything I've ever found. But I have found that Mennen after-shave lotion applied after rinsing off the soap takes out all the leftover sting for good.

J. D. Gerhart
6902 Abilene
Houston 20, Texas

Javelina Increase

Editor:

I am enclosing an 1886 newspaper clipping sent to me by Mr. D. D. Steinen of San Antonio which reads as follows:

"A man from Pearsall sent two javelina

carcasses to this market to be sold on his account. This kind of game is very rare in the market here, but is said to be very choice."

It seems that game was not as plentiful in the old days as some would have us believe. However, I am afraid if the javelina does not get some seasonal protection in Southwest Texas, this game little animal will become as scarce as he was in 1886, seventy years ago.

Frank Smith
Pearsall, Texas

(Javelina did not become numerous in South Texas until prickly pear and mesquite invaded the land. In 1886 these plants were not as widespread as they are today.)

(The season is open all year around on javelina in 18 counties. Findings of the Commission indicate that the javelina population can be expected to decline as long as this situation exists.—Bill Jennings, Assistant Director, Wildlife Restoration Division.)

Editor:

I have lived in Galveston since 1931 and I don't remember ever having seen a buzzard on this island. Can you explain this in your magazine?

D. E. Briscoe
2516 Avenue C
Galveston, Texas

(We tossed this one around the office, and although everyone had some sort of theory about why buzzards shy clear of the coast, no one knew for sure. Anyone have the answer?—Editor.)

WILD GEESE

*Up beyond the fleecy clouds
From out the northern sky
Comes clanging sounds of bells and pipes*

*As honking geese wing by.
Stung by cold of the Arctic folds
They tell by their weird cries
It's time to change from frigid plains
To ones with sunny skies.*

*Winging his way to the sunny land
He calls to all who can hear
"Comes Winter, my friend, it's
approaching near,
It's cold, it's dark and it's drear."*

*Old pioneers knew as the flights
winged thru
As the call of the wild goose tells
Their flight and their cry were sure to imply*

They were in for that wintery spell.
J. R. Massey, Sr.
3712 Gordon Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas

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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.

Name

Old Address

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:

New Address

City, State

Correction Please!

A long-standing Texas law states "Any person who at any time of the year in hunting deer uses a deer call . . . or other device, mechanical or natural, for the purpose of calling or attracting any deer, except by rattling deer horns, shall be fined . . . or imprisoned . . . or both."

When the September issue of TEXAS GAME AND FISH was printed, an advertisement of a deer call was accidentally placed in the magazine. Its appearance should not be interpreted to mean that calling deer is legal nor that the commission or its enforcement officers condone this practice.



Wolf Call

Editor:

I called these wolves up with my caller after I got behind a fallen tree. One call and they came, pronto. I had my 30.06 automatic ready and when they stopped, I got one. When the other took off, I got him, too.

This makes five wolves I've gotten in the same vicinity—within 15 miles of Waco. It surely is fun calling them up and then giving them something they didn't expect.

I have been a subscriber of your fine magazine for 12 years and the only reason I haven't been getting it for 13 years is because I didn't know about it sooner. I always read it from cover to cover the same day I get it. Just keep sending it regardless of what the price is!

Bill Grusendorf
1818 Connor Ave.
Waco, Texas

Banded Rattler

Editor:

A few weeks ago, while fishing down on the Rio Grande, we killed a rattlesnake which was about three feet long. It was a diamond back, but in place of rattles it had bright black and very white bands around its tail. There were seven or eight of them about one-half inch wide and about five-eighths of an inch in diameter.

We killed one a couple of years ago that had gray and black bands around its body and six rattles.

I was wondering if you could give me any information on these two snakes.

J. E. Newell
Alpine, Texas

(The rattlesnake you inquired about which had no rattles but had several black and white bands around the end

of the tail was probably just a common diamond back which had lost its rattles. The next time you kill a diamond back, take special notice of the tail just in front of the rattles. It will be black and white ringed. There is another rattlesnake in the Trans-Pecos, the Mojave Rattlesnake, which has rings around the tail, but it is very rare in Texas.

(The rattler you mentioned which had gray and black bands around the body was probably the Texas Rock Rattlesnake.—Al Flury, aquatic biologist.)

Odd Accident

Editor:

Here is a true story that might interest you.

A few years ago my buddy, Bill Payne, and I were dove hunting when we noticed two doves flying even with the highlines. All of a sudden they fell. Even though we hadn't heard any shots we figured that someone had doubled up on them.

We called out, and when no one answered, we went over and took a good look at the doves. They had flown into the highlines and broken their necks.

Edward Zuk
4135 Villanova
Houston, Texas

Big Blacks

Editor:

I am enclosing a picture of two black bass I caught in Ben Brooks Lake March 3, 1956. They were both caught on a black Bomber bait. The largest weighed four pounds and the smaller one weighed 3 pounds.

Mrs. Ira M. Owens
3404 James Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas



Boys Find Mock Battle Can Be Serious Affair

Many so-called shooting "accidents" occur among the urban groups. City-reared youngsters and adults often have less opportunity to become familiar with firearms and may be less aware of the dangerous capabilities of mishandled guns.

A story which appeared in the Dallas Times Herald provides a good example of the type of preventable gun "accident" which occurs from lack of respect for firearms and awareness of their potentially dangerous capabilities.

Three teen-age Dallas boys while on a hunting trip, decided to hold a "mock battle," shooting at an angle away from their human targets. As they headed back to their meeting place later in the day, they opened fire. One of the boys, having forgotten about the proposed battle, was preparing to fire at an object when the shooting started. He whirled, shooting as he turned, and hit one of his companions, wounding him seriously.

All three boys later freely admitted they had "learned their lesson," and they passed along the thought that boys who use guns should stop and think first about what is sport and what is a game a sensible grown man wouldn't play.

JUNGMICHEL GUN SHOP

Box 345

Boerne, Tex.

Dealer in Guns and Accessories, building Bench Rest, Target and Sporting Rifles, using Douglas Barrels. Sure I trade.



1. High in the top of a huge live oak tree these two 17-day old red-tailed hawks watch, apparently unafraid, as the author risks life and camera on a precarious perch in order to take their pictures.

3. When the young hawks are 34 days old they are beginning to look like true hawks, with their new, handsome feathers. From their size, it now becomes apparent that one of them is a male and the other a female.



2. By the time they are 27 days old, they are more belligerent and have started to move about on the nest.

4. The male bird proved to be the more adventurous of the two baby hawks, and at 38 days of age was found sitting in a nearby tree. The female waited until she was 43 days old before she flew from the nest for the first time.



Wildlife photography can be a pretty exciting business
—especially when a hawk gets mad.

Adventures With Red-tailed Hawks

By JOHNNY A. ALDERMAN

Photos by the Author

THE RED-TAILED HAWK, rapidly circling above an unbroken stretch of treetops, gave its harsh angry cry. A crow, dropping from high above, cawed gleefully as it brushed past the hawk and continued on its way. The hawk seemed to be unaware of the crow's attack and rose higher and higher into the cloudless blue Texas sky, all the while screaming at something below. Suddenly, without warning, she folded her wings and dived vertically. When she reached tree level she did not zoom upward but continued down through the branches and along the trunk of the huge live oak, almost scraping it with her wings.

I was nearly to her nest when the first attack came and I felt her wings brush my back as she sped past. The hawk circled again for another attack as I inched my way toward her nest. Again I flattened myself against the trunk as I heard the whine of the wind rushing through her feathers and saw those fierce determined eyes speeding toward me. After one more unsuccessful attack, she seemed resigned and returned to her mate who was circling high above. Together they screamed in loud protest.

This was one of the many thrills I had during the two and a half months spent photographing this family of hawks. I found the nest on March 4, 1956, near Dripping Springs, Texas. The nest was empty at the time. However, I was sure that a hawk would be using it soon. It was six days later when I returned to the nest, and, on approaching the large live oak in which it was located, saw a female red-tailed hawk fly off through the trees.

The red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is a robust-bodied, broad-tailed bird with round-ended wings. Its upper parts are dark chocolate brown mottled with grayish-white; underparts vary from nearly white to brown with a broken band of brownish streaking on the upper breast and across the abdomen. The most outstanding feature of the hawk is its reddish tail

tipped with a narrow white band from which it gets its name. This is one of the most beneficial hawks, and can often be seen circling high over woods and meadows searching for rodents and small animals which make up the greater portion of its diet.

The nest of the red-tail is large and very well made. It consists mostly of twigs and sticks with a lining of moss, cedar bark and fresh green leaves. The female is a very good housekeeper and keeps the inside of her nest fresh and clean throughout the nesting period.

It was a difficult 30-foot climb to the nest but my efforts were well rewarded—for there in the nest rested two large, dull white, unmarked eggs. As quickly as possible, I took all the pictures I needed and climbed down from the nest. The parent birds screamed their threats at me as I hurried away from the nesting area.

During the next few weeks I made several trips to the nest to check on the eggs. Thirty days is the normal incubation time for red-tailed hawks, according to J. B. May, *The Hawks of North America* (1935). On April 8, I began to worry a little because the eggs were several days overdue. The next day, however, all my worries were erased as I found both hawklets in the process of freeing themselves from their shells.

Three days later—April 12—I experienced the fierce attack by the mother red-tail. During the first week of life of the young the adult red-tails show their greatest parental instinct. When I looked into the nest and saw the four large black eyes peering at me from two white balls of down I could well understand the savage attacks of the mother hawk.

I made many trips to the nest during the next few weeks to record the growth of the young hawks on film. They seemed to make very little progress at first. When they were six days old it seemed as if they had hardly grown at all; however, they were gaining in strength. Sunday, April 22, they were 13 days old and were showing signs of their fierce nature. They were

• Continued on page 24



Lee carries the rifle the way "Paw" taught him to when stalking his game.

How one old-fashioned father successfully taught his boy safety—and he got his buck.

"Paw . . . I Want A Gun!"

From deep in the cedar brakes outside of Austin comes this example of father-son hunting relationship with a strong combination wildlife-safety angle.

It's the story of Charley Roberts and his boy, Lee, age ten, whose humble woods abode is surrounded with good deer and wild turkey habitat.

When Lee got to the rifle stage of his youth, he wanted a .22 calibre, like any other boy. But "Paw" had seen the tragic result of .22 calibre treatment by headlighters and road hunters—deer left to perish in agony from loads too light to become effective.

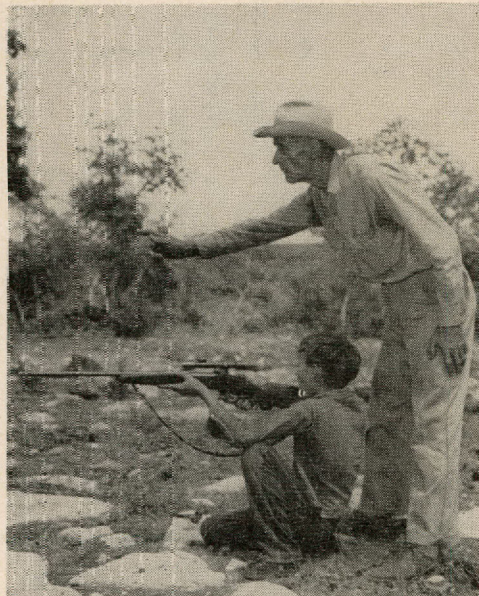
The answer was for Lee to use "Paw's" .250/3000 Savage. That meant close supervision. One late afternoon last season, Roberts and his boy climbed a sprawling oak tree to an elevated blind "Paw" had built long before the season opened. On this platform built for two, Lee squatted between "Paw's" legs.

Just before sundown, a fine buck strolled out into range. Roberts' trained ears picked up its sound before the buck reached the clearing. He was ready with a gentle punch in the ribs to alert Lee, caught looking the other way. The kid recovered his poise, leveled down and fired. It was an eight-pointer, neatly plunked through the heart.

By JAY VESSELS
Photos by the Author



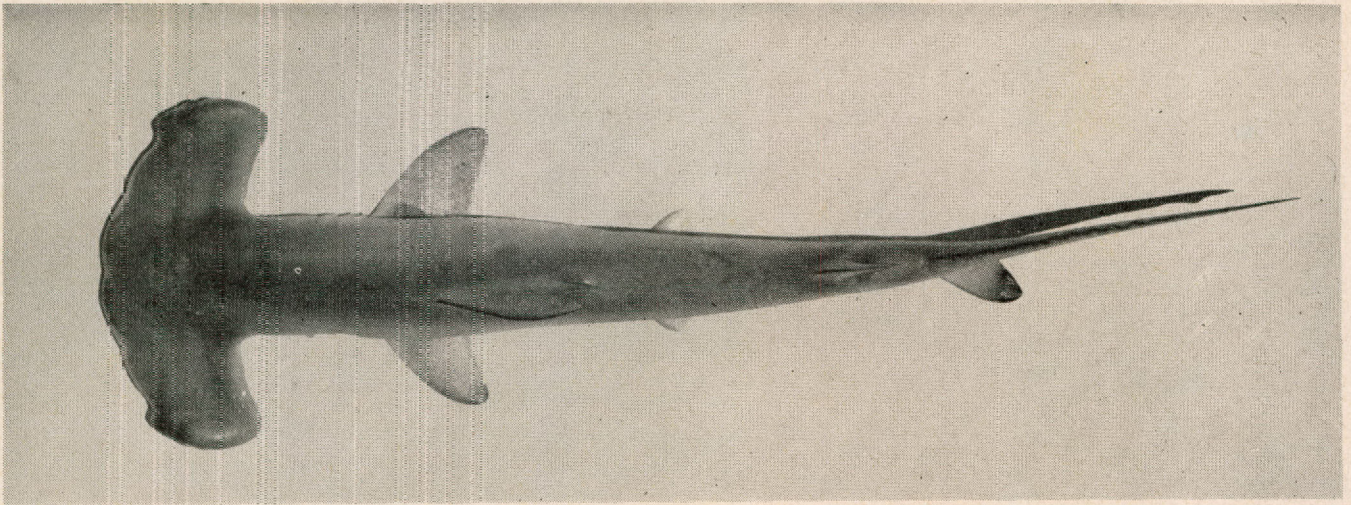
Roberts demonstrates to Lee the right way to climb a tree with a rifle—unloaded, slung over his back.



"Paw" shows how he pointed out the target from their tree stand.



Lee fondles rack of his first buck, an eight pointer, before his proud father.



The Hammerhead Shark

By R. J. KEMP JR.
Aquatic Biologist

Photo and Drawings by Patricia Pew

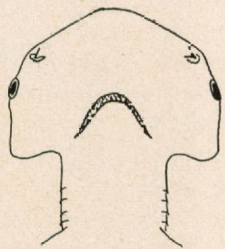
A REAL ODDITY of the seas is the hammerhead shark. The body is similar to most of the sharks with which the public is familiar, but the head is radically different. This family of fishes (and there are five species of hammerhead sharks in the Western Atlantic) is characterized by having the head much flattened and very widely expanded into a hammer-like

many other fishes when available. One writer noted the presence of 54 stingray spines imbedded in the mouth and throat of a single specimen.

Another species, the Great Hammerhead (*Sphyrna tudes*), has been recorded at least once in Texas waters. Dr. Henry Hildebrand, formerly of the University of Texas Institute of Marine Science, captured one near Port Aransas. The Great Hammerhead is the largest member of this family. It has been officially measured at 15 feet 4 inches and weighing 1500 pounds. Beebe and Tee-Van in "Sharks of the Eastern Tropical Pacific" (1941) report hammerheads reaching a length of 17 feet to 20 feet.

Larger hammerheads have long borne the reputation of "man-eaters," partly on the basis of rumors and partly because of the fact that a large specimen taken many years ago at Long Island, N. Y., contained portions of a man in its stomach. Verified attacks on bathers by hammerheads have been recorded in Florida, British Guiana, and Australia.

Hammerheads are utilized for leather, fish meal, and vitamin A from the liver. They also furnish plenty of excitement to the big game angler who has found this killer to be a worthy opponent.



The bonnetnose shark, also known as the shovel-nosed shark, is sometimes confused with its larger cousin the hammerhead. However it is smaller, seldom over two feet in length. These fish are found in shallow waters.

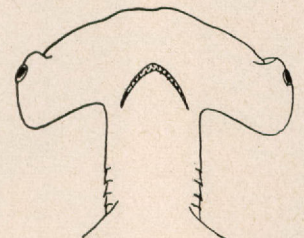
Bonnetnose Shark (*Sphyrna tiburo*)

form. The eyes are located on the ends of these lateral extensions.

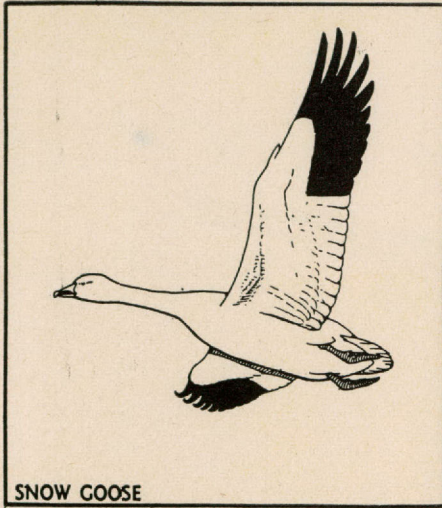
Three species of hammerheads occur on the Texas Coast: *Sphyrna diplana*, *Sphyrna zygaena*, and *Sphyrna tudes*. The common hammerhead is known by the scientific name of *Sphyrna diplana*. Its color is normally light grey above, shading to white below. The pectoral fins are tipped with black on the upper side. This species matures at about six feet and reaches a maximum size of at least ten feet and a weight of several hundred pounds. They bear the young alive, with up to three dozen to a litter.

Hammerheads feed largely on stingrays, which they are often seen chasing and which have been frequently recorded from their stomachs. They also eat skates, other sharks, even hammerheads, and doubtlessly take

Hammerhead sharks are found in all warm seas and are common all along the Texas Coast. Adults average eight to nine feet in length. Most of the hammerheads caught near shore are young, with the adult fish preferring deeper waters.



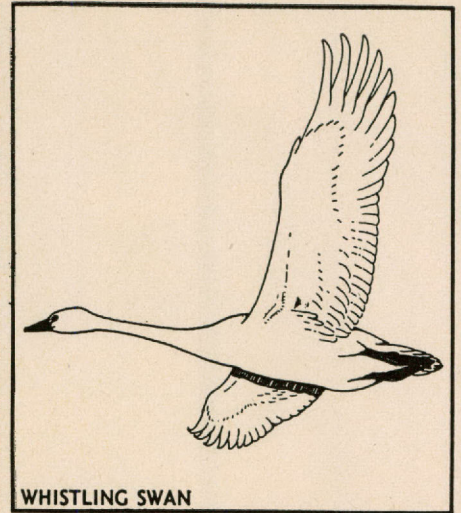
Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna diplana*)



SNOW GOOSE



WHOOPING CRANE



WHISTLING SWAN

It has started again . . . the long hazardous trip of North America's rare Whooping Cranes.

America's Famous

Photos by JAY VESSELS



Once again a little band of great white birds—the last flock of wild whooping cranes—is starting the long and hazardous journey south to winter quarters. Last year a major nesting area of this rare species had been discovered in northwest Canada and several young cranes observed there prior to migration. This past summer, however, witnessed an apparent shift in the major breeding locale and once more a veil of mystery has been dropped over the summer activities of this bird that has won the interest and concern of millions of people throughout the world.

But there is no cause for undue alarm. Of the 28 cranes that reached the Texas coast last fall, 25 migrated northward again this spring, a number in excess of the eighteen-year average of 23 spring migrants. The three birds that failed to migrate include one adult that disappeared but may still turn up, a young bird that chose for reasons of its own to remain on the Texas coast for the

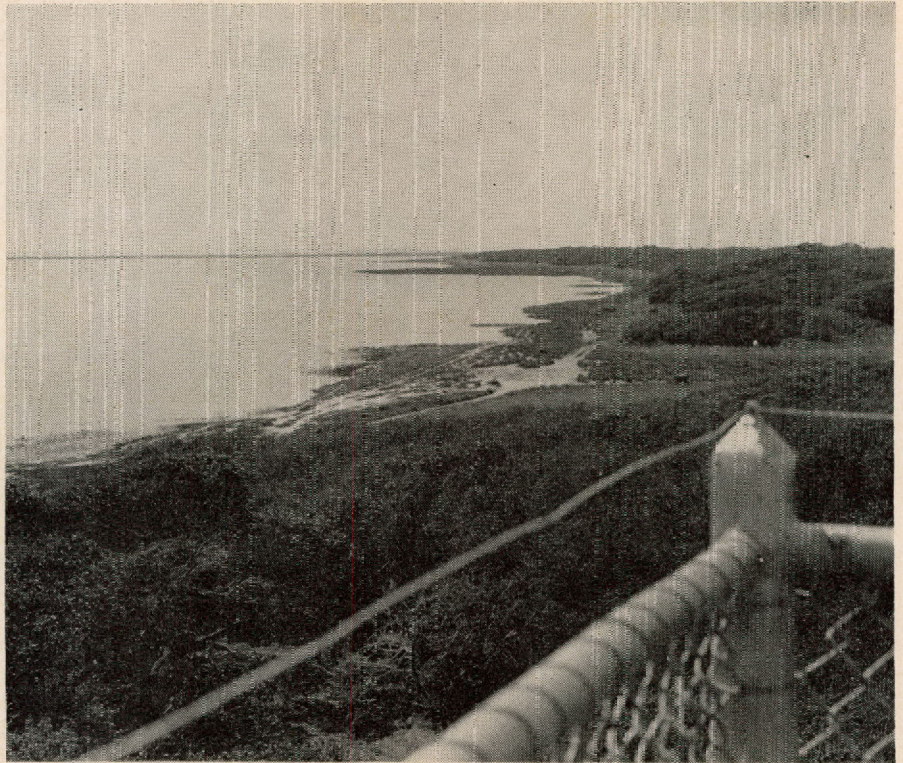
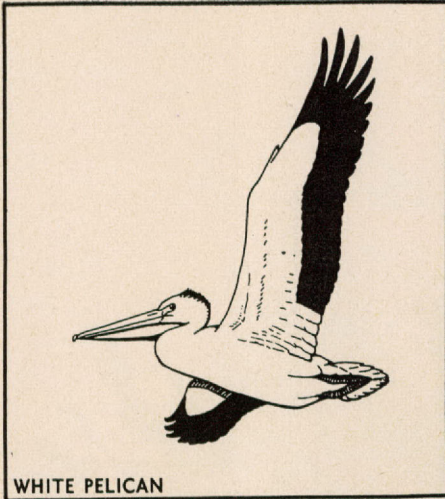
The lookout tower is reserved for visitors to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, most of whom come to see the Whooping Cranes. Visitors register at Refuge headquarters and then are directed to the tower.

summer, and a second adult that was wing-tipped but has recovered and is now doing well in the Brackenridge Zoo in San Antonio.

A breakdown of the migrating flock of 25 indicates that 18 were adults, presumably of breeding age, although all of them may not be paired, and seven young from last season's record hatch.

This migrant flock began its northward flight in early April, as usual. On April 8th, observers at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge were fortunate enough to actually witness the departure of the Mustang Lake family group of two adults and their twin youngsters. On April 23rd a family of four, perhaps the same one, was seen near La Fleche, Saskatchewan, and a few days earlier a pair with one young in tow was noted in the general vicinity of Moose Jaw, also in southern Saskatchewan.

Officials of the Canadian Wildlife Service reported that on May 16th a pair was seen at a nest on one of the 1955 breeding ponds. Other individuals were sighted nearby in subsequent surveys, but no young birds were spotted. As the summer



This view from the tower shows typical Whooper habitat. The shallow water of Mustang Lake is ideal for the great birds. In the evening, wild deer and turkey emerge from the heavily wooded shoreline to join the grazing cattle.

Flight

progressed it was evident that the main breeding flock had moved to a portion of that vast northern wilderness as yet undiscovered, thus adding more mystery to a story that has baffled wildlife authorities for many years.

While efforts to rear young whooping cranes in captivity suffered disappointing setbacks this past summer, what has been happening to the wild flock? As of this date no one knows for certain. A total of 68 young have been successfully reared and brought in safety to the Texas wintering grounds since the records began in 1939, but to date no young have been reared in a captive state. Over a period of 17 years the wild flock has more than held its own, returning to the Gulf Coast each fall with an annual average of four new youngsters. Known losses in the same period show an annual average of 3.35 birds of all age groups.

So it is that all eyes are now turned on the migration route, and especially on its terminal point at Aransas Refuge, where the final accounting will be made when the flights are completed. But the danger lies along

the flyway. Each year that these great birds undertake this autumnal journey, protection along the route becomes more vital than it was the year before. And each year the challenge to conservation forces must be met anew. The vitality and reproductive vigor of the whooping crane has made a remarkable and unique record. The weak link in the survival chain is represented by the loss that takes place during the fall migration, chiefly as a direct result of illegal shooting. Once again a strong appeal is being made to give the whooping cranes safe passage from the Canadian Provinces, through the states of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, to the Aransas Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast.

Friends of the whooping crane are now legion and the cooperation of State Wildlife and Conservation authorities, sportsmen's groups, civic and conservation organizations has reached new heights. These groups constitute what is commonly called the "Whooper Network." This communication link, tying together in-

dividuals and agencies between the whoopers' winter home and north-land areas, stretches along the big birds' migration flyway. It serves mainly as a clearing house for reports on the mysterious movements of the giant cranes and also to publicize reminders in the fall hunting season that nimrods should spare big white birds with black wing tips from gunfire intended for ducks and geese.

But the risks are so great and the danger area so extensive that the help of *all* interested parties will be needed. See that the whooping crane is given safe conduct through your area!

THE WHOOPING CRANE:

- Stands over 4 feet tall.
- Has a wing-spread of 7 feet.
- Flies with neck and legs out straight.
- Has a white plumage except for black tips on wings.
- Has black legs and yellow bill.
- Has a bare red crown.
- Usually nests in big marshes.



- DEER USUALLY "BED-DOWN" ON THE SIDE OF A HILL, FACING THE AREA BELOW, WITH THE WIND TO THEIR BACKS, SO THAT ANY STRANGE MOVEMENT OR SOUND BELOW MAY BE DETECTED AS WELL AS ANY SCENT BLOWN FROM BEHIND.

Walton Cude

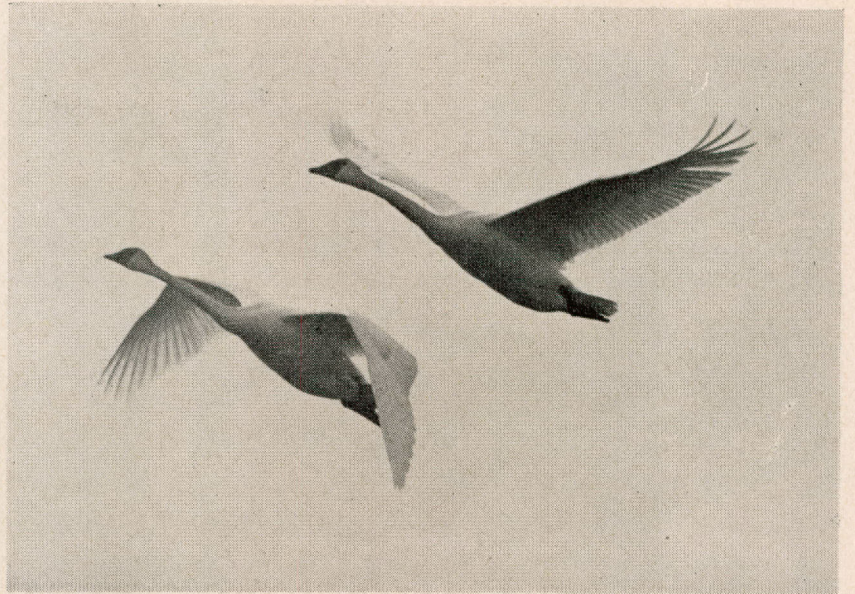
- IN EXTREMELY DRY WEATHER DEER CONSUME CACTUS AS A SOURCE OF WATER AS WELL AS FOOD.



- RARELY MOLESTED BY PREDATORS, THE "WHITE-TAIL" FAWN HAS PROTECTIVE COLORATION, AN INSTINCT TO "FREEZE" (ON ITS MOTHER'S COMMAND), AND A TOTAL LACK OF SCENT TO ALL EXCEPT ITS OWN MOTHER.



Large and impressive,
one of North America's
most beautiful birds is . . .



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Photo

The Trumpeter Swan

One of the nation's endangered wildlife species

By WINSTON E. BANKO

NATIVE ONLY to the North American Continent, the trumpeter swan is the largest waterfowl in the world, as well as one of the rarest. These great birds can be easily distinguished from most other fowl by their large size, and their pure white plumage which contrasts sharply with their jet-black bills and feet. Standing over three feet—with a wingspread of over seven feet—they are an impressive sight, whether observed in flight over their main breeding marshes at Montana's Red Rock Lakes or encountered swimming silently upon the placid mirror of some isolated wilderness lake in the Yellowstone country.

The trumpeter is sometimes confused with the whistling swan, its closest relative which breeds within the Arctic Circle. However, the trumpeter can be distinguished from these more numerous lesser swans by its resonant trumpeting call, larger size, and pure black bill which, in the case of the whistling swan, is usually marked with a small yellow spot in front of the eyes.

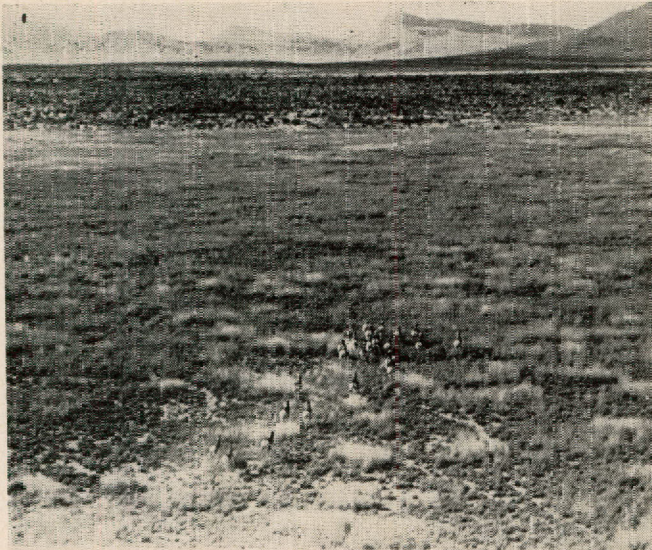
Although apparently never as abundant as its close kin, the whistling swan, the once far-flung ranks of the trumpeter became reduced to a pitiful remnant of its former numbers by the early settlers and trappers as they slowly advanced westward during the 18th and 19th centuries. The great white form and low-flying habits of the trumpeter while on their early-day migration flights made them irresistible shining targets for the hunter. They were taken for food and plumage by

AS MANAGER of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Winston E. Banko has played an important part in restoring the trumpeter swan.

frontiersmen and trappers throughout their breeding range in central North America. Although various observers noted the trumpeter nesting over a wide range, it apparently never existed in the teeming numbers usually associated with the immense populations of lesser waterfowl which inhabited North America in the early days. Records of the Hudson's Bay Fur Company revealed, however, that over 17,000 swan skins were sold between 1853 and 1877, the bulk of which were believed to have been those of the trumpeter. By the turn of the century the trumpeter was thought by many to be extinct in this country. However, unknown to the ornithological world, a small nucleus flock still existed in the primitive mountain wilderness of the Yellowstone area, as well as in remote sections of western Canada. Although trumpeter swans had been observed and reported in the Yellowstone area prior to 1900, their status was largely obscure until 1919 when the first breeding pair was discovered in Yellowstone Park. Later studies by the National Park Service showed that isolated breeding pairs still existed both within and outside the Park, and a campaign was launched in the early 1930's to save this species from the threat of extinction.

Without a doubt, the most fruitful result of this public airing of the trumpeter's plight was the establishment by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1935 of the 40,000-acre Red Rock Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in southwestern Montana. Although there were fewer than 100 trumpeters censused prior to this time, these rare birds have since increased to a total of 642 (1954 census figure). The acquisition of the Red

● Continued on page 25



An antelope herd is spotted from the air in the Trans-Pecos area. The running animals are counted by the biologists as the pilot warden flies low over them. It is usually necessary to make two or three passes to be sure of an accurate count.

What determines the number of antelope that may be killed each year? A pilot-warden tells the story

Pronghorn Patrol

By FRANK HAMER
Pilot-Warden

"Austin, Texas, July 17, 1956—At the meeting of the Texas Game and Fish Commission in Austin today, a hunt was authorized for Pronghorn Antelope in the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos areas of Texas. Some eleven hundred antelope, mostly bucks are to be taken."

Behind that announcement lies the foundation of a complicated and unique operation. This is the story behind the story.

Each year in mid-July, the members of the Texas Game and Fish Commission meet to hear various recommendations of biologists of the Wildlife Restoration Division. Based on long hours of field study, these recommendations help the Commissioners determine the numbers of a given species of game animals to be harvested.

Usually the sportsmen and sportswomen of Texas learn of these recommendations and the final action taken through releases from the information section of the Commission. As with any undertaking of wide scope, most of the outdoorsmen of this state know little of the story except the part that begins with the above announcement.

In early April every year, biologists in the areas in which the pronghorns live begin preparations for the annual census of the antelope herds. Records of past counts and maps are studied. Ranchers and landowners are contacted. Biologists and wardens in the various districts make field trips and range checks as a preliminary to the actual count. They have been watching

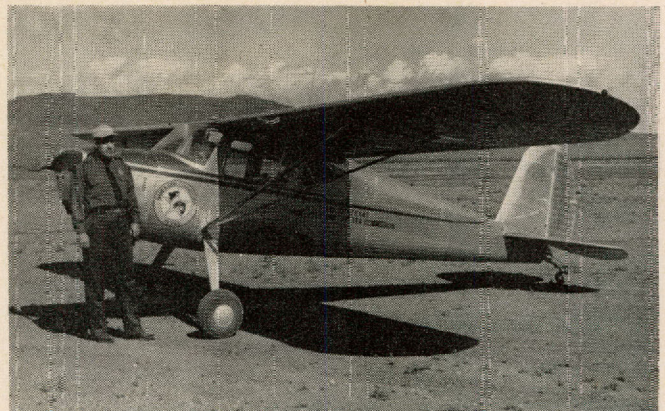
the herds and range conditions since the last season and know to begin with the conditions of each. Based on this information, a pre-count analysis of the situation is determined.

Then, kill records from the last hunt are consulted and the estimated fawn survival ratio is figured. This is a pre-count estimate, but it gives a basis for expected numbers.

At about this same time, another part of the team is getting set. One of the Commission's pilot-wardens is checking the equipment he needs for the count.

The actual count is done from the air. This method

Continued on page 28



Pilot-Warden Frank Hamer stands beside the Game and Fish Commission plane prior to taking off for the antelope count.



Fishermen can try for a wide variety of fish in Caddo Lake, from catfish and crappie to big black bass and even chain pickerel. Some game fish are to be found in almost all of the state park lakes and rivers.

Finding a good place to fish may be simpler than you think. Have you tried one of Texas' many State Parks?

Fishing... in Texas State Parks

By GORDON K. SHEARER
State Parks Board

WANT to go Fishing? Don't know where to go?

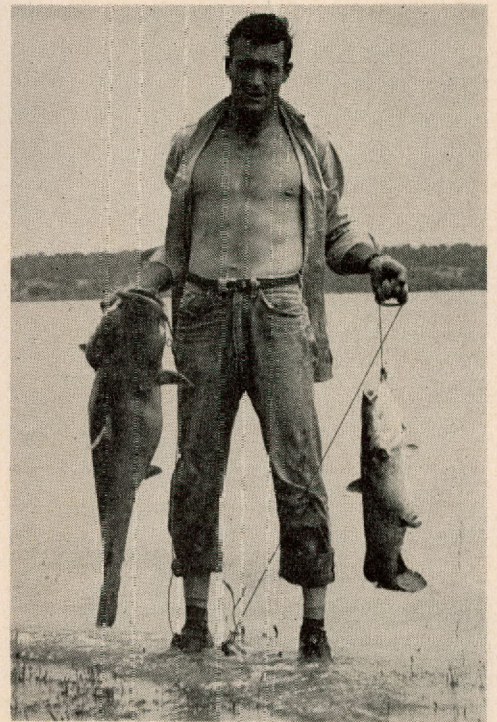
Have you tried one of the many Texas State Parks? Perhaps you didn't know that fishing is a major attraction at no less than sixteen of the State Parks, and is available to visitors, though not the principal interest, at the majority of the others.

Good park fishing is not a matter of luck. It is carefully planned and cared for. Texas Game and Fish Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have given valuable aid to Texas State Parks in providing good fishing for Texans and Texas visitors.

Black bass attract most fishermen to the parks. But other fishermen

prefer fishing for bream, crappie, white bass, or catfish. Salt water fish are caught only at Goose Island State Park.

Industrial dams on Texas rivers have provided fishing lakes at a number of the parks, such as Possum Kingdom and Lake Whitney on the Brazos River; Inks Lake on the Colorado River; and Lake Corpus Christi on the Nueces River. In other parks dams have been built solely for storage of fishing water, providing lakes at Tyler, Daingerfield, Fort Parker, Meridian, Bonham and Cleburne. Goose Island State Park has the water of three bays available to fishermen—Copano, St. Charles, and Aransas.



There are more where these came from in Lake Brownwood at the 36th Division State Park.

Those who fish must, of course, be legally entitled to fish. Persons over seventeen years old, fishing with artificial lures, must have a state fishing license. One is required also for all adults fishing with live bait outside the county where they live. For the convenience of the fishermen, state fishing licenses are sold by park managers, who are agents for the Game and Fish Commission.

At some parks where extra expense has been incurred in providing fish and fishing facilities, a small charge of 35-50 cents is made for fishing. At Fort Parker the charge is 25 cents if the fishing permit is bought at the docks, but if a park attendant

New Wildlife Stamps Ready for Christmas

The National Wildlife Federation, famous for its Wildlife Conservation Stamps through which it has depicted more than 500 species of wild animals and plants since 1938, has announced plans to release a new series of full-color Wildlife Christmas Stamps.

The Christmas stamps, smaller in size and appropriate for decorative use on envelopes, greeting cards and packages, will be mailed to Federation members and patrons beginning this month.

The first series will consist of ten each of the following five subjects: Mallard duck, Dall mountain sheep, black willow, evening grosbeak and the Key deer.

Newspaper Ad Sought Early-Day 'Gunmen'

Protection of game apparently got an unusually early start in Medina County. Warden Supervisor A. E. Hitzfelder of San Antonio passed along the following clipping from the *Hondo Anvil Herald*. The date was September 29, 1906, fifty years ago.

"County Attorney L. J. Brucks advertises to pay a \$5 reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone killing quail, turkeys, or deer out of season."

Parks, both of which are major historic sites, probably not one of a hundred visitors goes down to the San Antonio River or the Brazos River to fish.

Among the other state parks where fishing is a major attraction are Blanco, Caddo Lake, Huntsville (which will open to fishing in the spring of 1957, and is one of the most completely planned of Texas' fishing lakes), Stephen F. Austin, Thirty-Sixth Division, and the less well known Fort Griffin, Frio, Garner, Balmorhea, Mother Neff, and Palmetto.

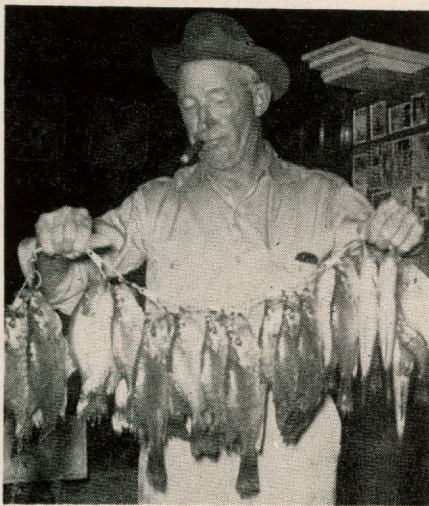
Wherever you may happen to live in the State of Texas, there is a place to go fishing not too far away.

State Park	Location		Facilities					Fishing					Type of Water		
	Near (town)	Via Highway	Boats	Motors	Bait	Tackle	Camping	Cottages	Bass	Crappie	Bream	Catfish		Red Ear	Salt Water
Blanco.....	Blanco	U.S. 281					X		X	X	X				River
Bonham.....	Bonham	F.M. 271	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				Lake
Caddo Lake.....	Karnack	Texas 43	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Lake
Cleburne.....	Cleburne	U.S. 67	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Lake
Daingerfield.....	Daingerfield	Texas 49	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Lake
Fort Parker.....	Mexia	Texas 14	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				Lake
Goose Island.....	Rockport	Texas 35	X	X	X								X		Bay
*Huntsville.....	Huntsville	U.S. 75	X			X		X	X	X	X				Lake
Inks Lake.....	Burnet	Texas 29	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Lake
Lake Corpus Christi.....	Mathis	U.S. 59	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				Lake
Lake Whitney.....	Whitney	Texas 22	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				Lake
†Meridian.....	Meridian	Texas 22	X	X	X	X		X	X						Lake
‡Possum Kingdom.....	Caddo	U.S. 180	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Lake
‡Stephen F. Austin.....	Sealey	U.S. 90	X			X					X	X			River
‡36th Division.....	Brownwood	Texas 279	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Lake
Tyler.....	Tyler	F.M. 14	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			Lake

*Lake to be opened spring of 1957.

†Limited fishing account of low water.

‡No charge for fishing privileges.



This nice string of crappie caught at Fort Parker State Park is an example of what fishermen can try for in state park lakes.

has to collect the fee at the dam or elsewhere the cost is 50 cents. Many fishermen prefer to pay the higher fee rather than go to the dock. Park charges for fishing go into a special fund to aid in park operation.

Although the amount received from fees for park fishing is small, this does not mean that fishing is not responsible for a considerable part of state park earnings. Sales of tackle, bait, and boat and motor rentals bring in additional funds. In the more popular fishing parks these funds are the principal source of income.

Besides its fishing water, a fishing

park has docks. Boats and outboard motors are for rent. Bait and tackle, comfortable cottages or cabins, barracks or camping areas are available. Some parks have special equipment for launching privately owned boats that are hauled into the parks.

At some of the deep lakes thermocline reports may be furnished. This astonishing aid to successful fishing gives the water temperature and oxygen content at various levels, thus making it possible to determine favorable depths for various kinds of fish. Even freezing equipment is available in some of the parks to help fishermen care for their catch.

Statistically 22 of the 48 parks described in the general folder of the Texas State Parks (available from the Texas State Parks Board, Austin) list fishing among the recreations available. The ratio is higher than appears at first glance, for only 35 of the 48 parks are recreational parks—the others being primarily of historic or scenic interest. Three of them are areas acquired for future development. In each of these three future parks, fishing is a major attraction for which facilities are being planned.

Fishing is varied among the parks. An estimated 95 per cent of the visitors at Meridian State Park go there because of the fishing, while at Goliad and Washington State

60

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(See Insert Next
to Back Cover)



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(See reverse side)

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This one-day catch, topped by a 78-pounder, helped boost John Battistoni to a winning total of 1,142 pounds in the Gar-Rodeo. Shown at right is Mrs. Ruth Salvato, who landed this 45-pounder on rod and reel from her backyard on Dickinson Bayou.

A beauty contest and boat races climaxed the four-week Gar-Rodeo. Above, Mrs. Charles Brundrett, 1955 winner, crowns Jodelle Peterson, the new queen. Also shown, left to right, are Skippy Henry, beauty contest chairman, Betty Henry and Lila Jeanfreau, runners up, and, far right, Bud Saunders, general chairman.

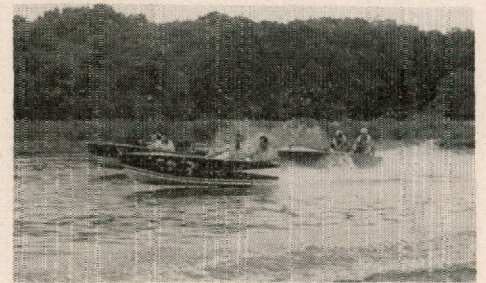
Dickinson Jaycees Combine Fun With War on Garfish

Hundreds of gars, vicious enemies of game fish, were taken from Dickinson Bayou during August through an unusual community project sponsored by the Dickinson Junior Chamber of Commerce. The plan was simple. The Jaycees organized a 25-day gar fishing tournament which sent anglers in quest of gars with the same enthusiasm reserved for game fish the other eleven months of the year.

One fisherman brought in 1,142 pounds during the four weeks. He

was John Battistoni, Dickinson, winner of top prize, a fiberglass boat and trailer, for most total pounds. Charles Froeschel, Texas City, registered no less than 261 gars for greatest number to win a motor and rich assortment of tackle. Largest gar was credited to Jake Battistoni, Dickinson, who won a similar collection of prizes with an 83-pounder measuring five feet, 10 inches.

During the Gar-Rodeo, held this year for the second time, hundreds of gar weighing thousands of pounds



were pulled from the bayou, scenic boundary of some of Dickinson's finest homes and one of the city's top recreational attractions.

Gar-Rodeo rules permitted taking gars by any method other than with firearms. Competition was open 24 hours a day, and prizes were awarded for best daily and weekly catches.

Climaxing the four-week tournament, an all-day barbecue was held, featuring boat races, a beauty contest, and awarding of the prizes.

First place winners of the stock outboard races were Lee Richter, Pasadena, Class A; Bob Allen, Houston, Class B; B. W. Helweg, Dickinson, Class C-D, and John Killough, Class D-E.

Jodelle Peterson, Kemah got the nod of the judges for beauty tittle. Second and third were Lila Jeanfreau and Betty Henry, both of Texas City.

Bud Saunders served as general chairman for the Jaycees' Gar-Rodeo. Other committee heads included Bob Dues, fishing; Roy Morales, boat races; Skippy Henry, beauty contest, and Leonard Veges, concessions.—Townsend Miller.

Reports Indicate Whitewings Gaining

Substantial gains in native white-wing dove numbers in the Rio Grande Valley are indicated by preliminary returns from the early September census, according to William J. Jennings, Assistant Director of Wildlife Restoration for the Game and Fish Commission.

He said the South Texas population apparently totaled "about four hundred and thirty-four thousand" with the possibility that some whitewings that hatched in the Valley this year may have migrated southward before the counts were made.

Jennings said indications are that the Valley whitewing population was about double that of the same time last year. He added that the survey, made by Wildlife Biologist W. H. Kiel, Jr., and South Texas wardens apparently justifies the Commission's action in closing the whitewing hunting season for the third straight fall.

"If the native population continues to gain, we may be able to recommend resumption of open season on whitewings before very long," said Jennings.

Fish Reports Field Data

Texas Tracks

By JAY VESSELS

ROYALTY RECOGNIZED



When Mrs. Connie Hager of Rockport was asked about her citation by *Life* magazine as Queen of the Bird Watchers, she excitedly discussed the fact that Alfred Eisenstaedt, celebrated photographer, was flown direct from New York to "shoot" her. Responding to the question did Eisenstaedt know anything about birds, she replied graciously: "No. But it was a tie. I didn't know anything about photography either."

Shown here is Mrs. Hager holding the full-page play given her in *Life*. Rockport's "First Lady" was credited with many significant contributions toward a more factual record of all bird activity. Her listening post, of course, is in the center of the great winter concentrations.

KING SIZE, NO DOUBT

Outdoor Editor Al Parker of the *Wichita Falls Times*, reported wildlife in Colorado unimpressed by pre-harvest season Texas tourists. A covey of grouse, and later three big mule deer, nonchalantly made Parker's car stop—cr else.

WILDLIFE GAIN

The *Dallas Morning News* editorially observed that bagging 252 antelope opening day of the West of the Pecos season was significant beyond mere figures since "not many years ago, there were hardly 252 antelope in Texas," and added:

"As a matter of fact, whitetail deer, antelope, turkey and other forms of game were headed for extinction in this state in the early part of the century. Credit must go to the valiant former member of *The Dallas News* staff, Col. William G. Sterrett, for his fight for game preservation in a day when Texans were too close to frontier times to understand the need of it.

"The Texas Game and Fish Commission has followed through in a manner which deserves public recognition and credit. Through its game-transplantation program, deer, turkey and other game wildlife have been re-established in east Texas, the Cross Timbers, and Trans-Pecos and even greatly increased in the best of all Texas' Wildlife Habitats, the Edwards Plateau and the Rio Grande Plain."

WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?

Some people from far places want a little old Texas oil well; some would settle for a genuine Texas hat. But an Ann Arbor, Michigan, woman wrote the Game and Fish Commission for "a live Texas lizard." Now, lizards range from tiny to big, and frequent every fence line to round out the vaunted Lone Star State balance of nature. But to assure the best service for this far-away customer, and not to compete with private industry, her inquiry was referred to a regular reptile agency. . . . P. S.: They carry a full line of Texas rattlesnakes, too.

MUDCAT MAGNET

Up near Gainesville Mike Conley picked up a seven and one-half-pound catfish from a draining farm tank, put the fish on a stringer and placed it in Pecan Creek to get rid of some tank mud on it. Conley was carrying a cane pole outfit and while the nice catfish obediently flopped around, the man sat down and tossed in his bait. Pretty soon a fellow townsman came along, spotted the catfish and dashed off for his fishing tackle. Others came until the creek banks were well populated. Too many people, in fact, for Conley to set the record straight on the scene. So he asked his friend, Sports Editor Bill King of the *Gainesville Register*, to disillusion the folks.

FOUNDATION FACTS

Right in the middle of the scorching baseball campaigns, an old line baseball fan deviated from custom to devote an entire column to "foot care for hunters and fishermen." He is Sports Editor Harold Scherwitz of the *San Antonio Light*, a man known for other daring diversions. Having more space to fill than is needed here, the scribe itemized a lengthy "ten commandments" of foot care. Upshot of it was that pedal extremities are here to stay and deserve the best.

VAL'S VEHEMENCE

Val Lehmann, a ranking Texas wildlife authority and chief of the King ranch game management department, good naturally chided office candidates turning out for a sportsmen's meeting in Corpus Christi, saying: "I hope they are as interested in wildlife after the election as they are now."

Press Views Game Notes

GUS GETS GOUGED

Gus T. McMammal, the peerless purveyor of wildlife information, found some sand in his cylinders the other edition of this magazine. Gus is among the vast throng learning the hard way that you cannot win arguing with an editor, even if he polluted your own page with an article about chiggers. All he got was a growling reminder that "chiggers bite Texas dove hunters in September" and the further reminder that Gus had better get back in his coal hole if he wanted to keep pace. Boo hoo!

EMPTY HOOK

Bob Kemp, member of the Game and Fish Commission's marine staff at Rockport, is a practical fisherman. That is, being a technician does not dull his layman craving to go fishin'. So when he found a bottle containing only a latitude and longitude notation, he strained to decipher the scribblings in the hope somebody was reporting on the angling prospects. Kemp was still looking for same when the U. S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington reported the container had been dropped overboard by a Spanish ship a mere 4,415 miles distant from the Padre Island spot where the biologist found it.

LARCENOUS LAMPREY

Clyde Foster, sports editor of the *Marshall News-Messenger*, carried a report in his column—*Smoke Signals*—about Fisherman Hugh Lane snagging a chain pickerel in Caddo Lake to which was attached a fifteen-inch lamprey. Foster described the parasite, which attaches itself to the body of a fish for sustenance, as an unusually large specimen for that area.

SIMPLE, WOT?

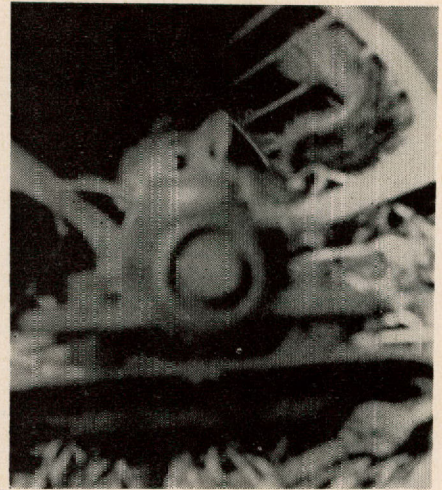
Wild beaver do just what everything or everybody does when high water inundates their home—they climb to the highest point out of water and hang on. E. A. Walker, Director of Wildlife Restoration for the Game and Fish Commission, made this observation in reply to a Central Texas inquirer, concerned about seeing some beaver gathered atop their brush habitat during flood conditions in Inks Lake. The nature reporter got a bonus for writing in, since Walker included beaver lore knowledge that the young among the beaver family would be evicted from the parental home in due time and sent out into the cold, watery world to fend for themselves. Nothing heartless about it, elucidated Walker—"That's just the way the beaver handle their domestic affairs."

SIXTEEN TONS

A turtle so big that it lifted an entire trotline plus weights after it died! Honest, that's the tale of Lamar (Pee-wee) Beard, who tells yarns no saltier than any ordinary half-pint-sized halfback. Beard, a grocer in the Austin area, explained that the soft-shelled monster perished and floated to the surface in Lake Travis when he neglected to run his trotline for a few days. It was bouyant enough at that untimely stage to float the line and two five-pound weights. Pee-wee estimated the turtle's original weight, conservatively that is, at at least thirty-five pounds.

EXPERT BUNGLING

Gus T. McMammal, the little man haunting the big wildlife field, observed that it's a good thing Texas is large enough for some of the "expert fishermen" to do their angling all to themselves. Gus permitted this quotation after watching a trotline "sensation" bang a fine channel cat against the side of his boat twice without managing to lose it, and after the bungler finally let the line slip back into the water so that he had to start all over again.



SQUIRRELY SQUIREL

This baby squirrel, reared inside an air conditioning unit with the trade name "Squirrel Cage," was discovered and released to some nearby friendly pecan trees, after the danger had passed. Fortunately for the little rascal and another one just like it, the unit had not been used at the Lake Austin camp where it was installed. It would have been a rather risky situation with the unit operating, because the nest was between the blades of the fan which whirl at a fast speed.

HOME ON THE RANGE

Jake Bissett, Austin, transported himself out to the mountain trout country in New Mexico. Contrasting the 100 degree plus home area temperatures he found two-blanket weather. And rainbows, brook and German brown trout so plentiful and hungry that getting the limit was all too easy. Yet the day he returned, he made an evening rendezvous with his favorite Lake Austin bass. "Even the small blacks cut up enough for that dry fly to satisfy me," said Bissett.

FISH IGNORE NOISE?

Hart Stiiwell, nationally known outdoor writer, went down into the figurative depths with Texas Game and Fish Commission frogmen and came up with the deduction that noises do not bother fish as is popularly believed. They describe noises as that from outboard motors and from movements by people in boats. Actually, the divers determined that some sounds seem to attract fish.

Spotting the Birds of Texas



This is the third in a series of articles taken from *A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi* by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. (Oxford University Press, New York) which list some of the interesting birds which appear (in season) in general areas of the state. Each area is divided into smaller localities noting the typical habitat where the birds may be found.

An incomplete list, it is intended only to encourage interest in and enjoyment of birds found in Texas.

AUSTIN - SAN ANTONIO AREA

L.C.R.A. PARK (LAKE TRAVIS)

Juniper-oak woodlands north of the Balcones

Escarpment

Road-runner Nesting

Screech owl

Golden-fronted woodpecker

Black-crested titmouse

Bewick's wren

Canyon wren

Rufous-crowned sparrow

Golden-cheeked warbler (probably)

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Department of Zoology has collection of 1,100 bird skins from southern and western Texas and northern Mexico

SAN ANTONIO ZOO

Collection of about 1,800 birds. One of the largest collections of waterbirds and waterfowl in the United States

BEAUMONT AREA

BIG THICKET

Along waterways

Anhinga (water turkey)

Louisiana heron Nesting

Little blue heron

Purple gallinule

Prothonotary warbler

In hardwoods

Red-shouldered hawk

Barred owl

Pileated woodpecker

Acadian flycatcher

Blue-gray gnatcatcher

Yellow-throated vireo

Swainson's warbler

Parula warbler

Kentucky warbler

Hooded warbler

Summer tanager

Nesting

In pines

Red-cockaded woodpecker

Brown-headed nuthatch

Pine warbler

Pine-woods sparrow

Nesting

PORT ARTHUR AREA

COASTAL MARSHES

Least bittern

Mottled duck

King rail

Clapper rail

Long-billed marsh wren

Redwing

Boat-tailed grackle

Seaside sparrow

Purple gallinule (occasionally)

Nesting

(April-mid-July)

CREEK BOTTOMS AND LAGOON SHORES

Great blue heron

American egret

Snowy egret

Louisiana heron

Little blue heron

Green heron

White-faced ibis

Year-round,

though more

abundant in

Spring and

Summer

MARSHES, WATERWAYS, RICE FIELDS

Canada geese

Snow geese

Blue geese

White-fronted geese

Ducks (species)

Mottled duck

Winter Residents

Year-round

Resident

MUD FLATS AND BEACHES

Black-bellied plover
Ruddy turnstone
Greater yellow-legs (Aug.-May)
Lesser yellow-legs
Semi-palmated sandpiper
Least sandpiper

ALONG CANALS AND GULFSHORE

Brown pelicans
Olivaceous cormorants Year-round
Laughing gulls (Most numerous
Royal terns in Spring and
Black skimmers Summer)

White pelicans (Oct.-Feb.)

Double-crested (Oct.-late March)
cormorants

Man-o-war bird (April-Sept.)

Wood ibis (most numerous in
White ibis Spring and Sum-
mer)

Herring gull (Oct.-April)
Ring-billed gull

Bonaparte's gull (Nov.-May)

Least tern (April to Sept.)

SABINE AND SABINE PASS

Mud flats, lagoons, marshlands
Pelicans (species)
Cormorants (species)
Gulls (species) Year-round
Terns (species)
Herons (species)
Shorebirds (species)

Lesser scaup Winter
Ducks (species)

HIGH ISLAND

Live oak-hackberry
Tremendous congregations of small land birds
in spring (April and early May), during
northers

ROCKPORT AREA

FRESH-WATER SLOUGHS AND MARSHLANDS

Ducks (species) (Sept.-Jan.)

Herons (species)
Shorebirds (species) Year-round
Least grebe

Horned grebe (Oct.-April)
Eared grebe

WET MEADOWS, SHORTGRASS PRAIRIES, AND MUD FLATS

Mountain plover
Upland plover
White-rumped sandpiper (Feb.-April)
Buff-breasted sandpiper
Hudsonian godwit
Avocet
Wilson's phalarope
Roseate spoonbill (April-Nov.)
Long-billed curlew
Sprague's pipit (Nov.-March)

PRAIRIE LAND

Canada geese
Snow geese
Blue geese (Nov.-March)
White-fronted geese
Sandhill cranes
Greater prairie chickens Year-round

DRY SHORTGRASS AND CATCLAW MEADOWS

Cassin's sparrow (April-Aug.)

OAK GROVES, HUISACHE AND MESQUITE THICKETS

Many migratory land bird species, including:
Red-shouldered hawk
Broad-winged hawk
Swainson's hawk (March, April, Oct.,
and Nov.)
Duck hawk
Pigeon hawk
Sparrow hawk

Orchard oriole
Baltimore oriole
Bullock's oriole
Rose-breasted grosbeak (April 15-May 5,
Sept. 5-Oct. 15)
Blue grosbeak
Indigo bunting
Lazuli bunting
Painted bunting

BAY CITY AREA

HAWKINS RANCH (private property, obtain
permission before entering)

Olivaceous cormorant
Anhinga (water turkey)
Great blue heron
Black-crowned night heron
Yellow-crowned night heron
Louisiana heron Nesting
Little blue heron (May-June)
American egret
Snowy egret
White-faced ibis
White ibis
Roseate spoonbill
Audubon's caracara (also nests in vicinity)

GUNS

and

SHOOTING

This Month: Deer Cartridges

By JOHN A. MASTERS

In my opinion, there is no finer game animal than the whitetail deer. Aside from those lucky people who happened to be in the right place at the right time, no one ever took a whitetail effortlessly. The native cunning and superb physical equipment of the magnificent creature make him a worthy adversary for any hunter.

It is unfortunate, I think, that every year hunters get him in their sights, yet fail to bring him home to the freezer. Many times this is due to poor marksmanship. Other times—times that are far too numerous—the bullet flies true to the mark, but it just isn't sufficient to do the job. It is my hope that this month's column may help hunters eliminate this waste of game.

First, as in the past, let me condemn in the strongest terms the use of the .22 long rifle cartridge for deer. While I am fully aware that many hunters will not agree, my own experience and that of many other hunters bear out the fact that you are much more likely to lose a deer than to take him with this totally insufficient cartridge.

The 25-20 and 32-20 are little better. Likewise rifled slugs in a .410 shotgun.

It has been said by some individuals that deer hunting is a rich man's game. Nothing could be further from the truth. For the price of a .22 rifle, one can obtain a serviceable bolt action repeating shotgun. This, with buckshot for close work, or rifled

slugs for a bit farther, is the least one can do to provide himself with a weapon for deer. Savage makes a good sound 30-30 bolt action rifle that can be had for a very reasonable price. The sporting magazines are full of advertisements selling good sound military rifles of various sorts for hunting purposes. Some are junk, of course, but many represent good investments for hunters with limited funds.

There are many good deer cartridges. Two of the newest are the Remington .244 and the Winchester .243. Both of these are excellent deer cartridges, combining good velocities with sufficient bullet weights to do the job. Neither, however, is a brush cartridge. Ere the season has run its course, some disappointed hunter will fire on a buck at what seems to be dead-duck range, only to have the fellow go bounding happily away because the bullet hit a twig on the way and blew up. The same thing is going to happen to users of the .220 Swift, 22-250 Varminter, 250-3000, and any other rifle that uses a small, high velocity bullet. If you are going to hunt in the brush, pick something like the 30-30, .32 Special, 300 Savage, 308 Winchester, 8MM Mauser, 30-06, or the 270. Use heavy blunt-nosed bullets. For real close shooting, the family scattergun with rifled slugs is a potent killer.

For open country or cross canyon shooting, the Winchester .243 and the Remington 244 are excellent choices. Kill reports sent me by a number of hunters indicate that up to 250-300 yards, either of these is adequate. The 250-3000 inside 200 yards, the 257 Roberts out to 250,

Shootin' Shorts

Mossberg recently sent me one of the new pump shotguns recently placed on the market. It is fitted with the Mossberg C-Lect choke and a recoil pad. The stock is a Monte Carlo type and is oil finished. The gun makes use of a clip type magazine, which holds two rounds. The safety is on the tang, very handy to operate.

The gun appears well made, handles well, and operates slick as a button. The stock is a one-piece affair much like a bolt action rifle. The action bars are operated by a nylon forend shell arrangement that slides over the stock. All in all, looks like a good value at \$52.95.

The more I use the fine Balvar 6-24 Bausch and Lomb telescopic sight, the more amazed I am that a

such magnificent glass could be built. Having a smattering of optical knowledge, I would not have thought it possible to retain the fine qualities of the glass over such a range of magnification, but Bausch and Lomb have done it. Nothing less than a full column will suffice to describe the device.

I am going to start a series soon that will deal with famous guns such as the 99 Savage, Model 70 Winchester, etc. I hope to dig up a great deal of factual data on these well-known guns and present it in such a manner that those so desiring may collect it as a sort of gun encyclopedia. I am going directly to the arms companies themselves for the data, so it should be authentic.—John Masters.

and the 300 Savage and 308 Winchester up to 250 yards are good choices. The 270 and the 30-06 are adequate up to 300 yards and even farther if you can hold well. Not many of us are going to hit and kill beyond 200 yards.

There are numerous good wildcat cases for the deer hunter. Topping my list is George Curry's popular 250 Curry Magnum. I have taken two whitetails with mine, and my brother took another with the rifle. All have been clean one-shot kills.

Sights for your rifle are perhaps more important than the caliber. Open iron sights are OK for short range shooting, useless for long range. Most of them can't be adjusted accurately without a great deal of shooting, and can't be used well in poor light. A good aperture or "peep" sight is a much better choice, and can be had at a very reasonable cost.

The best sight that can be had is one of the many telescopic sights available to the American shooter. Most hunters have to be convinced that a scope is faster than an iron or peep sight, but with proper training, it unquestionably is. Most people make the mistake of starting out with a scope having too much magnification, or they fit a scope to a rifle designed for iron sights. The results discourage them, and scopes are forever after condemned.

For brush shooting, equip your rifle with one of the several good 2½ to 3-power scopes. Get the comb of the stock high enough by adding one of the lace-on or glue-on cheek-pieces. You'll be amazed at the results.

For open country or cross canyon shooting, a 4-power is the minimum, and a 6-power is the practical maximum.

My own deer rifles are selected with the possibility of varied hunting in mind. Perhaps my finest rifle

• Continued on page 30

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Summary of Seasons FISH—GAME—FURBEARERS

WARNING—The open seasons listed below are general state laws. Many counties, by action of the legislature, have special laws which differ from the general laws. A digest of Game and Fish Laws, which notes these exceptions, may be obtained from your local game warden, from your gun and tackle dealer, or by writing the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Austin.

GAME ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Mourning Doves—North Zone closed. South Zone opens 12 o'clock noon Oct. 12, closes Nov. 28 at sunset. Shooting hours 12 o'clock noon to sunset. Limits, 10 mourning doves per day, 10 in possession.

Squirrel—General open season October, November, December, May, June and July. Limit: 10 per day, 20 in possession. Panhandle season, October 1 to December 1, and May 1 to July 1, both days inclusive; limit, 5 per day or in possession. West of Pecos, season closed.

Ducks and Coots—Nov. 2, 1956, to Jan. 15, 1957, both days inclusive. Shooting hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Season closed on black-bellied tree ducks. Duck limit, 5 per day, 10 in possession, including not more than 1 wood duck and not more than 1 hooded merganser. Coot limit, 10 per day or in possession.

Geese—Nov. 2 to Dec. 31, both days inclusive. Shooting hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Limit, 5 per day or in possession, including not more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

Rails and Gallinules (except coots)—Sept. 1 to Nov. 9, both days inclusive. Shooting hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Limit, 15 total of all kinds daily or in possession, except coots and soras; soras, 25 daily or in possession; coots, 10 daily or in possession.

Wilson Snipe or Jacksnipe—Dec. 16, 1956, to Jan. 15, 1957, both days inclusive. Shooting hours one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Limit, 8 daily or in possession.

Bear, Deer, Javelina and Turkey—General open season Nov. 16 through Dec. 31. Limits per season: 1 bear, 2 buck deer with pronged horns, 2 javelina, 3 turkey gobblers. Panhandle season open on deer and turkey Nov. 17 to Nov. 26, both days inclusive; season open all year on javelina; season closed on bear. Panhandle limits, 1 buck deer with pronged antlers, 2 turkey gobblers, per season; no limit on javelina. West of the Pecos, bear and buck deer season Dec. 8 to Dec. 13, both days inclusive, antlerless mule deer (hunting by special permit only) Dec. 14 to Dec. 19, both days inclusive; javelina season Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, both days inclusive; turkey season closed. West of the Pecos, limits for season: 1 black bear, 1 mule buck and 1 whitetail buck, or 2 whitetail bucks (or 1 antlerless mule by special permit and 1 whitetail buck deer), buck deer to have at least one pronged horn, 2 javelina. Note—javelina season open all year in many counties; no bag limit. See Game and Fish Law Digest.

Chachalaca and Quail—General season open Dec. 1 to Jan. 16, both days inclusive. Limits: 5 chachalaca per day, 10 per week or in possession; 12 quail per day, 36 per week or in possession. Panhandle quail season Dec. 1 to Jan. 16, both days inclusive; limit: 10 per day, 20 in possession; season closed on chachalaca. West of Pecos, quail season Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, both days inclusive; Mearns quail and chachalaca season closed; limits: 12 per day, 24 in possession.

FURBEARERS

All furbearers except Muskrat—December and January.

Muskrat—Nov. 15 to March 15. Panhandle season Dec. 1 to Feb. 28, both dates inclusive.

Bever—December and January. West of the Pecos, Jan. 1 to Jan. 15, both days inclusive.

GAME FISH

There are no closed seasons on game fish in Texas (except for special county laws).

Compiled by Erma Baker

becoming quite large now, and as I set up my photography equipment those large eyes watched my every move.

My next visit was four days later. The young hawks were 17 days old, and tiny feathers were beginning to show on their wings. On this day, I was successful in photographing the mother hawk on the nest as she shielded the young from the bright noonday sun. The young were now starting to grow at an unbelievable rate of speed.

On each trip to the nest after the eggs hatched I always found a large amount of excess food on the nest. The amount of excess food, however, became less with each visit as the young became older. The burden on the parent hawks in keeping up with the ever-increasing appetites of the young was increasing.

On May 6, my young friends were 27 days old and were feathering out over the entire body. They were able

to stand and move freely about in the nest and already were beginning to exercise their wings.

At the age of 34 days they were becoming quite handsome and were taking on the regal look of true hawks. Their backs were dull brown with black tips on the flight feathers. The underparts were white spotted with brown markings, especially along the sides. The upper part of the breast showed a pale chestnut color and the tail was striped with eight black bands. It was now evident, from the comparative sizes of the birds, that one was male and one was female.

The young were due to be leaving the nest soon, and on my next visit the male was gone. I searched the area around the nest and found him sitting on the dead limb of a nearby tree. He made no effort to fly upon my approach and did not seem to mind as I made several pictures. The young hawks were 38

Popular Wildlife Packets No Longer Available For Teachers and Students

The Game and Fish Commission announces that it has discontinued distribution of wildlife packets for pupils and teachers.

The Commission will continue free distribution of bulletins, pamphlets, law digests and other printed matter when requested. However, rising production costs have kept pace with increased demand for packets, and budgetary appropriations for this service are limited.

A current bibliography of the conservation materials available from all sections of the country has been sent to all Texas school superintendents and is available from the Commission on request.

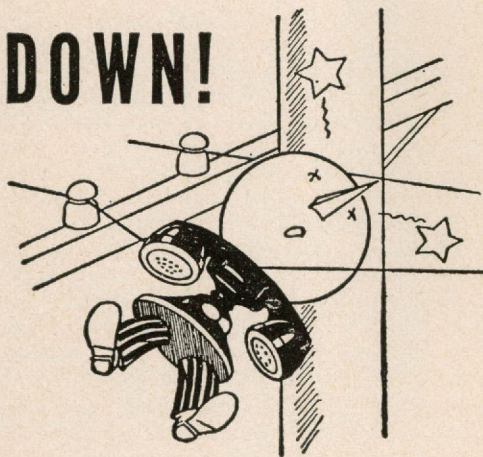
days old, and I wondered how long it would be before the other youngster would leave the nest.

Several visits were made during the next week, but it was May 26 before the young female left the comfort and security of her lofty home. She was 43 days old. As she flew from the nest for the first time, her brother was perched near the nest intently watching the whole proceedings.

During the time the young were in the nest, they consumed a tremendous amount of food. In all, I made 13 visits to the nest after the young hatched and found the remains of 22 squirrels, six rabbits, one rat, one mourning dove and one lark sparrow. Considering the fact that I was at the nest only every few days, it can be well imagined how much food was consumed by this family of hawks. From the above-noted observations it can be seen how small a percentage of the red-tailed hawks' diet consist of birds.

Over the many weeks I observed and photographed this family of hawks I received more than my share of pleasure, thrills, and excitement. The records I made on film will always be a priceless treasure. And whenever I see a red-tailed hawk soaring high overhead, I will wonder if it is one of my family of hawks.

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Trumpeter Swan

• Continued from page 13

Rock Lakes area, encompassing a wilderness marsh of some 15,000 acres, proved the turning point in the battle to save these birds from extinction in the United States.

The past two decades have witnessed a steadily increasing population of trumpeters, although the entire population is still confined to the same general ranges. Canadian flocks have shown similar increases and are now believed to be out of imminent danger. Today the breeding range of this magnificent bird in the United States is restricted primarily to a 60-mile airline radius of West Yellowstone, Montana. The main breeding areas within this circle are the Red Rock Lakes marshes of southwestern Montana, Yellowstone National Park and adjacent habitats in northwestern Wyoming and the Island Park district of northeastern Idaho. All of these lie in the high country of the Rocky Mountains along the Continental Divide.

Sight and collection records left by early-day ornithologists and observers indicate that originally the trumpeter made long migrations every fall to wintering grounds in southern United States, utilizing the four main travel lanes, or as we recognize them today, the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyways. The East Coast seaboard, lower Mississippi Valley and Delta, Texas Gulf Coast and interior marshes of California, respectively, were apparently their southern terminals within these flyways, with only a few of the advance guard venturing as far south as Mexico.

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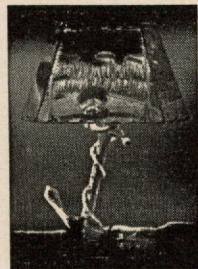


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CONAWAYS

Drainage Subsidies Protested by Conservation Leaders

Conservation leaders representing Texas, three midwestern states, and three national wildlife organizations met September 24 with Secretary of Agriculture Benson to protest federal subsidies for drainage under the Agricultural Conservation Program. They urged such subsidies be discontinued.

The group pointed out that fed-

Present-day population of the trumpeter in the United States winter as near to their breeding grounds as possible. Fortunately, movement to their wintering areas usually does not involve migrations of more than a few miles. As a result they are not subjected to the hunting risks encountered by the usual host of lesser waterfowl. The primary winter range of the trumpeter is located on the North Fork of the Snake River and its tributaries in northeastern Idaho, with the Red Rock Lakes and

• Continued on page 26

eral payments for drainage that bring land into crop production is in direct conflict with the Soil Bank program, under which the same farmers are being paid to take land out of production.

Subsidized drainage under federal farm programs during the past two decades, they said, has reduced the annual production of wild waterfowl by five million birds by destroying duck-nesting areas in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Dr. Clarence Cottam, Sinton, Texas, director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation and former assistant chief of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stated that while policy directives of the Department of Agriculture are supposed to forbid payments for drainage to create new cropland, these directives are being widely violated. Wildlife officials of the Dakotas and Minnesota said they could cite numerous examples of such violations.

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Yellowstone Park areas also providing important wintering habitat.

The life history of the trumpeter swan is exceedingly interesting. Breeding pairs occupy the frozen marsh early each spring, long before the ice goes out. Nest building and egg laying follow in quick succession as soon as open water appears. Large nesting territories in the marsh are claimed by each pair with both the cob (male) and pen (female) taking part in defense of these areas. Each nest usually contains about 5 eggs with the incubation period lasting approximately 35 days. The young (cygnets) are mouse-grey in color when hatched and do not assume the full white plumage of the adult until they are in their third year of life. Pairing is common at three years of age although breeding age is probably not reached until a few years later.

The trumpeter is by nature a wild-erness bird and thrives in a natural shallow marsh environment preferably isolated from man and his activities. Many attempts have been made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife

Service to establish the trumpeter as a breeding species on other suitable marsh areas, namely, the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in south-eastern Oregon, the Ruby Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in east central Nevada, and the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Of these transplants only those to the National Elk Refuge, where the birds are thriving, could be called successful.

Perhaps the most pressing management needs at present are: development of an efficient method for establishing breeding flocks in suitable areas; a detailed survey of present wintering habitat in order to determine, if possible, the upper limit of trumpeter swan numbers which may be safely carried in the Red Rock Lakes-Yellowstone Park region as well as the practicability of granting special protection to the trumpeter flocks while on their main wintering grounds in Idaho.

By and large, however, the population of this interesting native species of waterfowl is healthy and growing. This is due entirely to the

MAN

Homo sapiens (Linneaus)
(*Homo*-man; *sapiens*-wise)

By far the most important of all Texas mammals, man is virtual master of the land and all its resources. Characterized by extraordinary development of the brain, man is the talking, reasoning, political, economic, and religious mammal.

In this part of the world the white man, by virtue of invasion and conquest, is dominant over all others. But his cupidity, conceit, and ignorance threaten his future, through the wasteful exploitation of all natural resources, and the destructive wars that result from these unfortunate traits. Nevertheless, man still has a matchless opportunity for maintaining and rightly using a productive environment so that he may persist in comfort, happiness, and peace.

—By Walter P. Taylor and
William B. Davis

citizens of this country who acted in time to perpetuate for the enjoyment of future generations one of the most impressive waterfowl species in the world, the magnificent trumpeter swan.



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San Benito, Texas

Valley Sportsmen Club Elects Officers

A former director and long-time active member of the Valley Sportsmen Club, C. L. (Smoky) Boyle, was elected the new president of the club recently. Elected with Boyle were: Carl Foust of Lyford, vice president for Willacy county; Irvin Base of Edinburg, vice president for Hidalgo county; and J. L. Head of Harlingen, re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Restoration of the Lower Rio Grande Valley's world-famous whitewing hunting, through provision of more habitat and whatever other steps will help, is No. 1 on the pro-

First Things First— Even for Romantic Fish

The natural humor of youth is always refreshing.

I took a class of boys on a field tour to study conservation of game and other resources one spring day. While walking along the bank of a stock pond, one of the boys noticed the nests of panfish in the shallow water near the edge.

"Those fish are spooning," he mentioned casually.

"You don't mean spooning," corrected a second lad. "You mean spawning."

"That's right," said a third. "They spooned BEFORE they spawned."

F. B. Curry, Burton, Texas.

gram of the newly elected president.

"I think one of the biggest things the Sportsmen can do for the Valley is to bring back the whitewing to the point where there will be enough birds once more to enable our annual hunts," Boyle told club members. "We can do this by encouraging landowners, farmers and others to leave more native habitat, and even to create it for the birds along canal and ditch banks and fences, at the ends of fields, and on sub-marginal land. And by helping to locate nesting areas, and encouraging and helping the State Game and Fish Commission to acquire control of these tracts as 'reserves' for propagation."

Ed Cooper of Harlingen, retiring president of the Club, recommended to the new officers that efforts be made to organize junior units of the Sportsmen club; that the campaign



for more courtesy on the part of boat-owners be continued; and that members report "immediately" to the game wardens all violations of fish and game laws.

"It doesn't do any good to wait until the next day or the next week to tell the wardens about the violations," Cooper said. "They need to be notified at once."



If birds could read, we'd post a sign like that. But they can't. So, we're doing the next best thing.

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San Antonio, Tex.

is used by all states having big game herds to check. As the count is made at low altitude, the plane and allied equipment is carefully checked; maps are prepared; and the fuel-use on each previous count is gone over again.

Arrangements are made for fuel to be stored at the more remote points, for this is in the big country, and it's a long way from point to point. Finally the two divisions join forces and the operation is set in motion.

The count day begins at four forty-five, for the pronghorn is up at dawn and dictates the hours he will be counted. As with any flying operation, weather is important. Good flying weather, good counting. Checking the weather and finding it O.K., the counters are soon on their way, skimming over the rolling countryside. Enroute to the count area, watch for morning feeders. Blacktail deer, wild turkey, and javelinas are seen and recorded.

Counting game animals by air has

a technique all its own. Since the pronghorn is a herd animal, he is more easily worked than the other species. The area to be counted is worked in flight patterns consisting of north to south runs made at quarter-mile intervals. An altitude of around one hundred feet is maintained until the herd is spotted. Then it is up and down and around and about until the counter has them all.

The white rump patches of the antelope up ahead are easily visible. Nature has certainly helped the counters, for you can see the flash of the rump patches as far as five or six miles from the plane. As you approach the herd, they usually string out in a pattern that also helps the observers. Often as not, they will run directly toward the approaching plane.

Making a correct count by air calls for practice and experience, for as the herd mills, the plane must be kept above them, giving the count-

ers an unobstructed view. This sometimes causes a bit of airsickness, but such is the game.

One of the counters will check bucks, the other will get a total count on the herd. If fawns have been born and are running with the herds, a second and third pass over them is required, for all must be counted. A good idea of reproduction is obtained during the count. Dates are kept on the first fawns, and over a period of years, this data, coupled with weather records compiled during the period of the counts, will give a better understanding of the pronghorn.

Care is taken to keep the flight paths parallel and after the first pass or two, wind corrections are made and the count goes on. As the herds move, the dust trails they leave help keep them in proper order and duplication is avoided. Swift as the pronghorn is, he is no match for the counter's plane and is easily kept in order.

Sometimes you run from a fast-moving cold front, which threatens to cut you off from your base. Sometimes you dodge a dust storm. Then sometimes you just sit it out and listen to the wind howl. But when the weather lets you, out you go—

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flying the ridges and canyons of the Trans-Pecos, the rolling prairie and flatlands of the Panhandle, hour after hour, day after day.

Between two and three hundred hours are flown each spring to complete the count. When possible, two periods of the day are utilized for the count, the early morning until around ten o'clock, and the late afternoon from around five until sundown. Of course, you work with improving light in the morning and failing light in the afternoon, but you must be up when the pronghorn is.

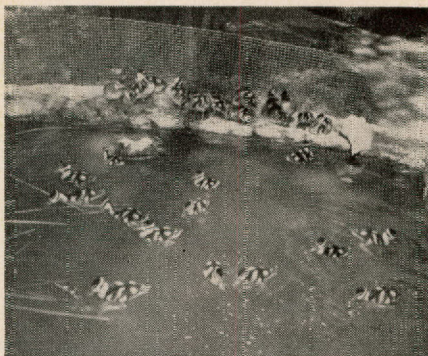
The warden in the district is key man in the count. He knows, because of patrol work, the location of boundaries and often the herds. He also gives the counters advice on the terrain and acts as contact between the landowners and the counters.

The count goes on without interruption except for a short period at the end of each one hundred hours of flying. At this time, the plane is withdrawn for an inspection. Then, having been given an O.K., the count continues, for before it is finished, some 10 to 15 thousand square miles will have been carefully surveyed for antelope.

Covering this much of Texas, it stands to reason that a counter will see some things worth remembering, like the two doe antelope near Dalhart chasing a coyote away from a fawn. Or the bobcat—yes, bobcat—leaving a full-grown doe antelope he had killed. Sometimes after a flash rain, sections of a downed fence will be spotted down, and a detour over ranch headquarters and a dropped note saves long hours in the saddle.

The last flight is made over the last herd and the pilot's work is finished.

Tree Duck Orphans Raised in South Texas



Looking like members of a chain gang, black-bellied tree duck ducklings recently swam around in a small pool at the R. J. Montgomery home near Rio Hondo, deep in

ished. But his biologist observer has yet another task. He must compile the total figures on surplus pronghorns and present them to the Commission at its meeting. After approval is given for a hunt, he must contact the landowners and recommend the number of surplus pronghorns to be taken. These figures are based on sound management of wildlife and are designed to keep the herds healthy and thriving.

Contracts are then signed between the landowners and the Game and Fish Commission, agreeing to take the surplus antelope. Now the load falls on the office personnel, for usually a drawing must be held for the hunt permits. Thousands of letters requesting permits must be processed and returned.

Finally you get your permit, and you can hardly wait for the morning

• Continued on page 30

South Texas. With them were some fulvous tree duck ducklings. All the ducklings were incubated in a commercial chick incubator.

Montgomery said that the black-bellied tree ducks for some reason or another sometimes set up "dump nests." They lay a few eggs in their own nests and there is a community nest into which the ducks lay their surplus eggs which they make no attempt to hatch.

Montgomery obtained permission of game authorities to hatch out the eggs found in such a dump nest. About half the eggs hatched. Then an acquaintance came in with a clutch of fulvous tree duck eggs.

The black-bellied and fulvous don't mix as adults and even the ducklings fight each other. Rather the black-bellieds are the aggressors and pick at the fulvous.

The ducks do not range very far north of the Rio Grande Valley so they really presented quite a rare sight. Montgomery has made color movies of the black-bellieds on a nearby slough on his ranch.

Montgomery, who interested himself in the tree ducks a number of years ago, also has color movies of other bird life as well, although he is not an ornithologist but a fisherman, having been a member of the U. S. team a couple of times in the international fishing tournament in Nova Scotia.—Harry Foehner.

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to come when you open the hunt. This is the purpose of all that has gone before. This hunt didn't just happen, it began six months before, in the dawn light, perhaps far from the place you will hunt. It was a scientific operation and it was done by many different people. Each in his own way had a part in your being out on the range to get your pronghorn.

Good Miss

I shall miss you while you are on your hunting trip, dear," said the young wife. "And I shall pray that the other hunters do the same thing."

From Texas Public Health Assoc. Journal
Sent in by Loyd E. Mayfield

is the fine little Bruno Mauser. It is chambered for the 8x57 Mauser case, a close cousin to the 30-06. It is dressed up with a Whelen type sling, a Stith Dovetail mount, and a Kollmorgen Bear Cub 2 3/4X scope.

I particularly like this rifle. Rifle, scope and sling go 7 1/2 pounds. With a good hand-loaded 150 grain bullet, I am set up to 200 yards. If hunting in close brush, I can quickly whack a buck with the 170 round-nose bullet. This rifle is one of my proudest possessions and will accompany me on every hunt I make this year.

My long-range rifle is my beautiful 250 Curry Magnum, built by George Curry's Custom Gun Shop of San Angelo. With my favorite load of 58 grains of 4831 behind a 100 grain Sierra Spitzer, I can reach out as far as I want to shoot. I have a Kollmorgen 6X Bearcub in a Weaver QD mount on this little gem. I

have lost one deer fired on at about 35 yards with this rifle. The bullet struck a thumb-sized limb and blew up. I sat there and watched him run off, unable to believe that I had failed to hit him a telling clout.

I also have a 244 Remington fitted with a Stith Master Mount and the fine old 6X Stith Bearcub that I have used for years. I'll probably pack it part of the time, since I have yet to whack anything bigger than a prairie dog with it.

Above all, sight your rifle in with the load your gun likes best, then hunt with the same load. Many deer are missed every year because the hunter is using a rifle not properly sighted in, or one sighted in with a different load.

Shoot for a clean kill, follow up on every shot, and avoid the hopeless shots that result only in wounding game. The whitetail is a gentleman, and deserves to die quickly and in a sporting manner.

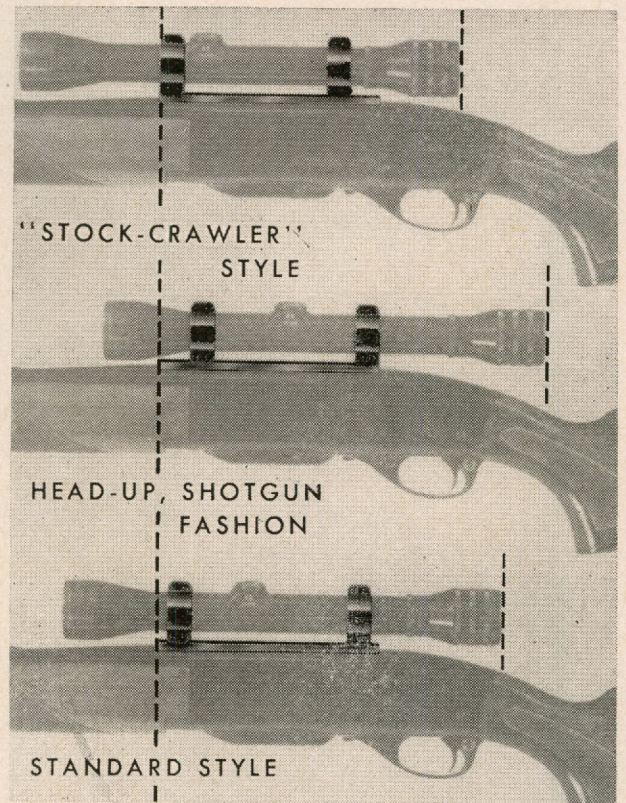
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Underwater Biologists Have Interesting Duty

Not everything is love and sweetness down where Game and Fish aquatic biologists are experimenting with skin diving equipment in Lake Travis. Although it is mighty comfortable being submerged for long periods during the heat of the summer, the peace and quiet oftentimes is disturbed.

For example, Project Leader Kenneth Jurgens told about one diver giving ground "all the way" when a huge snake approached his equipment. Asked later what kind of reptile it was, the technician said he didn't tarry long enough to tell.

Another biologist, on location thirty feet down studying Rio Grande perch nesting routine, came face to face with a giant catfish. The big cat looked straight through the mask into the diver's eyes. Suddenly it humped its back like a bristling dog and seemed ready to charge. The biologist, armed only with assorted tanks and gadgets, broke off the incipient engagement. He admitted the menacing fish stared him into full retreat.

Port Mansfield Ship Channel Job Started

Construction of the new ship channel and fish pass at Port Mansfield is now underway following the closing of contracts in late August, according to Charles R. Johnson, port director. Estimated cost of the major jettied pass will be \$2,475,000.

The pass, located east of Raymondville, will slice through Padre Island, providing fish with a much-needed passage between the Gulf and fish-rich Laguna Madre's long slender bay area. It will serve Laguna Madre as the only opening through the island into the Gulf between Port Aransas over 100 miles to the north and Port Isabel 38 miles to the south.

Special jetties constructed of 15-ton concrete tetrapods will permit fish easy passage through the jetties. The north jetty will extend 1,650 feet into the Gulf, the south 900 feet.

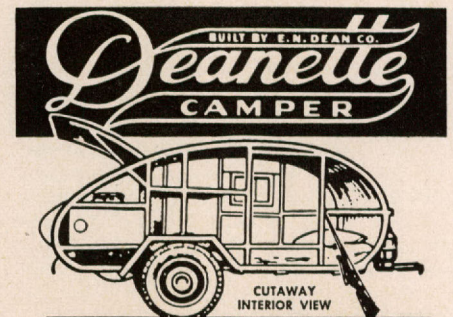
Financing of the project was made possible through the sale of Willacy County Navigation District bonds.

The port, when completed, will accommodate 250 shrimp boats, 50 commercial fishing boats, and 85

sport launches in addition to dry cargo and oil barges, Johnson revealed. There will be approximately 1,250 feet of docks, a 160-foot loading ramp, and a marine ways.

The entire area will be served with electricity, water and improved or paved streets. Two hundred lots already have been leased by the District to sport and commercial fishermen on a long-term basis, and a \$50,000 tourist court is under construction, Johnson said.

According to contracts already let, \$770,209.21 will be spent for dredging, \$598,998.40 for jetty construction, and \$815,844.71 for harbor facilities.



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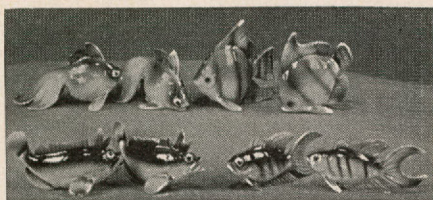
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Things You May Not Know

A curious froglike fish of Africa, the goby, climbs trees to feed on wood ants. Often some gobies climb while others stay below to nab dislodged victims.

The stomach of the camel contains a honeycomb structure with cells that can be closed by muscular action and in which water can be stored.

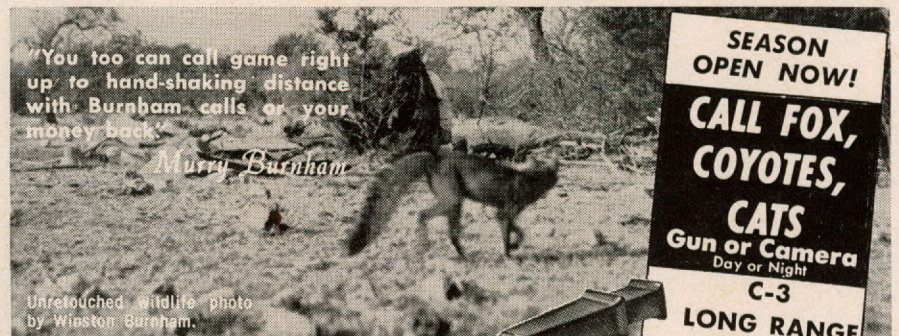
Dry, hard-packed ground is a must for giraffes. They can't cross deep rivers, and bog down in mud or swamp.



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Outdoor Books

THE BOOK OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS by Michael H. Bevans. 62 pages excellently illustrated in color drawings by the author. Published 1956 by Garden City Books, 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York. \$2.50.

Representative species of snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and toads, and salamanders are all discussed and excellently depicted in full color illustrations by the author. Short discussions describe the habits, habitat and characteristics of each of the species listed, and give the readers—young or old—a fuller understanding of the subjects.

The chapter on reptiles and amphibians as pets includes suggestions for the building of pens, cages, or aquariums in which to keep them. Food habits are discussed in the general descriptions of the various animals.

This is probably the most beautiful book on reptiles and amphibians ever produced primarily for young people.

And it will serve as an excellent field guide for beginners, young or old, in the study of reptiles and amphibians.—J.R.

GUIDE TO THE REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, AND FRESH-WATER FISHES OF FLORIDA by Archie Carr and Coleman J. Goin. 341 pages well illustrated with black and white sketches, photographs and diagrams. Published 1955 by the University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Florida. Paper, \$6.50. Cloth, \$7.50.

Florida has no less than 333 different kinds of the so-called "cold-blooded" vertebrate animals, which include the reptiles, amphibians and fresh-water fishes. Many of these animals are also found throughout the southern states. How to quickly identify any of these species has always been a problem for the layman, and this book furnishes him with the means for identification. Keys for the identification of the various species are accompanied by excellent accounts of the individual animals, giving both Latin and common names, general appearance and distinguishing characteristics, general distribution, and habitat of each.

Excellent photographs of the reptiles and amphibians, including the turtles, snakes, salamanders, and frogs, by

Roger and Isabelle Conant; in addition to fine drawings of various fishes by Esther Coogle help to make a fine book even better. Diagrams and glossaries are used to explain the comparatively small number of terms which might be unfamiliar to the layman, and add appreciably to the use and enjoyment of the book.—J.R.

THE DEER OF NORTH AMERICA edited by Walter P. Taylor. 668 pages including two full color plates, thirty-nine black and white photographs and twenty-one figures. Published 1956 by the Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and The Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C., \$12.50.

Deer are the most important big game animal in the United States. They are found in every State and are ardently pursued by an army of hunters. Each year about four million deer hunters take to the rough country and spend approximately three hundred million dollars in pursuit of deer.

This book will be of interest to every hunter, student of wildlife, educator and wildlife technician. Its sixteen authors have contributed a wealth of knowledge concerning the North American deer herd, its management and have included a great amount of information which will aid the hunter in getting his deer.

The text describes thirty subspecies of the white-tailed deer and eleven subspecies of the mule deer. General characters, measurements and distribution of each subspecies is included. Considerable information is included in those portions of the text which pertain to the lives of deer. Chapters on hunting methods for both white-tailed and mule deer will be of considerable interest to the novice sportsman as well as "old pros" going into new territory. Chapters on management of deer herds contain material of interest to wildlife technicians, educators, landowners and sportsmen.

A complete treatment of the Pacific Coast black-tailed deer will be of special interest to anyone living in the Pacific coastal area from California northward.—W.S.J.

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CONTROL ENGLISH SPARROWS

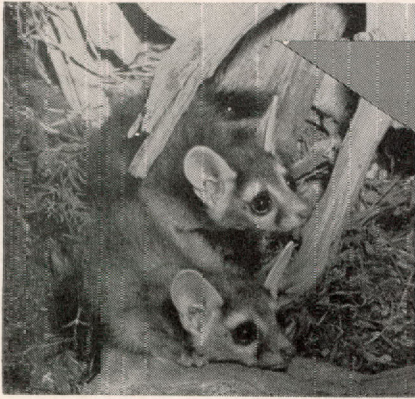


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Junior Sportsmen

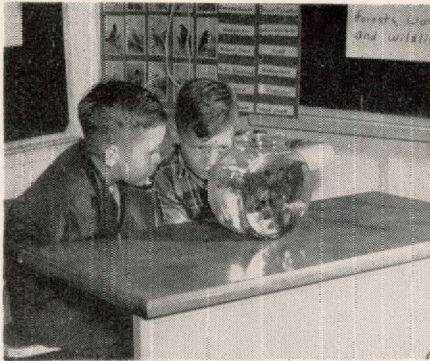
Wildlife Looks To You

For Help

By
BOB MEYER

Supervisor Conservation Education

This Month's Who's Who:



What do you think these boys are thinking?

"Eoy! I sure wish I were a fish, don't you?"

"We could spend all our life just swimming around just like we did this summer in the old swimmin' hole."

(Boy on the left answers.)

"Yea! And we would never have to go to school or anything."

Pictured here are two young junior sportsmen who are going to be very happy they are in school this month, because their class is beginning a study of wildlife. This alert teacher found that by conducting a unit in wildlife she could motivate the children's interest to an enthusiastic peak. She integrated the standard subject matter into her unit theme, and the results were amazing. The students couldn't wait for class to begin, and homework was a pleasure.

There are a great number of teachers who are using this teaching technique. It is evident that you junior sportsmen are in favor of this form of study, from the interesting letters we receive daily regarding your work. Keep up the good work!

Note to Our Junior Sportsmen:

This is your page! If you have a question about wildlife, or a picture that you are proud of mail it to us. Your letter or wildlife snapshot may be used in the next issue.

Letter of the Month:

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Last year our son, Bruce, Jr., killed his first buck, a six pointer, running, at a distance of about 50 yards. The unusual thing about the story is that Bruce is only 6½ years old.

My husband has been a hunter since he was 12 years old and has coached our little son in gun shooting and archery. He takes him out to a rifle range our Rod, Reel and Gun Club has and spends hours with him. Our son has learned to hold and fire his .22 Hornett with the "greatest of ease."

The story of the deer goes like this...

Bruce had put his gun down on the end of a log and curled up against his daddy under the hunting coat. He was too cold at the moment to care much about watching for deer. His daddy looked up and saw a deer only a few yards away, watching them. He whispered to Bruce about the deer and asked him to try to get his gun without making any noise. In all their getting "set" the deer heard them and trotted away in an easy sort of way before starting to run. By that time Bruce had his gun up and fired one time, hitting him behind the left front leg. The deer stumbled, rolled and lay still. Little Bruce broke into a run through that brush as if it wasn't there and stood by his deer, as white as a sheet and trembling all over. But the grin on his face went from ear to ear.

We have had the head mounted to start his collection.

Mrs. Bruce Wiggins
1530 Roberts Ave.
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mrs. Wiggins:

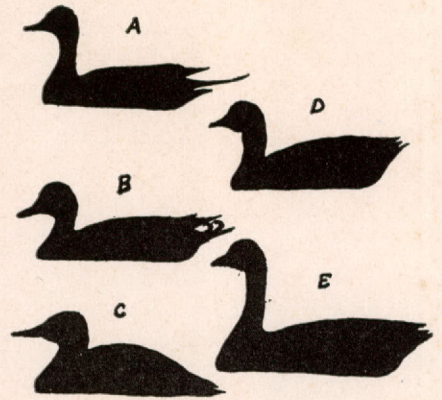
As Junior Sportsmen read your letter I know they will better understand the extreme importance of shooting safety. Perhaps they will be lucky enough to receive coaching before they attempt to handle firearms.

Congratulations to your son. And most of all to his understanding parents. If we had more family coaching of this type, there might be fewer accidents in the field.

Bob Meyer

WILDLIFE QUIZ:

Can YOU name the birds pictured below correctly?



WILDLIFE QUIZ

1. () Vultures (buzzards) are protected by state law in Texas.
2. () Cowbirds usually build their nests on the ground.
3. () The largest living bird on earth is the ostrich.
4. () A hunter need not buy a "duck stamp" to hunt mottled ducks which do not migrate.
5. () The red-tailed hawk is protected by state law in Texas.
6. () There are fewer than 50 whooping cranes alive today.
7. () The heath hen is increasing in numbers under federal protection.
8. () Bobwhite quail are protected by Federal law in Texas.
9. () The largest game bird in Texas is the chachalaca.
10. () The most common game bird in Texas is the quail.

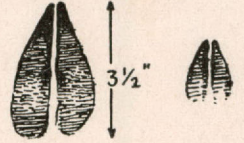
ANSWERS:

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 4. F | 8. F |
| 3. T | 7. F |
| 2. F | 6. T |
| 1. F | 5. T |
| Goose. | 9. F |
| A. Pintail | 10. F |
| B. Mallard | |
| C. Canada | |
| D. Snow Goose | |
| E. Canada | |

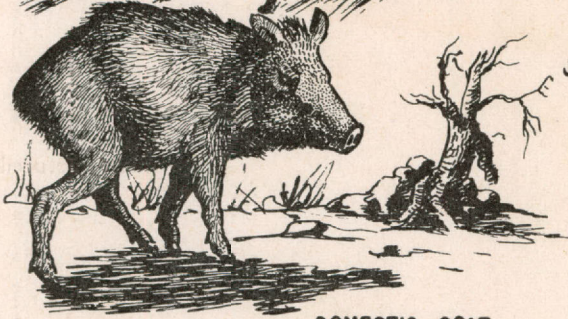
• THESE SKETCHES SHOULD HELP DISTINGUISH TRACKS OF WHITE-TAILED DEER FROM THOSE OF OTHER ANIMALS OFTEN SHARING THE SAME HABITAT. •



WHITE-TAILED DEER



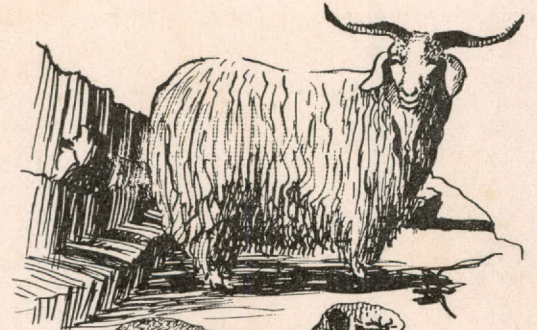
DOE AND FAWN



JAVELINA OR PECCARY



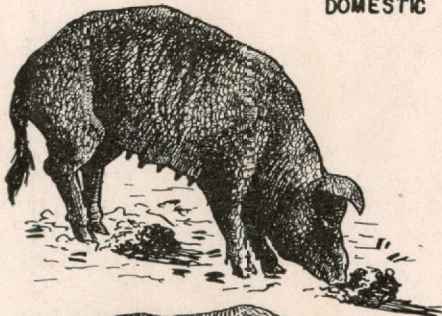
DOMESTIC GOAT



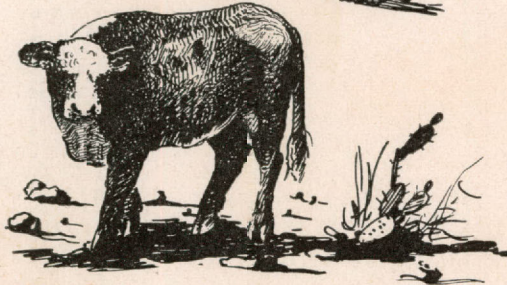
DOMESTIC SHEEP



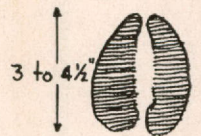
Walton Gude



DOMESTIC PIG



DOMESTIC CALF



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