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PARKS & WILDLIFE

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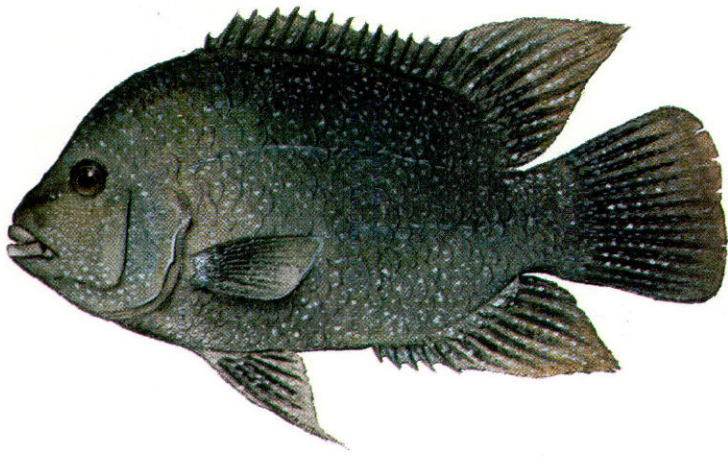
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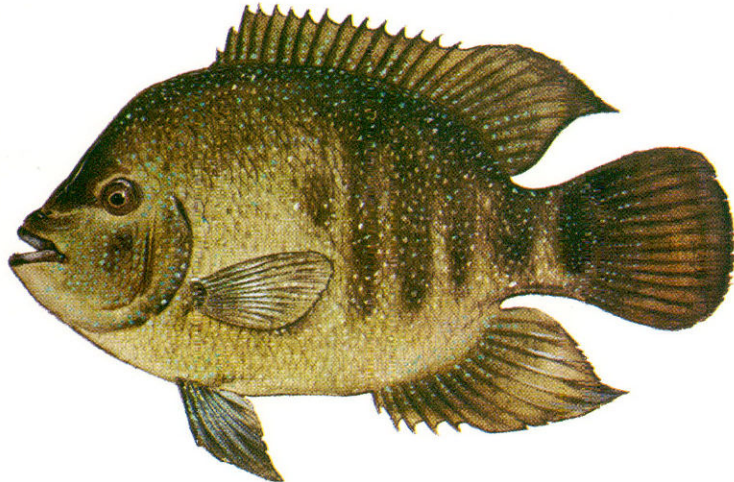
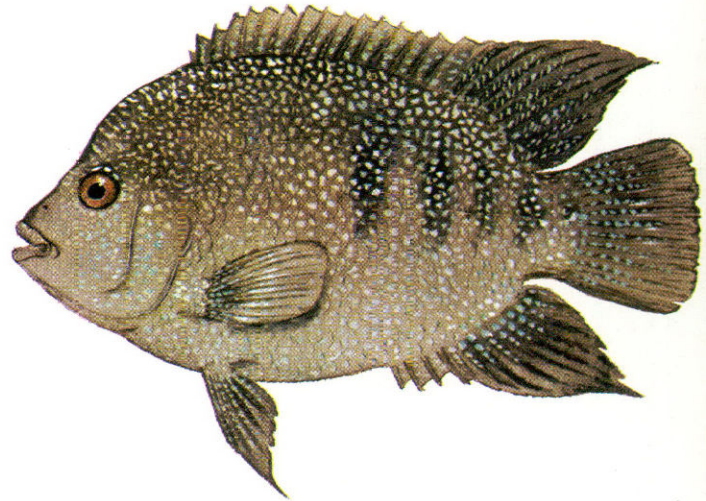
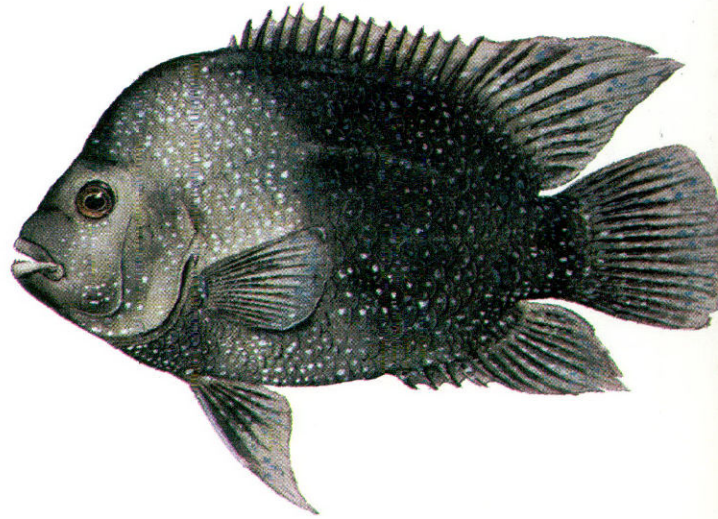


The Fishes of Texas

A tropical fish adapted to Texas' warm waters, the Rio Grande perch, *Cichlasoma cynoguttatum*, exhibits several shapes and colors depending on its age, sex, habitat, or spawning condition.

Pictured here are but a few of this perch's many faces. Young males and females have the general panfish form while the older males (second from top) develop a hump over the head. Spawning males (also second from top) are pale in front and have a dark posterior half. Cichlids in warm, clear water have conspicuous bars overlaid with cream and turquoise colored spots, while cool, clear water produces a grey coloration (upper two). Cichlids subjected to stress of capture tend to turn pale (third from top). Besides its distinctive bespeckled skin, the perch's lateral line is definitely broken and staggered. Also, the first and second dorsal fins are continuous and taper into a triangular point, as does the anal fin.

Found in the Rio Grande basin, the San Marcos, Guadalupe, San Antonio, and Colorado rivers, this small-mouthed fish is a dull fighter, but is good eating when the black lining of the viscera is removed.



Dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of Texas fish, game, parks, waters, and all outdoors.

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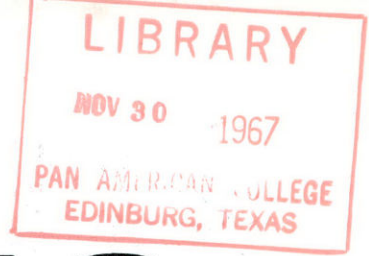
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Hounding Javelinas

by John Houser

CHASING dogs up and down rocky slopes while hunting javelinas is not for the weak of heart. This sport requires much more stamina than deer stalking or even chasing jackrabbits with greyhounds.

Javelina hunting is very exhausting work. In most deer hunting, the hunter waits for the game to come to him. In chasing jackrabbits, the greyhounds do most of the work. But, in javelina hunting, the hunter does almost as much running as the dogs.

When Dan Klepper, outdoor writer for the San Antonio *Express-News*, and I rolled out of bed at 3:30 that fateful morning, I didn't know too much about javelinas. I was as naive about this type of hunting as an Easterner is about Texas.

At a truck stop in Hondo we met Tony Zerr, rancher from Hondo, and Tommy and Jimmy

Timmerman, a game warden's sons. After eating a hearty breakfast and drinking a pot of coffee, we left for Concan. It was still dark and beginning to drizzle when we arrived at the 30,000 acre ranch in Uvalde County. We unloaded the dogs, put on our chaps, and began hunting.

Tommy Timmerman led the way with his dogs. They led us up and down the rocky hills through catclaw, mesquite thickets, bramble, and white bush. The only firm footing was in the draws where all the soil had accumulated. Otherwise, we jumped from rock to rock following the dogs.

The drizzle continued, making the footing slippery. By seven o'clock the sun was trying to break through the clouds. Two does and a buck bounded over a distant ridge; a fox darted down the hill; but still no hogs.

Then Sport, the six-month-old

pup, started barking in the distance. She had chased a fox before, but this time it must have been a javelina because soon we could hear the other three dogs joining her.

"Come on," yelled Tommy. "They've got one."

We ran down the hill, dodging the catclaw, jumping over the prickly pear and sometimes missing both. It was a grueling chase with the sharp rocks mauling our feet and the mesquite lashing our faces.

"They've got him," yelled Tommy somewhere up ahead.

Sweating profusely, we ran harder, quickly shortening the distance to our quarry.

"Over there," pointed Dan to where the Timmerman brothers were kneeling to look under a thick tangle of mesquite. The brush was so thick the dogs had to crawl to move.

Hardest part of our javelina hunt came when we had to carry the hog out.

Tying Blue to a tree outside the cave saved him from getting cut up.



I lowered the sights slowly, taking my time, and then pandemonium broke loose—*She Charged!*

Jimmy backed away pulling one dog, King, on a chain. The 12-year-old dog was straining hard to get free.

"That sow would cut him up if I let him loose. Lost one dog last week when a pig got him in the throat and cut his jugular vein," he said.

I squatted beneath the mesquite thicket and could see the sow with her three piglets. Her teeth were nervously chattering and she didn't look too satisfied with her surroundings. A dog was on each side of her about 10 feet away. Another dog was inching his way in behind her. I snapped the safety off my pistol and lined her up in the sights. A pistol is the best weapon to carry because it is light and not bulky.

"Aim between the eyes," recommended Tommy.

I lowered the sights slowly, taking my time, and then pandemonium broke loose. All along I had been thinking of what I had read about javelinas. Most of the stories said that javelinas will not charge, they will only break for

the clearing, and if you're in their path it's your tough luck. But this one was different—*she charged.*

She headed out of her shelter at a 45-degree angle from us, snapping at the dogs. After she tore through the thicket, she stopped and turned on us, opening her mouth wide, sharp teeth ready for battle. Just as the sow lunged, I shot and hit her in the neck. She dropped and the dogs moved in.

We dressed her out and left her under a tall mesquite. Tommy climbed the tree and tied a red bandanna on the top limb. It was 7:30 and the sun was still trying to burn through the clouds as we started out once more.

The dogs quickly got another scent and were off running. Up and down the hills we went, slowing down only to pick out spears of prickly pear or dislodge limbs of catclaw.

Painfully we followed the dogs. It seemed like hours but it was probably only 15 minutes until we could hear them barking below us. We half slid, half jumped from

rock to rock down a 75-degree incline and found the dogs at the bottom. The four javelinas had run into a small cave but the sow guarded the entrance, clicking her teeth in anger.

This was a typical javelina chase, they told me. Anyone could kill these hogs without any risk at all. But the sport of it was being able to keep up with the dogs and outwit the pigs.

The javelinas had provided us with good sport. It would have been too rugged a trip carrying the javelinas out of the draw, so we held the dogs and let them escape. In javelina hunting with dogs, the chase is the important part of the hunt—the kill is anticlimactic.

Persons interested in hunting javelina may like to consider day leases available at a very small cost. Many counties including Medina, Uvalde, Kinney, Edwards, Frio, Dimmit, Webb, Starr, and Jim Wells have open season the year round and no bag limits. Other counties in South Texas have a bag limit of two

javelinas, and some counties even have a season during the months of November and December.

Chambers of commerce in counties where javelinas are found offer lists of ranches in the area with leases available. The hardest time of the year to hunt javelina is during deer season. It is almost impossible to get a lease at that time and some deer hunters might be rattled if they see somebody out running after a javelina and disturbing the deer.

When the chase is over and the javelina is bagged, the benefits of the hunt do not end. Not only does a young, tender hog make a delicious meal when properly prepared, but an outstanding trophy. With the lips pulled back showing those molars, a good mount looks real mean.

One word of caution—don't believe everything you hear and read about javelinas being shy and timid. They might be in most instances, but if you ever get one cornered, consider him armed and dangerous. They have been known to charge. **

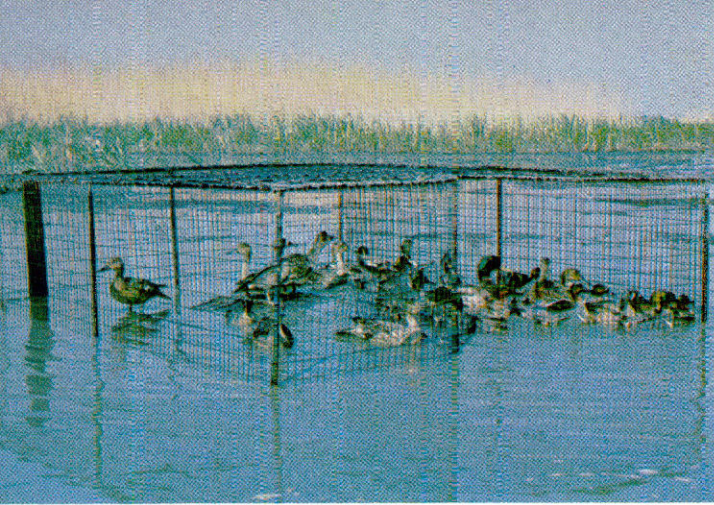
Tommy held Blue back. Those hogs in the cave weren't through yet.



Since all the hills looked the same, we marked the tallest mesquite, so we wouldn't get lost.







Bait traps (above and below) are effective in shallow water feeding areas.



Drive traps (above) catch molting ducks while cannon nets (below) snare those feeding.



I D's for Ducks

by Robert L. West

Wildlife Biologist
Pittman-Robertson Project W-96-R

FALL AND SPRING flights of waterfowl historically have been a part of the American scene. They have brought innumerable hours of enjoyment to the American public in the form of hunting, bird watching, painting, and literature. The result is a heritage which should be passed on to following generations. It is toward this goal that waterfowl management programs, of which banding is a part, are directed.

Marking of birds for study helps determine from where they come, where they go, and what happens to them. This may be traced back nearly 200 years, but the first systematic attempt at banding was made by Hans Chr. C. Mortensen, a Danish school-

master, who used aluminum bands for the scientific study of white storks, European teals, starlings, and two or three birds of prey.

Bird banding became prominent in many European countries and in America during the 1900's. Early attempts in the United States were conducted by individuals and bird clubs until the American Bird Banding Association was formed in 1909. This association carried on banding activities in the United States and Canada until they were assumed in 1920 by the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, now the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Today, waterfowl banding has become a huge cooperative effort. Waterfowl biologists from the 50



Captured waterfowl are banded with a standard Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg band which varies in size according to the bird.

states, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service conduct individual banding assignments. Annually, these people pool their talents in the form of banding teams which converge on the Canadian and Arctic breeding grounds during the summer nesting season. During this period an all-out attempt is made to band both immature and adult birds.

Methods used in conducting banding operations vary according to the locale and the habits of the birds. Bait traps, which are merely wire cages with a funnel entrance, are effective in shallow water feeding areas. These traps are usually baited with cereal grains to catch ducks during their nighttime feeding activities.

Drive traps are used to catch young birds and molting adults. Since these birds are unable to fly, they may be herded by a line of men into a wire or net "corral" flanked by wing fences which funnel the birds toward the trap. Here they are caught by hand or net, banded, and released.

Retriever dogs are extremely useful in catching immature birds and molting adults. These dogs, when turned loose in brood areas, are trained to catch birds and return them, unharmed, to their handler.

Cannon nets generally are used in feeding fields or relatively dry loafing areas. These nets are fired electrically, igniting a powder charge in the cannons which carry the net over the birds. These traps often are baited with cereal grains to concentrate flocks of birds in front of them. This method

is particularly effective on geese and field-feeding ducks.

Night lighting is used on water areas, generally with the aid of an airboat with a battery of bright floodlamps. The boat is operated at low speed. While birds are blinded by the lights, they are scooped up with a dip net. This is particularly effective on females who will not leave slow moving broods.

Captured waterfowl are banded with a standard Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum leg band which varies in size according to the bird. Each bears a serial number and an inscription reading:

**NOTIFY FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Waterfowl band records are maintained at the Migratory Bird Populations Station of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Laurel, Maryland. An electronic computer system is used to record and store the data for future reference.

Band recovery reports are processed through the computer. Information regarding date and place of banding is sent to the person reporting the band. Information concerning date and place of recovery and status of the birds (whether alive or dead) is sent to the bander. In this way the person reporting the band receives information about the bird while contributing valuable data for waterfowl studies.

Recoveries are made near and far. Biologists capture birds in traps on wintering grounds. Persons find birds that have been killed by flying into tele-



Soft-mouthed retrievers are used in marshy brood areas where ducklings cannot be caught any other way.

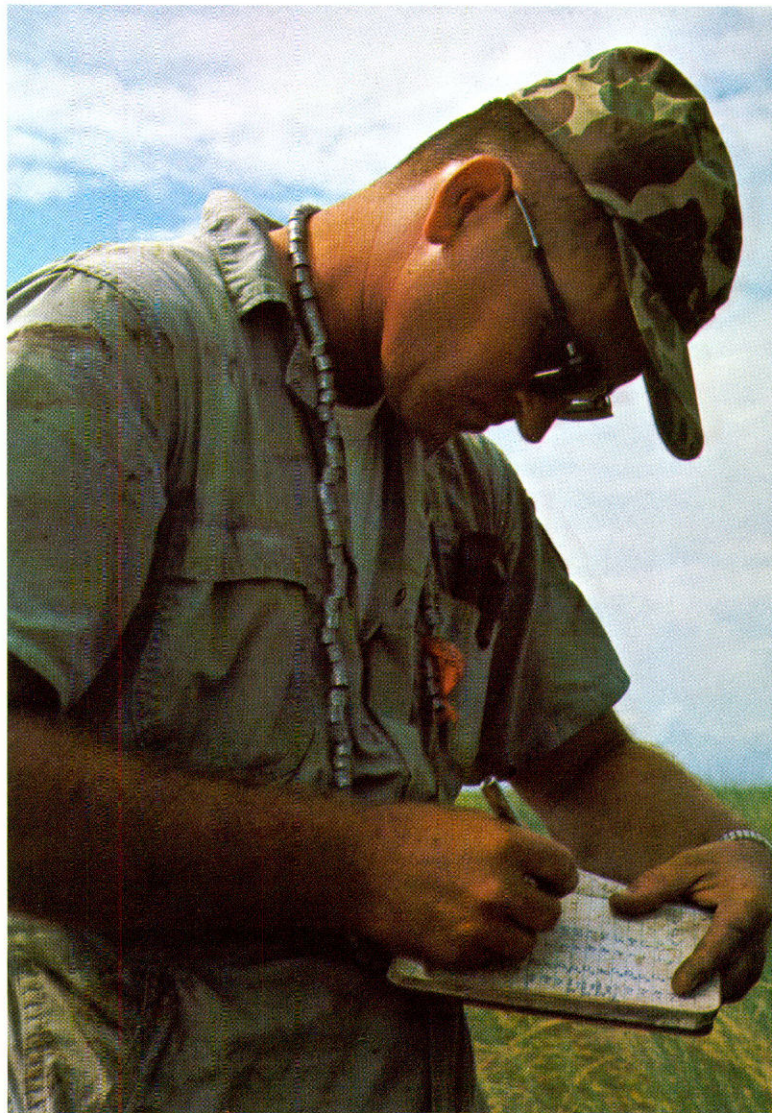
phone or electric wires. Hunters kill them during the hunting season. Some biologists even recapture the same birds at their stations during successive seasons.

Banding studies through the years have given a great deal of insight into waterfowl problems. Using a computer system and sophisticated statistical techniques, the pulse of waterfowl populations may be felt.

Banding data plays a large role in setting waterfowl hunting regulations. Information from band returns provides a look at hunting pressure and annual kill. This gives the waterfowl technician a foundation on which to provide the hunter with maximum sporting opportunity while ensuring the perpetuation of waterfowl species.

The science of waterfowl management is becoming more and more technical and a growing amount of research is done by highly trained scientists who use the most intricate of modern equipment. Yet, the sportsman is still a vital, productive, and indispensable part.

The banding of birds would be useless if there were no one to report finding the banded fowl. Only when the bird is recovered, and the recovery information is reported by the hunter, is the story complete. Persons finding banded birds should send place where shot, date, band number, and any other pertinent information. This is an area of waterfowl management where scientist and hunter can work together toward the goal of a continuing, plentiful supply of waterfowl. **





Texas and Bug Warfare

Cover—Bob Felling; Bronica, 50mm; Ektachrome X; 1/60@f/11; near London.

Inside Front Cover—Nancy McGowan; Grumbacher watercolor; D'Arches illustration board.

Pages 2-5—Dan Klepper; near Concan.

Page 6—George McKinney; Bronica, 75mm; Ektachrome X; 1/125@f/16; Murphree Wildlife Mgt. Area.

Page 7—(top left and right) C. D. Stutzenbaker; (middle left) Paul Hope; (middle right) Stutzenbaker.

Page 8—(both) Stutzenbaker; Graflex; 1/200@f/22; Murphree Wildlife Mgt. Area.

Page 9—McKinney; Bronica, 75mm; Ektachrome X; (top left) 1/125@f/16; (top right and lower right) 1/125@f/8; Murphree Wildlife Mgt. Area.

Page 12—Hope; Inks Lake State Park.

Page 13—Felling; Bronica, 75mm; Ektachrome X; 1/60@f/11; Inks Lake State Park.

Page 16&17—(top) McKinney; Bronica, 200mm; Ektachrome X; 1/125@f/5.6; Austin. (bottom) Felling; Bronica, 50mm; Ektachrome X; (16) 1/8@f/16; (17) 1/125@f/8; near London.

Page 20&21—McGowan; Grumbacher watercolor; (20) Crescent 300 illustration board; (21) D'Arches board.

Page 24—McKinney; 4x5 View Camera, 150mm; Ektachrome X; 1/25@f/32; Davis Mountains State Park.

Page 26—(top) Richard Moree; 4x5 View Camera, 150mm; Ektachrome X; 1/125@f/32. (middle) McKinney; Bronica, 50mm; Ektachrome X; 1/60@f/22; Davis Mountains State Park.

Page 27—(top left) Moree; 4x5 View Camera, 150mm; Ektachrome X; 1/50@f/11; (middle and lower left) Hasselblad, 80mm; 1/60@f/16. (right) McKinney; 4x5 View Camera, 150mm; Ektachrome X; 1/2@f/32; Davis Mountains State Park.

Page 30—McGowan; Grumbacher watercolor; Crescent 300 illustration board.

Page 32—McGowan; pen and ink; Weber scratchboard.

Inside Back Cover—McKinney; Bronica, 75mm; Ektachrome X; 1/125@f/16; Murphree Wildlife Mgt. Area.

FAREWELL TO TEXAS—A VANISHING WILDERNESS, by William O. Douglas, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1967, 242 pages, illustrated, \$6.96.

Emphatically stressing the need for conservation in Texas, Justice Douglas vividly describes the rapid disappearance of the State's diverse and widely ranged natural beauty.

He claims that Texas is being despoiled by modern Aahbs who are stealing nature's treasures for their own gain. Overgrazing has transformed vast grasslands into barren wastelands of sand and scrub brush. Draining game-rich thickets for oil drilling and lumber milling has destroyed the habitats of many near extinct species. Great stands of virgin woods have been and are being harvested with no foresight or planning to the future. Many of Texas' scenic beauty spots are being flooded by unneeded dams.

In taking his position, Douglas soundly denounces Texans for being unappreciative of the beauty around them and challenges them to action for conservation. He depicts the majority of Texans as money-grubbing capitalists with only a few good ones scattered around the State who will be the saviors of nature for coming generations.

Within his chapters, he describes the exact location of each area about which he talks. He also gives the fauna and flora present and the geologic history. Intertwined among these data are anecdotes involving the people particular to an area, as well as a few unique local recipes.

With a dominant tone of conservation, Douglas tells the story of the wilds of the Big Thicket in East Texas, the beauty of Big Bend, and the arid expanses of West Texas. He travels down the treacherous canyon waters of the Rio Grande in a rubber raft. Another chapter begins with the history and culture of the primitive River People along that "Large River," and ends with an objection to the building of "unnecessary dams."

Douglas sensuously describes the great Davis Mountains which protrude from the Chihuahu Desert in West Texas, and warns that exploitation may ruin much of their irreplaceable beauty. He vividly traces the despoiling of Capote Falls, and then pleads for the saving of the golden eagle.

Part of the Capitan Reef, the towering limestone formations of Guadalupe Peak and El Capitan, jut high above the

Texas landscape and hold secrets from time immemorial. Douglas commends the establishment of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park before the escarpment was exploited for its mineral treasures.

The McKittrick Canyons are also a focusing point, being the habitat of unique wildlife and flora. In the south canyon, more than 20 species of insects new to science have been discovered, some representing new genera.

Ending his volume in "the land of 1,100 springs," Douglas denounces once again the building of "needless" dams, and the possibility of further destruction of the Texas Hill Country in the central part of the State.

Throughout the book, misusers of the land are alluded to as "modern Aahbs," giving views in the volume a superimposed tone of righteousness. Douglas denounces not only the "commercial Aahbs" for their overgrazing, fencing, and industrial projects, but also the "official Aahbs" who sit in Washington and Austin. Speaking for conservation with the exaggeration of a seasoned lawyer, he effectively expresses the need to save Texas' dwindling wilderness areas.

—Bob Felling

"THE BUG BOOK," HARMLESS INSECT CONTROLS, written and published by John and Helen Philbrick, P.O. Box 96, Wilkinson-ville, Mass., 147 pages, illustrated, \$3.50.

"Why not kill 'em all off, and be done with it?" This human reaction to bugs, or other competing forms of life, is a common one. Sometimes it is said only half seriously, in exasperation, or even in humor. But all too often it is meant in deadly earnest.

This is a "cut off your nose to spite your face" philosophy. Attempts at wholesale extermination can boomerang unpleasantly, as we are beginning to find out from the use of such devastating insecticides as DDT. While the target insects often develop immunity to these, we cannot yet assess the final consequences to all other living things, including ourselves.

"THE BUG BOOK" suggests a much more gentle and sane approach. The authors, who have gardened successfully for a number of years, using the bio-dynamic method, had many urgent requests to compile this volume

of harmless insect controls. They advise studying the enemy and learning, if not to like, at least to respect him and his place in the overall scheme of things. Some such "enemies" can turn out even to be benefactors to man at some stage, and certainly there is not a creature that does not have a degree of importance in the universe. Man just needs to step back and see the whole picture more clearly in focus, and get a better understanding of nature's interrelationships.

This does not mean that man must allow himself to be victimized or overrun with pests. Careful study reveals ways to control and live at peace with them, and often benefit from them, as the Philbricks have done on their three productive acres of garden and fruit trees. Here, wild birds and insects fit into the pattern without molestation except when some one detail gets out of hand. Adequate fertilization and treatment of the soil is carried out, and mutually helpful plants are put together which repel or attract certain bugs as may be desired. Beneficial insects and birds are encouraged. Occasional handpicking of some bugs is needed, or the use of non-toxic materials and substances.

The remedies listed have been tried and proven by the authors over the years. It is an education and a delight to read about them. Some of the materials may be unfamiliar, but worth tracking down. Others are more readily to hand, such as table salt, oil, lime, wood ashes, and soap. The old saying that you can trap more flies with sugar than vinegar is a true one, especially if you add stale beer to the sugar! And rabbits just hate Epsom salts!

The quotations from old horticultural masters and publications are of deep interest. The observations of the authors themselves are equally so. Their style is light and entertaining, yet they manage to convey a great deal of information and genuine conviction. The pen and ink insect illustrations throughout the book are sprightly and affectionate, and do much to add to its value. The typed and mimeographed style of the book and its plastic, "spaghetti" binding are unpretentious, but add to the charm. A comprehensive index and the easily turned pages, with lots of space for notes, make it very easy to use.

A modest book this, but it contains much wisdom. The authors hope that "people will learn more about bugs so they may also know wonder and appreciation and reverence for the quality of livingness which surrounds us everywhere on this earth." As well as pointing readers to this goal, the book helps them along the way to cultivate more healthy and bountiful gardens.

—Joan Pearsall

Long Shots Short Casts

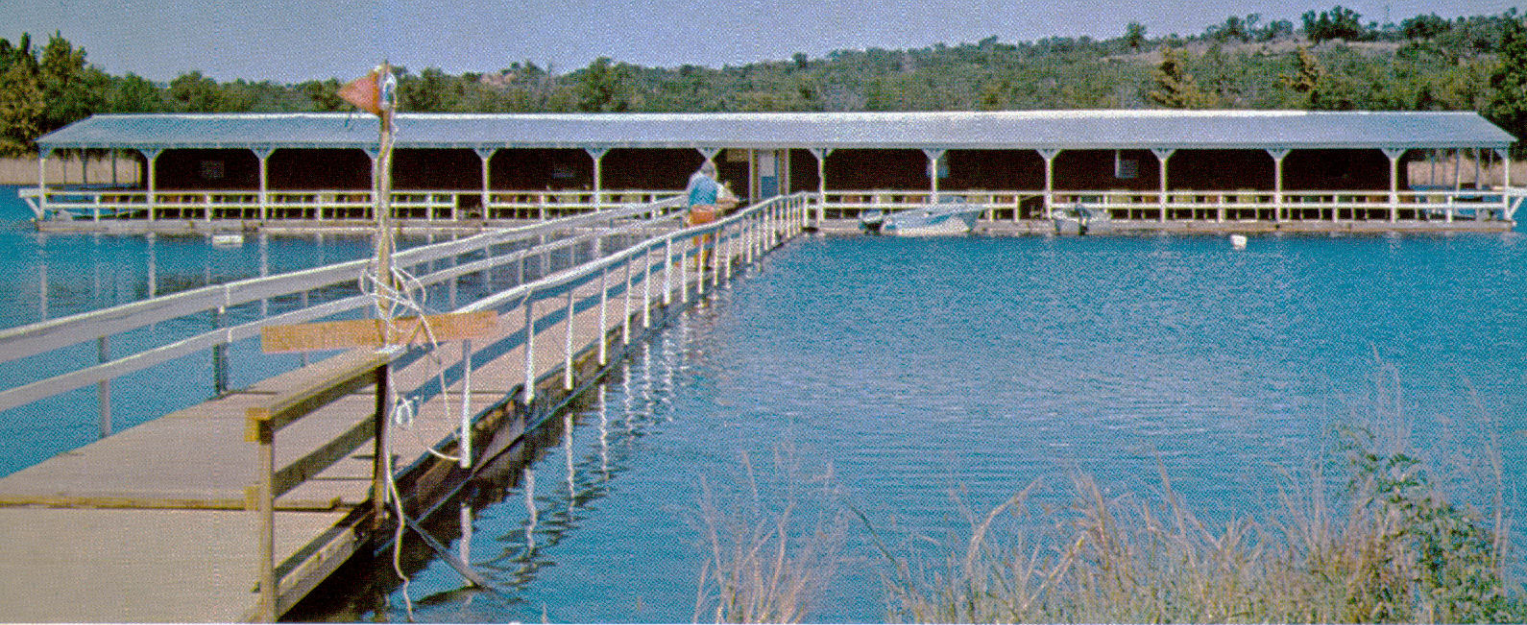
Compiled by Joan Pearsall

CATS OUT OF THE BAG: Before going on a hunting trip to Mexico, sportsmen should note that it no longer is possible to kill jaguar there without restriction. The animal now is protected by strict, year-round regulation, and may be hunted only by special government permit. Application should be made directly to the General Director of Wildlife of Mexico, Dr. Rodolfo Hernandez Corzo, Aquiles Serdan No. 28, Mexico 3, D.F.

COURTING CONSERVATION: Some recent court cases over the country have had interesting results from the conservation point of view. One case was that of some Illinois property owners who went to court and won a \$48,000 ruling when they contended that a proposed power line across their duck-hunting lands would scare away ducks and thus reduce the value of the property. In Indiana, a leading conservationist filed suit when the state condemned property for a road through a marsh he has preserved for waterfowl, and where limited hunting is permitted. The state had offered \$18 per acre; a jury, after hearing the damage that would occur to wildlife, upped the condemnation price to \$45 an acre. In both these cases it was hoped that the stiffer price would lead the builders to take an alternate route. A dairy farmer in Arkansas won a somewhat different type of case when he sued the city of Springdale. His farm lies outside the city limits, on a downstream portion of a river he claimed was polluted by the city. The \$38,000 judgment he won was recently upheld by the Arkansas Supreme Court. Such decisions may encourage other city governments to be more careful.

SANITARY CENTENNIAL. To celebrate Canada's centennial year, every city, town and trading post across that nation is sponsoring some type of festival. Activities range from lavish cultural events to simple ceremonies. Probably the most original event was held in a small village in Manitoba. The residents had just installed their first sewage disposal system and to celebrate this achievement, and Canada's 100th birthday, they hauled all the outhouses to the center of town and had a mammoth bonfire.

COASTING TO DESTRUCTION: A recent study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows that in the past 20 years 570,000 acres of basic fish and wildlife habitat in the nation's estuarine areas have been lost due to dredging and filling. The greatest loss has occurred in California, where 67 percent of such habitat has been destroyed. This has occurred largely in the San Francisco-Suisan Bay area, where 192,000 acres, of a total 294,000 acres are gone. Once lost, such acreage cannot be reclaimed as a natural resource.



Catch Dynamite

CARP FISHING is an enjoyable and gratifying sport for the whole family, from making dough bait with your own special touch to hooking a fighting 10-pounder. Once holding a low status with anglers, these bottom-feeders are becoming more and more popular as fishermen find carp to be hard fighters and about as abundant as sunfish.

German or European carp are native to Asia but were imported to Western Europe and the United States. In spawning during May and June, the female lays as many as 24,000 eggs per pound of body weight. With such reproductive abilities, these Eu-

ropean carp have taken hold in American waters and have spread like wildfire. Three principal types of carp are the leather carp with no scales, the mirror carp with only a few large scales, and the scaled carp, which is the most abundant and most popular in Texas waters.

Carp weighing from 3 to 20 pounds are common catches. Thick and scrappy, these rough fish dive deep and fight hard, bending double both the flimsy spinning rigs and light surf fishing tackle. A cane pole or a stout casting rod and reel equipped with 18-pound test line are most efficient in hooking carp. Treble hooks, sizes 10 to 6, with wire

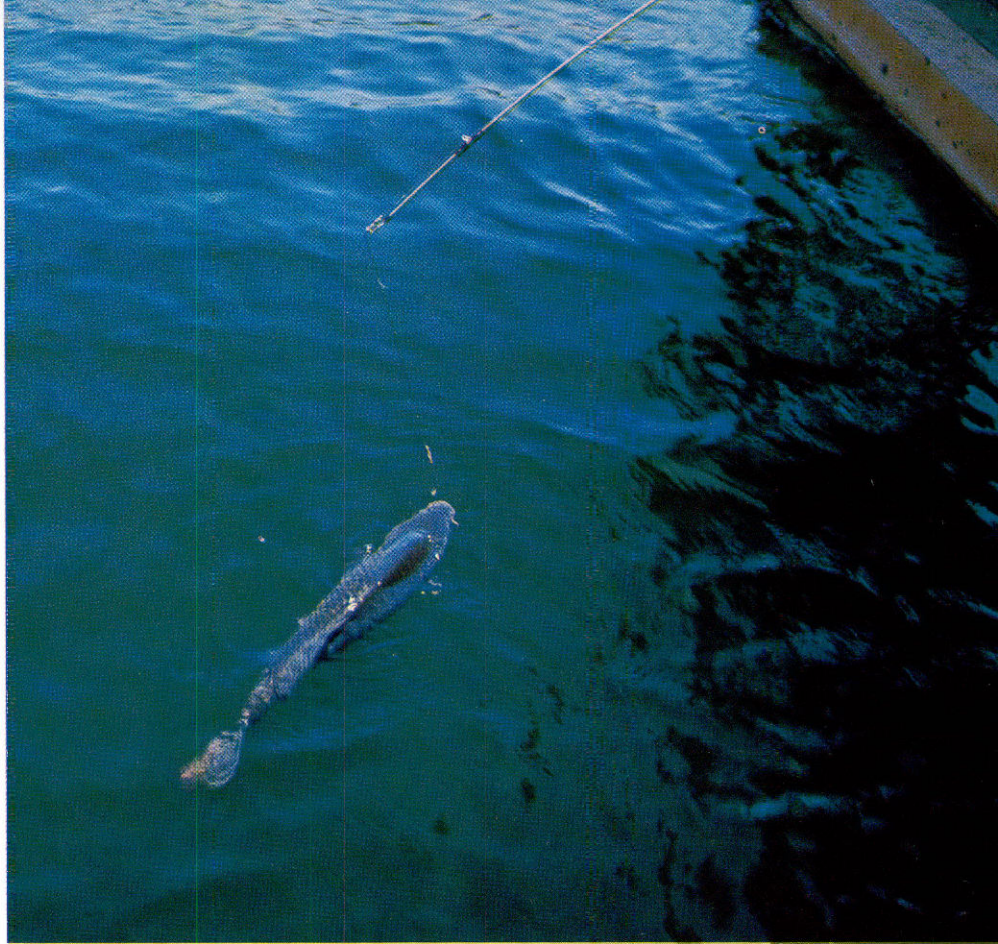
bait holders around the shanks to secure the dough bait will help assure a catch.

After acquiring the proper tackle, several things may be done to insure a profitable fishing trip. A preliminary step is to bait the place where you plan to fish in order to attract the carp. Fermented maize and corn is most effective although a bread feeder is recommended by many fishermen. To make a bread feeder, punch holes in the sides of a large can, weight it with a rock, fill it with bread, and submerge it. The dissolved bread releases a carp-alluring scent through the water.

Other attractors of carp include

Fishing for carp from commercial piers, barges, and marinas can be profitable since they are easily baited.

Angler's battle is not always ended when the fish is brought to the surface. He still has to be landed.



on Dough Bait

by Bob Felling
Editorial Assistant

bales of alfalfa or peanut hay, aromatic woods such as cedar, pine, or spruce, bags of rotten potatoes, or simply canned whole kernel corn.

Carp feed in shallow or deep waters where there is brush. A day or so after a chosen spot is properly baited in most lakes, the fisherman is almost guaranteed a tussle from a school of carp.

Carp feed in droves like pigs, moving from place to place around a lake or river. Once they find a feeding site, they move in *en masse* and stay until the food supply is gone. While they are feeding, practically anything found in the kitchen will catch

carp. However, a combination of kitchen foodstuffs in the form of dough bait proves most effective. Dough bait may be prepared by many formulas using various combinations of ingredients. The aim is to mix a sweet, pasty dough which will adhere to a hook.

For a tough and durable dough bait almost impossible to remove from the hook, Art Williams of Des Moines, Iowa, recommends the following recipe:

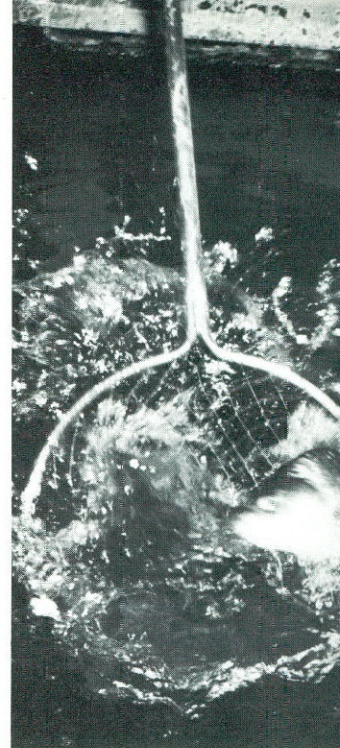
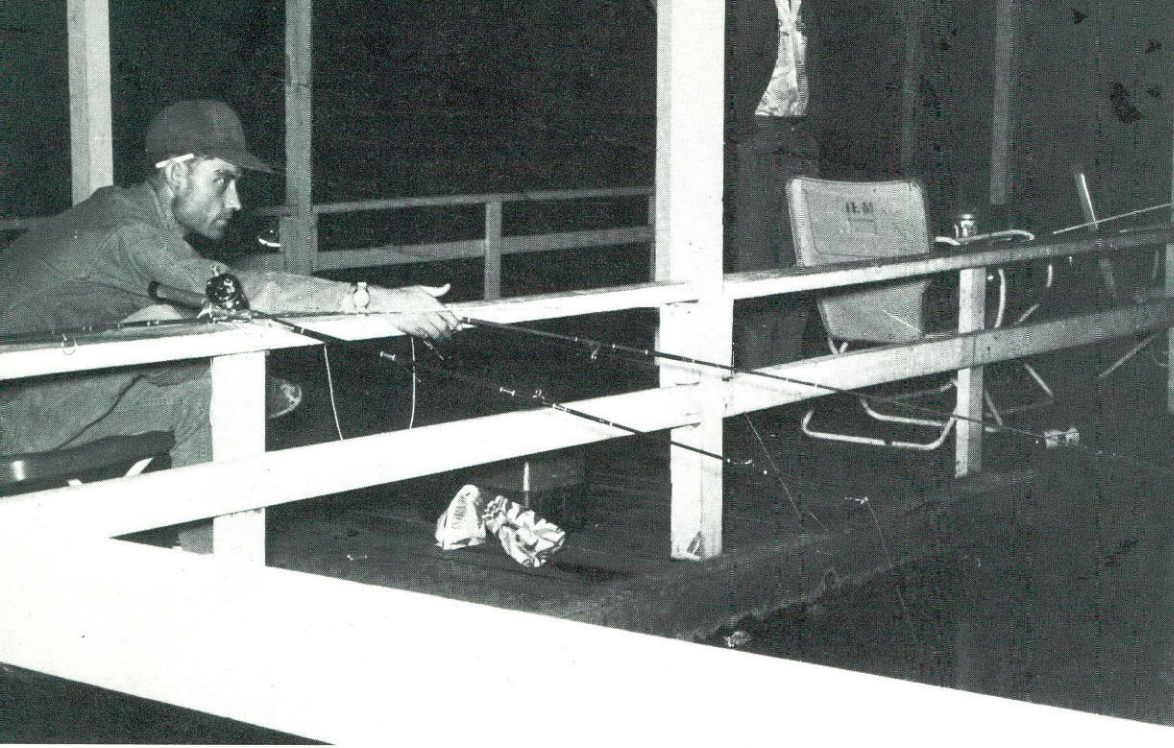
1½ cups yellow corn meal
2 tablespoons instant oatmeal
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup cold water

Water, sugar, and oatmeal are stirred together. Add one cup cornmeal and

stir. Place on medium hot fire, stirring constantly from five to seven minutes until the dough works up into a stiff ball. Remove the pan from the fire. Add the rest of the cornmeal into the cooked dough and work it well into the mixture. The resulting dry dough is placed on a paper and thoroughly kneaded. Before wrapping the dough in paper for a fishing trip, allow it to cool; if not, the dough will sweat and soften. If too much sugar is added, the dough will be sticky. If not enough, the dough will not be rubbery.

Williams suggests using a No. 4 Carlisle hook, with a half-ounce slip sinker rigged to run freely along the line but stopped about 12 inches above the hook by a small piece of matchstick tied in the line.

One formula, used by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Marbury at Inks Lake



Rod should not be held but watched closely for the slightest movement of the tip.

State Park, is the following:

- 1 regular box 40% bran flakes
- 3 ounces grated longhorn cheese
- 5 tablespoons honey
- water
- flour

Crush bran flakes. Mix flakes, cheese, honey, and water to desired consistency. If the mixture becomes too thin, flour will thicken it.

Louis Stessel of San Antonio places his reputation as a carp fisherman on the following dough bait recipe:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups cottonseed meal
- 2 cups dry cereal
- 2 cups oatmeal
- 2 cups molasses
- 2 cups water
- ½ cup vanilla extract

Mix the flour and cottonseed meal and set aside. Next, mix the dry cereal and oatmeal. Add molasses, vanilla extract, and water to this and blend thoroughly. Add this wet mixture to the cottonseed meal and flour mixture and knead until the right texture is achieved.

Many other formulas incorporate corn syrup, cinnamon, oil of anise, maple syrup, bubble gum, nutmeg, cloves, onion, and garlic in various amounts of mixtures.

If you would rather not make carp bait, they also like canned corn, balls of bread, cake, biscuit

dough, frozen strawberries or blueberries, and buds from cottonwood trees. Earthworms, grubs, shrimp, minnows, crayfish, artificial flies, and spinner lures also take the carp's fancy on occasion. Also, there are several commercially prepared dough baits on the market which are available at most marinas and bait houses.

Even a baited fishing hole, the best of equipment, and a delectable dough bait cannot insure the landing of a carp. These wily fish will suck on the bait until they loosen it from the hook if you give them the chance. A slightest twitch of the tip of the pole will telegraph the presence of a carp going after the bait. Then it is a guessing game as to when the carp has the hook in his mouth. The fish seldom will give a hefty tug on the line more than once. A fisherman must concentrate on the movement of his rod tip and be ready to jerk at the slightest tug. It takes practice and patience but, once mastered, the technique of catching carp will afford hours of lively fishing.

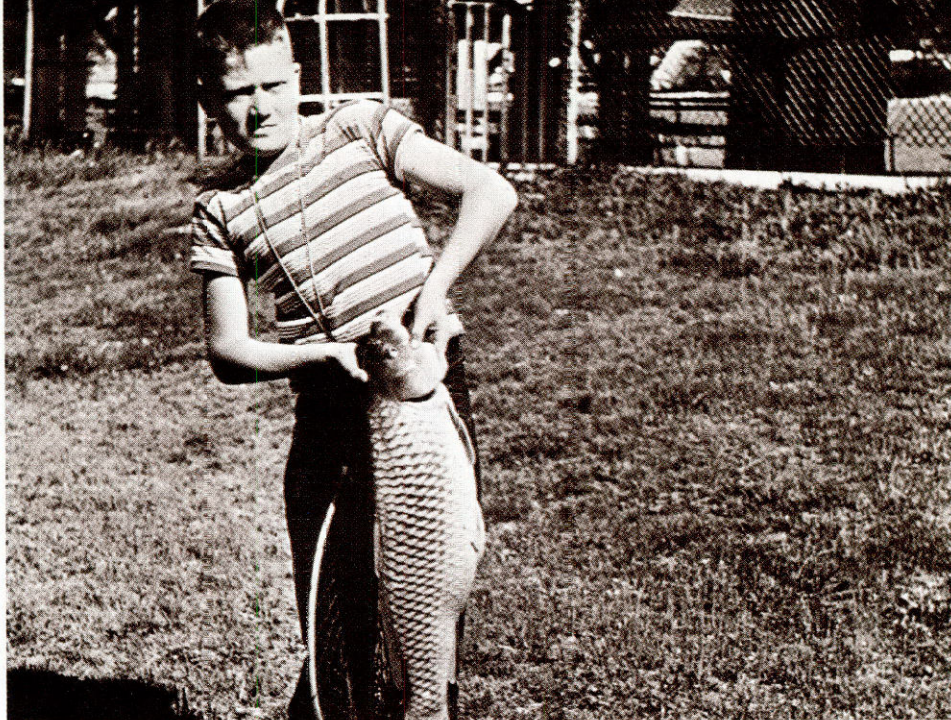
Technique is a major consideration in catching carp, according to Jim and Cotton Warren of Gatesville. One night recently at the dock at Inks Lake State Park, we

all used basically the same type of dough bait, theirs being homemade and mine being a commercial brand. Before the night was over, they had landed better than 100 pounds of carp and I was still trying to hook my first fish.

The Warrens' bait consisted of Wheaties, cottonseed meal, Karo syrup, sugar, oatmeal, flour, and vanilla. They admitted that this formula was so well-known and widely used in the Belton area that carp were reluctant to bite on it there. Obviously, the Inks Lake carp have no qualms about taking the mixture.

A note of warning: don't hold your pole when fishing for carp. Lay it down and balance it in such a way that you can see the tip of the pole move at the slightest disturbance on the end of the line. Also, be sure to secure the rod with a piece of rope or a rock. Jim Warren lost a glass rod and casting reel recently when a carp took his bait and ran with it.

After catching and before cleaning a carp, hang it by its head and cut off the tail to let it bleed. Then skin it and fillet it, cutting out the dark portion of meat down the side. This area has a bloody, very fishy taste that many persons say tastes like mud.



From making your own dough bait, to cooking with your own recipe, carp fishing can be fun.

Carp is a delicacy in Europe and the East and is prepared in various ways for festive occasions. Some of the exotic recipes as well as some campsite favorites are listed below.

Serbian Carp

- 2 lbs. carp
- ¼ lb. butter
- 2 finely chopped onions
- 3 tbsps. tomato paste
- ¼ lb. chopped mushrooms
- salt
- red pepper
- flour
- water

Roll carp in flour seasoned with salt and red pepper, sear in butter. After removing carp, sautee onions and mushrooms. Add tomato paste, little water. Put carp in and stew until well done.

Carp in Beer (Czechoslovakian recipe)

- 2 lbs. carp
- 1½ pints dark beer
- 1 medium onion
- 1 stalk celery
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 sprig parsley
- ¼ lb. butter
- ½ cup gingerbread crumbs

Mince onion, add celery, bay leaf, thyme, parsley. Add beer and salt, bring to a boil. Cut carp into pieces, place into the sauce. Cook for 10-15 minutes on low fire. Remove carp from

sauce; thicken sauce with gingerbread crumbs, strain, stir in butter. The sauce must be creamy and hot; then pour it over carp.

Carp Stew

- 4 lbs. carp, filleted
- ¼ lb. bacon
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. sugar

Fry bacon in a dutch oven or small kettle until crisp, then add other ingredients and simmer for 45 minutes.

Carp Fish Cakes

- 1 cup flaked cooked carp
- 3 cups mashed potatoes
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tbsps. bacon grease
- ½ tsp. butter
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. paprika

Mix carp, potatoes, bacon grease, butter, salt, pepper, and paprika; then add beaten egg. Shape into cakes and pan fry in hot grease until a golden brown.

Carp Chowder

- 2 lbs. carp, filleted
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup flour
- chopped onions to taste
- dash of thyme
- salt
- paper
- water

Simmer carp, onions, celery, thyme, salt, and pepper slowly in water for

30 minutes, then thicken with a roux of butter and flour.

Baked Carp (Louis Stessel Style)

- 10 lbs. carp
- 5 medium onions, sliced
- 7 buds garlic
- 5 celery stalks, sliced
- large can tomato juice
- white pepper
- salt

Cut carp into cross sections. Season with salt and white pepper. Garnish with onions and celery. Mash garlic, mix with tomato juice, and pour over the fish. Bake at 400 degrees until done.

Carp can also be canned. Fillet the carp and put the sections into glass jars with one teaspoon of salt per pint of cut fish. Cook under 10 pounds of pressure for two hours. The carp will taste much like tuna or salmon.

For those who prefer not to try the exotic, fried carp is just the dish. Roll the filleted fish in yellow corn meal and fry in near-boiling grease for an old-fashioned fish fry.

Carp fishing is a fishing experience for the entire family—and it's very inexpensive. A cane pole, 15 feet of strong line, a sinker, and a treble hook, plus a few kitchen supplies will set you up for a fish-filled excursion of excitement and good eating. **



Squirrel Hunting . . .

Aim for

BUSHYTAIL! This has been the hunter's watchword for challenging sport since colonial days. Needs for sharp senses, watchful patience, and keen marksmanship have combined to make squirrel hunting an ageless enjoyment for rifleman and shotgun hunter alike.

However, because the heavy foliage that once harbored millions of squirrels is dwindling, bushy-tails are not so abundant as they once were. Nevertheless, the sporting elements of hunting them remain, and this small game still rates high on the sportsman's menu.

Gray and fox squirrels are both hunted in Texas. Grays, also called cat squirrels, are the smaller of the two species, but are more popular to hunt for several reasons. Skittish like a cat, grays offer better sport since they run to elude the hunter, whereas the fox squirrel tries to hide on the backside of a tree limb and stay positioned away from the gunman. Grays are more sociable than their larger cousins and are more likely to be found in groups. Also, the meat of the gray squirrel is more palatable than that of the fox squirrel.

Squirrels prefer to live in dense woodlands where treetops are interlaced and where there is an abundance of vines. Since squirrels in Texas do not hibernate or store food in their nests, there must be a ready supply of food throughout the year. Foodstuffs consist of nuts and seeds such as acorns, pecans, bitter-pecans, walnuts, blackgum, sweetgum, and blackhaw. Various berries, some small animals, and insect larvae round out the diet.

Prime squirrel country must have a water supply nearby and the ground must be soft. Loose soil is needed, especially for gray squirrels, since they bury nuts and seeds in the ground for removal when food is harder to obtain. These squirrels find the buried food with their remarkable sense of smell rather than by their poor memory. As a result, less than half of the buried cache is ever recovered. If the ground is too hard for the squirrel to dig, the animal will leave for an area more suited to its storage needs.

After finding a probable squirrel habitat, a hunter can confirm their availability if there are broken

Broken nutshells and rustling tree limbs are signs that a squirrel is near.



he Bark

nutshells and seed pods in the area. Another sign is the "cuttings" of twigs and leaves which squirrels use for building their nests. Of course, visible nests in trees or their nesting hollows in tree trunks are the more obvious tip-offs.

Knowing the squirrel's feeding habits is of primary concern when hunting. A squirrel eats daily and likes neither heat nor cold. Consequently, the best time to hunt squirrels is in the dawning hours of spring and summer days. At this time the bannertails are moving about actively in search of breakfast before their siesta on a shaded limb through the heat of mid-afternoon.

Although squirrels do feed in the cool of the evening at times, they seem to have a more voracious appetite in the morning and are most active at that time. Some squirrels will start their daily food hunt in the predawn blackness, and it is a good idea to take your hunting position by twilight so as not to startle the quarry.

Depending on the hunter's choice, either a small bore rifle or a shotgun can be used to hunt the elusive "graytail." Some persons declare that hunting squirrels with any firearm other than a small bore rifle ruins the sport. The thrill of the hunt is in coaxing the curious animal to peek around a limb, and offer its head as a target for just one shot.

However, in high ceiling woodlands, the only shot open may be at a moving target 30 yards up in a tree. Here a shotgun will more likely bring down the game. The .410 or 12 gauge are recommended, the decision resting on the distance the shot will have to reach.

One technique of shooting at such a small target is to "bark" shoot the squirrel by aiming slightly toward the tree-side of the animal's head. If the slug misses the squirrel, it will hit the tree bark, splintering the wood and jarring the bushytail to the ground. If the squirrel hits the ground running, the rifleman has a larger target for his second shot.

Basically, there are three methods of hunting squirrels: still hunting, going along with another hunter, or using a dog. Of the three, still hunting is probably the most utilized method since only one person is involved and a dog is not required. It also

Patience and determination are two main ingredients of a squirrel hunt.





gives a hunter plenty of time to study the habits of his game.

To still hunt, the hunter simply sits still and waits for the squirrel to show itself. A squirrel is as curious as a cat and in a short time, usually 20 to 30 minutes, it will investigate anything unfamiliar in its surroundings. Some will bark at an intruding hunter, seemingly trying to attract attention. Some hunters even use callers to imitate the bark of a sassy squirrel.

While it may not be the most used method, hunting with a companion may be the most effective. A squirrel is quick and alert and is deceptive in remaining on the side of a tree away from a stalking hunter. With hunters on opposite sides of a tree, however, the squirrel can be flushed into the sight of one of the gunmen.

Another technique for squirrel hunting, whether alone or with a companion, is to move through the woods, rustling vines and limbs to scare the bushy-tail from its hiding place. A squirrel running along a limb or scampering among the treetops makes a sporting shot to test the marksmanship of both rifleman and shotgunner.

Whether still hunting or rustling vines, a hunter depends on his sight and hearing to detect his quarry. Chattering barks, falling leaves and twigs, grating teeth on a nutshell, or the sound of claws on tree bark as a squirrel runs are all sights and sounds to give away the presence of a squirrel.

The third hunting method, using a dog, adds another sensory detecting device: the sense of smell. Training a squirrel-hunting dog is not a complicated task, and practically any dog can learn. A hunting dog moves ahead of the hunter, detects a squirrel, and indicates its presence by barking or by quietly watching the quarry in a tree.

After choosing a weapon and planning a hunting strategy, a few important incidentals about squirrel hunting should help bag a limit.

When hunting squirrel, a hunter should be as inconspicuous as possible. Neutral shades of cloth-

ing—browns, grays, and greens—are best.

If the wind is stronger than five miles an hour or so, squirrels will be inactive. They use their heavily furred tails as rudders when they move from treetop to treetop, and if the wind is blowing too fast they cannot navigate well.

Patience pays in squirrel hunting, and it is best to pass up the first animal. They are naturally sociable and will congregate if given a little time. After locating several animals, remember where they are. At the first shot, they may freeze long enough to give you time to ease into position to pick off each squirrel.

Being quiet is also essential when anticipating squirrels. They are nervous creatures and, if frightened, will flatten themselves against a tree limb until they feel the impending danger has had time to pass. Then their curiosity gets the best of them, and they peer out to investigate. A squirrel hunter needs to be perfectly still and quiet, moving his head slowly and as little as possible, then easing his gun into position when a good target is found.

When a frightened squirrel flattens itself against a limb, a hunter can arouse its curiosity and possibly get it to expose itself sooner with a few squirrel-like sounds. An exaggerated kiss simulates a chattering squirrel. Rapping two stones together sounds like a squirrel breaking a nut open with its teeth.

Squirrel hunting seasons and bag limits differ from county to county in Texas. In general, a daily limit of 10 and possession of 20 prevails. Several counties have open seasons year round, while regulated seasons are primarily in the fall and winter months.

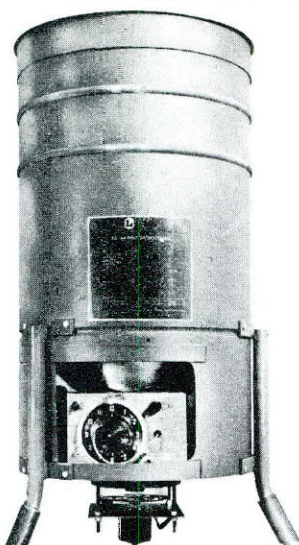
Regardless of the method of hunting you choose or the weapon you use, you will find that hunting squirrels will sharpen your awareness in the out-of-doors. Skills needed to take any type of game are implemented, and if you are a proficient squirrel hunter, chances are that you will have a profitable hunt no matter what your quarry may be. **

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Cotton-mouthed Terror

by Joan Pearsall

WATER is a well-known tranquilizer, to fish in, to ride on, or to take a dip in, but when it is shared by a swimming snake, fear takes over in an instant.

In many cases, such a water snake turns out to be "one of the good guys." But if you are suddenly confronted on land or water with a menacing, gaping white mouth in a wide, triangular head, followed by a rapidly vibrating tail, then that is something to worry about.

Because it is often difficult to tell quickly if a water snake is one of the harmless varieties, there is a general tendency to pin all of them with the label moccasin or cottonmouth. A conspicuous pit between the eye and nostril, and a single row of scales under the tail identify the venomous kind—if you can get close enough. The obvious giveaway is the shape of the head and the fearsome white mouth which gave rise to his name. Non-poisonous water snakes usually will flee quickly or drop into the water with a splash, but the cottonmouth will stand his ground or crawl slowly away.

Cottonmouth or water moccasin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, is a member of the pit viper family, and is closely related to the copperhead. The variety in Texas is found from Mississippi into southern Illinois, and westward to southeastern Kansas, Oklahoma, and Central Texas. In East Texas his kind is very numerous, preferring habitats of lowlands, swamps, lakes, rivers, rice fields, and ditches.

Adults may exceed four feet in length, but average much less. They are stout, stocky snakes

with heads distinctly wider than the necks, and pupils of the eyes vertically elliptical. The chiseled or triangular shape of the head, and the haughty way it is usually held aloft, seem to give the snake a certain dignity. The deep facial pit on each side of the head is a sensory organ that helps in aiming accurately when striking. The name "pit viper" refers to this characteristic.

Coloration is variable, with shades of brown or olive and dark-edged crossbands on the back, while the underside is a blotched, light buff or tan. Color becomes darker with age, to the extent that some adults appear almost black and lose their patterns completely. The young, and juveniles, are much lighter, with bright reddish-brown crossbands and yellow-tipped tails.

Breeding takes place in the spring, and the 5 to 15 young are born alive in late summer or early fall. At birth, the cottonmouth may be from 6 to 11 inches in length, but they grow fast when food is available. They are fully developed at birth, and exhibit the same habits as adult snakes.

So long as it is meat, the cottonmouth is not particular about his food, being concerned more about how much rather than what he eats. Fish, amphibians, birds, small mammals, reptiles—even his own species—all are acceptable meals. They have been known to eat rattlesnakes, and on one occasion a 14-inch captive cottonmouth ate a 29-inch ribbon snake that was sharing his cage. The ingenious cottonmouth had to double the slender ribbon snake in order to swallow it.





This snake accepts captivity well, although they should not be considered good pets. He eats whatever is handy, breeds readily, and has been known to reach an age of 20 years. His adaptability is one main reason for the persistence of his species through many years of geological time.

The cottonmouth prepares to strike in the manner typical of all pit vipers. He draws the forward part of his body into an S-loop, providing considerable force and speed behind his head for the

strike. The movable fangs are kept folded along the roof of his mouth until the moment of impact, when they are pointed forward toward the victim. During the attack the mouth is opened nearly 180 degrees.

Usually, he does not catch fish while swimming, but waits on the bank for them to swim by, then strikes. He grips the fish tightly in his powerful jaws, driving in his fangs. When the fish gets limp, it is swallowed.

He likes to sun himself at the water's edge,

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and at times wanders from his usual habitat in search of food. In the summer months he often is nocturnal. Among his local names are those of "gapper," describing his open mouth, and "trapjaw," referring to the speedy way he snaps it shut if anything touches it.

It is popularly believed that he cannot bite under water. Actually, he is capable of this feat, although he cannot strike as fast or as far when submerged. For a human, recovery from a bite is to be expected if proper treatment is administered, yet the venom can certainly be fatal. Considering that cottonmouths are so numerous, the incidence of their biting humans is low. The fact that these snakes prefer places seldom invaded by man may account for the relatively few bites. Also, in spite of all the threatening display, they rarely will attack a man unless provoked, and prefer to withdraw if given the opportunity.

Cottonmouths do not commonly get much credit for any such forbearance, even where other snakes might strike with less provocation. Instead, they are generally much feared and despised, and considered to have a vicious and irritable nature. While this is often true, they actually are extremely variable in disposition. Some have been found to be good-natured and hard to provoke, and many experts claim that they have decided personalities and unusual intelligence.

All the same, it is best to use a healthy amount of caution. Don't get too close to one in order to check his personality—even if he is in a cloth bag. They are notorious for biting through those. Freshly killed ones also must be treated warily, for there is a marked reflex action.

In spite of his name, what the cottonmouth has in his mouth most definitely is not cotton, and no one would dispute that guarded diplomacy is called for in any outdoor encounters with this famous Southerner. **



Davis Mountains State Scenic Park . . .

High, Wide, and Lonely

by Barbara Jaska

Parks Interpretation Assistant

WESTERN TEXAS is like no other part of the State. The land west of the Pecos River opens to a broad expanse of rolling plains and hills, covered with light sand and dotted with cacti, shrubs, and stunted, yellow-green trees. Occasionally, one sees a solitary windmill, its blades whirring in the breeze, or a jackrabbit, darting through the brush on lean legs. In the distance, blue foothills rise like sphinxes to meet the metallic sky.

This is Trans-Pecos Texas—a region of scarce rainfall, swirling sandstorms, and the only mountain ranges in Texas. This is a region where ranching is the primary means of earning a living, where the nearest town may be more than an hour's drive away, and where the towns themselves are a cluster of flat-roofed stores bleached by the sun and wind.

In the center of this lonely region—in the heart of the Davis Mountains and adjacent to Fort Davis National Historic Site—is a State scenic park. The "scenic" classification means that the park encompasses an outstanding or unique segment of the Texas outdoors, and the Davis Mountains State Scenic Park does exactly that.

Unlike most of the mountains of West Texas, the Davis Mountains support an abundant growth of range grasses—sideoats grama, silver bluestem, tobosa, and many others. Except in drought years, some of these grasses reach a height of two feet or more.

The more abundant grasses may be explained in terms of higher rainfall and richer soil. The Davis Mountains receive an average of 16 inches of rain per year, most of which occurs in summer; the entire Trans-Pecos receives only about 12 inches.

Moreover, the soil is richer because of its high volcanic content.

The Davis Mountains are believed to have formed as a result of volcanic activity which occurred in the Tertiary period, a geologic age dating back as far as 70 million years. Strewed along the canyon floor of the park are basalt, rhyolite porphyry, and other rock types, which were formed from lava that flowed out onto the surface.

An interesting phenomenon that is particularly evident in the park is the difference in vegetation on northern and southern mountain slopes. Growing on southern slopes are Torrey yucca, Havard agave, Engelmann prickly pear cactus, and other desert plants. On the northern slopes and mountain crests, however, are taller range grasses, Emory and gray oaks, and one-seed juniper.

The reason for the difference is that the southern slopes receive more intense sunlight, making the ground temperature higher and enabling evaporation to take place more quickly. Thus, the more sun-tolerant and drought-resistant plants grow on the south-facing slopes; the vegetation requiring more moisture and less sunlight, on the north-facing slopes.

Other information about the geology, plants, animals, and ecology of the 1,869-acre park and surrounding areas will be available in the park's new interpretive center. The center—the first of its kind in the Texas State parks system—will house a museum, a herbarium (collection of dried plants, mounted and identified), and a special publications counter, all of which will help visitors better understand and enjoy the park's natural history.

A special feature of the center is a wildlife view-



ing window, through which one may observe birds, mammals, and other animals as they come to the feeding and watering stations, situated approximately 40 feet from the window. The underlying principle here is that if food and water are in constant supply, animals will come to the stations frequently, and to some extent, lose their fear of man.

Leading from the center are two trails: a self-guiding nature trail, along which various plants, rocks, and other natural features are identified and described, and a 2½-mile hiking trail. The latter leads to the two overlooks atop the park's highest ridge and connects with the nature trail at Fort Davis National Historic Site. Visitors may pass freely from the State Park to the National Historic Site, a partially restored military post established in 1854 to protect travelers on the old San Antonio-El Paso Road. The fort may also be reached by driving into the town of Fort Davis, six miles west of the park entrance.

During the summer, visitors may gather around an outdoor campfire for a program presented by National or State park personnel, and slide illustrated talks, covering topics on the natural history and history of the park and surrounding area, are given nightly. The campfire circle, an activity already in use in many state and national parks throughout the United States, is another "first" among the State parks of Texas.

The park also has excellent recreational facilities, as a result of a more than one-million-dollar development program just completed there. Trailer and tent camp sites were constructed along the well shaded Keesey Creek, and trailer sites with shade shelters were built just east of the center.

Also included in the development program was the renovation of Indian Lodge, an imposing, white

pueblo-type structure which affords comfortable overnight rooming accommodations. The lodge was first built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many of the walls of the original 15 guest rooms have adobe walls three feet thick, and each room has its own fireplace.

The lodge now has 24 additional guest rooms, a dining room, a recreation room, and a swimming pool. With its tile baths, air conditioning and heating, and carpeting, the lodge is in sharp contrast to the rocky ledges and grass-covered slopes that surround it.

A drive, winding along the side of the park's highest ridge, offers a breathtaking view of the entire park and nearby mountain peaks. From the overlook at the end of the drive (approximately 5,500 feet above sea level), one may see in the distance McDonald Observatory on Mount Locke, Blue Mountain, Mitre Peak, and Haystack Mountains, and far below, the town of Fort Davis and the site of the old fort.

The combination of interpretive and recreational facilities at the Davis Mountains State Scenic Park make it one of the finest State parks in Texas. If you're planning a trip to Carlsbad Caverns, El Paso, or the Big Bend region, the park is a must on your list of places to visit.

**



Scenic panorama of the park greets visitors as they enter Keesy Canyon. From the self-buiding nature trails, hikers marvel at the abundant walking stick cholla (above), blooming desert verbena (center), or the many fascinating rock formations. Campsites under shady Emory oaks are comfortably designed in scenic surroundings.





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Versatile Gun Rack

Gun racks in pickup trucks have become a status symbol in Texas. It is getting so you rarely see a pickup without one. What's more, not all racks sport guns, although many of them do.

The gun rack has been around for a long time but it took Raymond Hart of the San Angelo Die Casting Co. to popularize them. He made it a functional unit, adjustable to any size pickup or station wagon, and priced within reason.

Racks are important in carrying a gun, whether cased or not, especially if it is outfitted with a scope. Important too, the rack must be rigged where it will not shake and rattle like the front fender of a Model T Ford.

Most of them are installed with metal screws. A lot of rough riding over country roads, however, will gradually weaken the screws and cause the rack to ride loose. The best method is to install them with lag screws, which can be bought at any hardware or most five and dime stores. On some cars it is possible to remove a portion of the metal back and use bolts with nuts and

lock washers. However, the lag screw will do the job.

You usually learn about those things the hard way. Last year, I was riding over a ranch with a cowman. I carried my .22 WMR with a Weaver 1-power shotgun scope in the gun rack. I was aware of a slight rattle but didn't bother to check. We got into a jack-rabbit pasture and I couldn't hit one and apparently couldn't even come close. After three or four shots I knew something was wrong. We put up a target and I was shooting three inches to the left. We then checked the gun rack and it was easy to see how the scope had been jarred off center.

It might even be possible to jar a safety loose in the same manner. However, the gun should never be carried loaded, even on the backside of a ranch. Town drivers would do well not to keep cartridges in the magazine.

You don't have to have a pickup, however, for a good gun rack for carrying your gun. One now has been designed for the automobile trunk. They are adjustable and available in several different sizes. They fasten to the trunk lid of the car and are made to carry cased guns. This also is an ideal ar-

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rangement. Under lock, the gun is out of sight, and has utmost protection. Also, it is easier to get a sturdy fastener for trunk racks, because holes can be drilled through the braces and superstructure, and they can be bolted solid.

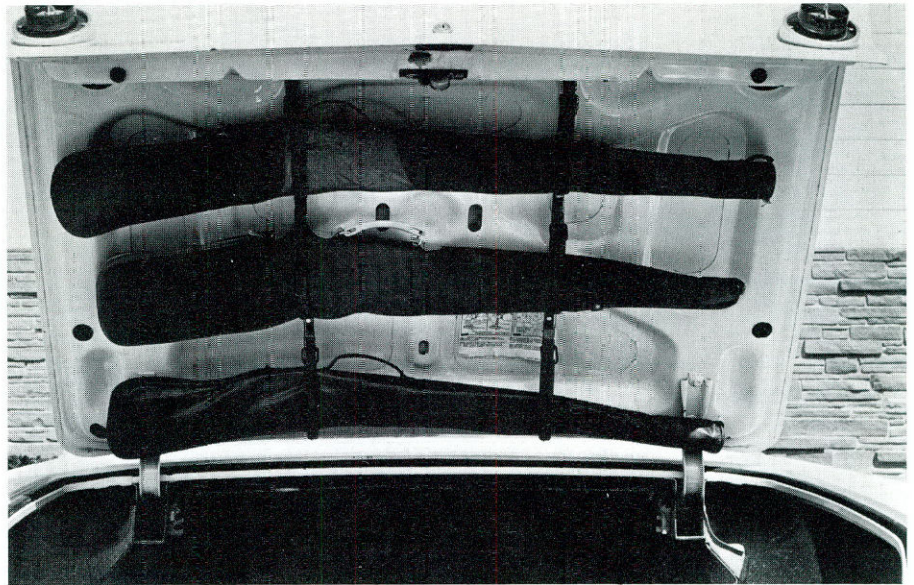
Many other uses can be found for these racks besides carrying guns. I've seen racks carrying blueprints, spirit levels, golf clubs, and packages.

Some ranchers hang ropes, fence tools, and prod poles on the hooks. Cattle buyers use them for hanging their heavy walking sticks.

Mothers with rack-equipped station wagons use the hooks to hang kiddie shoes, bathing suits, and other items, including parasols, raincoats, and handbags.

One rancher I know keeps a .22 rifle on the top hook. Below there is a link of dried summer sausage. He says if he gets hungry on the backside of the ranch he cuts off a chunk and eats it like jerky.

So it looks as if the simple gun rack has many other uses. And it is spreading out from Texas to other states, especially in the west. **



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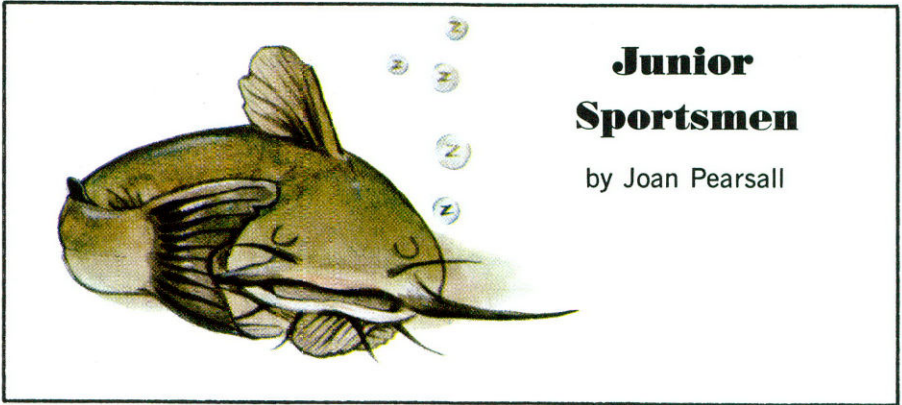
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Animal Sleepers

There are some hidden animals in the following sentences! Look closely, and see if you can find them. (We'll give away the first one.)

1. Try hard in school, and you should *do very* well.
2. The door will slam better if there is a wind.
3. Why is that boy stern with his sister?
4. Many pupils think it is easier to add than to multiply.
5. When the paperboy graduates his brother will have to throw that route.
6. His awful music ran everyone out of the room.
7. When he is famous, everyone wants an actor's autograph.
8. The way to get a good tan, is to bask in knitted swimsuits.
9. She is pretty but not terribly clever.
10. Doing more homework might be a very good way to raise grades.
11. One pillow less will be much more comfortable.
12. Jello, custard and cake are his favorite desserts.

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ANSWERS:
1. dove; 2. lamb; 3. oyster; fern; 4. toad; ant; 5. trout; ape; 6. crane; 7. mouse; hen; 8. sink; 9. offer; 10. beaver; 11. owl; 12. locust. (You may even be able to find more.)

Do fish sleep? That is a very often asked question. Since their eyes never shut, and since there is always the chance of some fish

being around any time of the day or night, there is a widespread belief that they do not sleep.

However, each kind does have a definite daily routine, with a quiet or sleep period and the rest of the time spent in moving around in search of food. Most of them also make trips regularly each day between shallow and deeper water.

They do this in shifts, some most active at night, some during the day, and some preferring dawn and dusk to move around. The daytime wakers have large, well developed eyes, and depend on sight for feeding. The night fish, or those who prefer deep or silty water, rely mostly on their senses of touch and taste. The catfish is an example of this: his barbels help him to locate food when there is little or no light.

There are several different ways fish sleep. Some do so lying down on the bottom of the lake or stream, some erect with tail touching the bottom, some hang suspended in the water, and some bury themselves up to the snout in sand, or slip into an abandoned shell.

Some make careful preparations before they doze off. The tropical queen triggerfish of the Caribbean chooses a place for its bed on rock or sand, then spends some time scouting around the area, chasing off intruders. When dark comes, the fish settles comfortably on its side for a well-earned nap.

One of the cleverest is the fish that sleeps in a nightgown! This is the American striped parrotfish of the ocean. It leans against coral or shells, and secretes a filmy substance all around itself, probably to protect it from attackers. Two openings are left, so that water can enter the fish's mouth, and leave its gills, thus allowing it to "breathe." At sunrise, or if a light is shone on it, the parrotfish swims out of its nightgown.

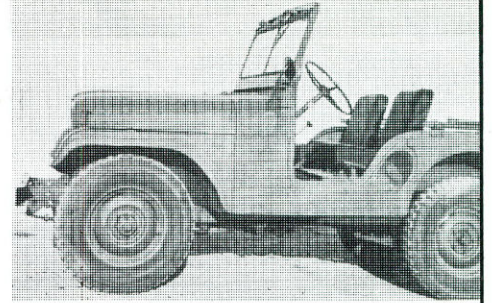
So you see, although fish don't have any eyelids to close, most of them still manage to get in their fair share of snoozing. **

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Letters



to the Editor

Good Mocker

Just a few lines to let the poor, poor guy know that we are not going to take what he called us. I wouldn't call him a name, but I think he should have his head examined because he started it when the other person said that boys shouldn't kill the mocker.

I talked to my father, who is 83 years old, and he said he has yet to see a mocker destroy other birds' nests, and he was an outdoor man, and so am I. The little fruit the mocker eats he deserves, and I wonder how many grapes and tomatoes would be raised if it weren't for the good old mocker.

I sure do thank him for calling us do gooders. To think of a grown man calling the good ladies a name! I feel sorrow for him with all these awful, big tough women jumping on him.

I was listening to the radio, and L. D. Nuckles was telling about how he feeds the birds and how he likes flowers. He was begging people to be more careful of them. Now there's a real man.

Even the sparrow is a good bird. I have seen it catch bugs, butterflies, and those big old green fat worms of the tomatoes, which it couldn't eat but sure tried it. I raise tomatoes, figs, plums and peaches, and I don't have the fruit eaten by birds but by field rats and ground squirrels. They bite in the to-

matoes and suck them out. I had a mocker build a nest in a honeysuckle vine right by my window, and all I ever saw him feed his young were worms, grasshoppers and bugs.

Mrs. G. H. Z.
LaCoste

Bastrop Toad

I would like to commend Barbara Jaska and Dan Scurlock for their excellent and beautifully illustrated article on Bastrop State Park that appeared in the April issue of TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE. I would like also to add to their list of rare and unusual species one that was omitted through no fault of the authors, since it was only recently discovered in this area. This is the rare and relict toad, *Bufo houstonensis*, which was discovered in the Bastrop area only two years ago by some of my graduate students.

This is a species of great biological interest, and to the student of evolution of equal interest to that of the golden cheeked warbler. Both occur where they do because of the southward movement of more northern species during the last glacial period, and the subsequent isolation of remnants of these species in favorable pockets of habitat, as the warming of the climate about 10,000 years ago resulted in the northward retreat of these species. Examples such

as these give us our best evidence as to the rates at which species can evolve, and consequently all such species as these deserve extra care to ensure their preservation.

Unfortunately, *Bufo houstonensis* is a really endangered species, and it is doubtful that it can be saved unless drastic steps are taken. The best habitat and the bulk of the population occur between Bastrop and Buescher parks, and the best breeding choruses are found in an area that is now undergoing real estate development. Hindsight is easier than foresight, but it now appears tragic that a larger area of the remarkable "lost pines" could not be set aside so that its endemic species could be ensured protection. Possibly it is not too late, but I feel that time is rapidly running out insofar as the Houston toad is concerned.

W. Frank Blair
Professor of Zoology
The University of Texas

Pro Parks

This letter is to praise TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE magazine for its outstanding material that we have enjoyed for several years now. We look forward to reading the book from cover to cover when it comes in. We were especially proud when color pictures began appearing in the magazine.

In disagreement with the gentleman who wrote you a letter in the July issue, about the magazine's containing mostly park stories, I think the book contains a lot of good information on things that even good hunters and fishermen need to know for the particular time of the year. If a man strictly wants to read about hunting and fishing only, there are plenty of plain magazines to do just that, but TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE has become a family magazine at our house. We have learned things about nature and animals and places in our State that we may never have learned any other way.

I say, keep up the magazine the way that it is. We have a whole backlog of places we would like to see just from looking at the pictures in your magazine.

Mrs. Eddie Fusilier
Orange

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Airboats are needed to catch ducks for banding in coastal marshes. See page 6.



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