

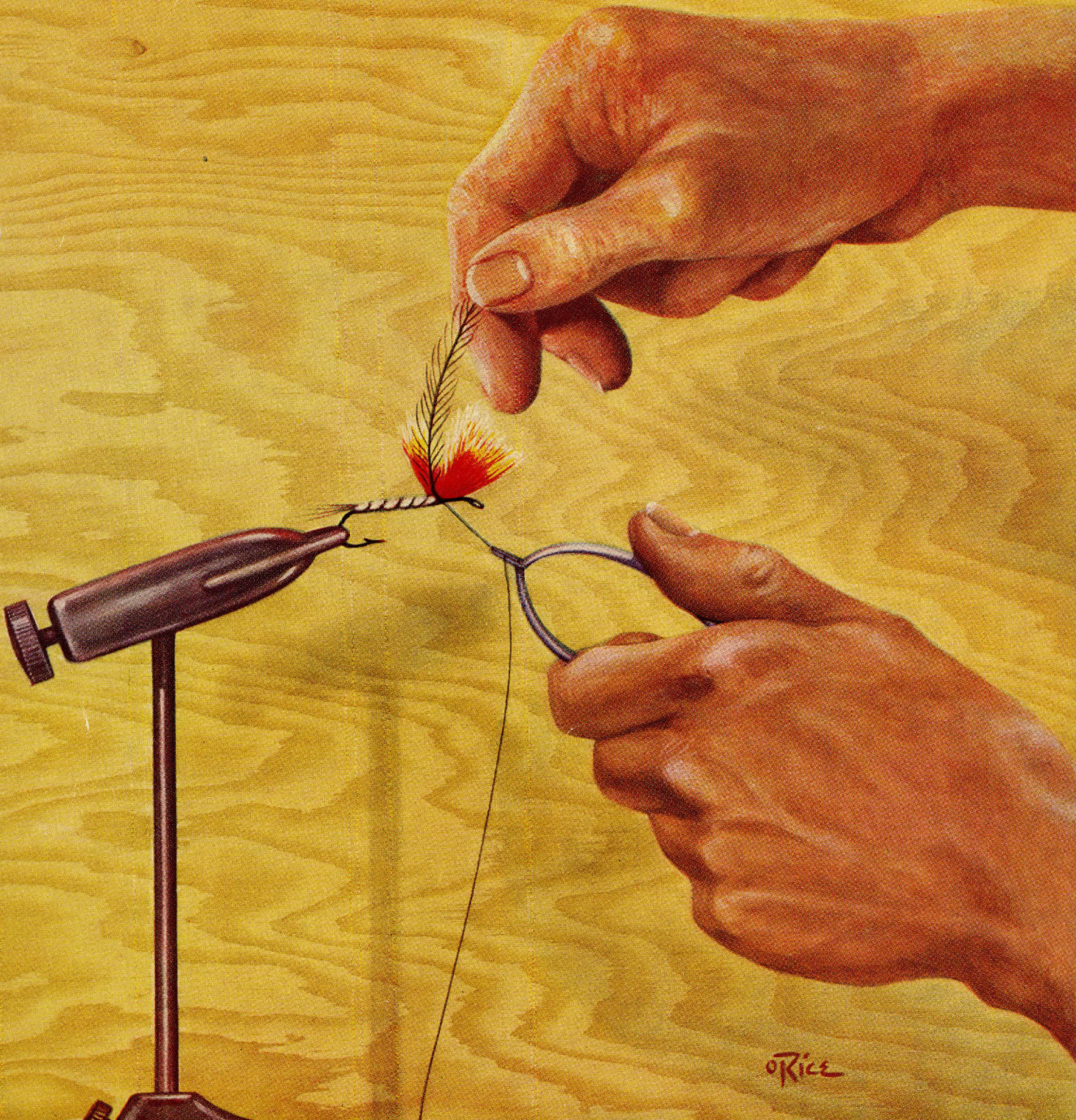
TEXAS Game AND Fish

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THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

Newsletter
for
March, 1949

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

BILLS INTRODUCED

S. B. 246. By Kelley of Hidalgo. This bill would make the deer season in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties coincide with the open season for deer in other counties in the vicinity.

S. B. 182. By Vick. A closed season for a period of five years in McLennan County is provided for in this bill.

S. B. 179. By Weinert. Would legalize the use of minnow seines which are not more than 20 feet in length, and the meshes of which are not less than one-fourth inch square for the catching of minnows for bait in the public waters of Guadalupe County. This bill also would permit any person to take or catch suckers, buffalo, carp, shad or gar in Guadalupe County with a seine or net, the meshes of which shall not be less than one inch square.

S. B. 164. By Phillips. This bill authorizes the Governor to execute a compact on behalf of the State of Texas with certain other States, the compact to be known as the "Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact."

S. B. 152. By Vick. The use of fruit jars with funnel attached for the catching of minnows for bait in any of the public waters of the State would be legalized under the terms of this bill which also provides that minnow seines not more than 20 feet long and cast nets of any size mesh may be used to catch shad, carp, suckers, gar and buffalo.

S. B. 111. By Kelley of Hidalgo. Would open the season on deer, turkey, quail and doves in McMullen county between November 1 and December 15.

S. B. 4. By Phillips. This bill would give the State Game, Fish and Oyster Commission authority to regulate non-resident commercial fishermen in the tidal waters of the State.

H. B. 414. By Rampy. Would close the season on deer and turkey in Coke county for a period of four years.

H. B. 413. By McDonald and Hardee. Puts teeth in the trespass law by providing for a penalty for trespassing upon game preserves.

H. B. 386. By Ridgeway. Regulates fishing on Medina Lake. Provides for an open season from May 1 to January 31. Specifies gear and tackle which may be used and sets bag and size limits.

H. B. 345. By Walker. This bill regulates the mesh of nets and seines used in salt water. It provides that the mesh of all seines and

TEXAS Game AND Fish

★ *In This Issue* ★
March 1949 - Vol. 7, No. 4

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.

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Manuscripts should be addressed to Editor, TEXAS GAME AND FISH Walton Building, Austin, Texas. All manuscripts should be accompanied by photographs. TEXAS GAME AND FISH always is interested in pictures of game and fish catches, unusual hunting and fishing scenes, bird dogs, and in group pictures of hunting and fishing organizations. Photographs used in TEXAS GAME AND FISH will be returned after publication.

ROGER M. BUSFIELD
Editor

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SALT OF THE EARTH

By J. G. Burr

A deer does not know why it will go farther for salt than for water, nor do other livestock understand the imperative demand for salt which drives them to the salt lick. Carnivorous animals probably feel no such need, because the mammals on which they feed contain an abundance of salt in their blood and plasma. The same applies to the cannibals who eat human flesh. Robinson Crusoe had to teach Friday how to eat meat flavored with salt. A pet bear once broke into a smoke house and gorged himself on salt pork which emphasized the fact that the so-called vegetarian was in need of salt.

You may have read in the January issue of Texas Game and Fish the report of a Trans-Pecos game warden which is good enough to be read a second time. "Common stock salt," said the report, "has ended a mysterious ailment which threatened to wipe out the fantail (Sonora) deer in the Big Bend National Park. "Common stock salt," said the report, "has ended a mysterious ailment which threatened to wipe out the fantail (Sonora) deer in the Big Bend National Park.

"Capt. Ray Williams, State game warden at Alpine, came across the first clue when he found an accumulation of pebbles in the stomachs of two deer which had mysteriously died. Williams found that deer in the park had acquired the habit of pawing deeply into the ground and devouring dirt and pebbles in search of salt-bearing soil.

"A supply of stock salt was then placed in the Park and the deer ceased to die."

And yet there has been a belief more or less prevalent that the system can use only such minerals as are contained in vegetable or animal foods. Whether this continues to be a controversial matter or not the writer does not know, but very evidently, any wholesome mineral which can go into solution, is available for use by the physical organism. All of the salts that are essential to life have some measure of solubility. Just how important to life are the various salts, was set forth in a discussion of anemia in fishes, in the December issue of Texas Game and Fish. It

points out the effect of rainwater, which contains no mineral, on fishes in seasons of continued flood.

Quite coincidentally, an article in the December issue of the Saturday Evening Post discusses the effect of rainwater on the diet of livestock. Mr. Herschel Weil of Lexington Kentucky has several farms on which he fattens beefs for the market. He found that on one of the farms there was a daily gain of 1.4 pounds per animal. Those he fattened on another farm near by made a gain of 2-1 pounds per animal. All the cattle came from the same Texas and New Mexico ranges. They were fed the same and cared for alike. One bunch fattened fast enough to make them profitable, and the other did not, according to the author of the story, Mr. Neil M. Clark.

There was only one difference in the way the two bunches of cattle were treated, said Mr. Weil, the owner of the farms. Those that made the greater gain in weight drank from a limestone spring and from a deep well, the latter preferred by the cattle. Those making a poor gain in weight drank from a rainwater pond and from troughs of city water. It appeared that something in the

water might be responsible for the difference. Samples were sent in for analysis with the result that the well water, which the cattle liked best, contained a larger percentage of minerals, particularly sulphur.

What happened and why it happened to be quite clear, but the Evening Post writer drapes the whole affair in a veil of mystery. He seems to deplore the general lack of information on such subjects, and winds up a discussion of nutrients with the remark that "as for actually knowing just how it works, we're about where we were half a century ago with food."

Many people delight to dwell in the twilight of realities. There is always a market for the mysterious and a minimum call for the prose of dry facts, sometimes labeled as the bunk. Nevertheless there is no such dearth of knowledge as above inferred. For the past fifty years Science has been piling up facts on food both for man and beast. We listened to lectures on home economics and the preparation of foods. The minerals in food and in the human body were widely discussed. Dr. James Headly toured the country with a lecture on "How

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Turkey Hunt Turns into Bout with Buck

By Mrs. D. Pauline Alkire

It was all so sudden. I was so surprised and frightened that for an instant I was sure the devil himself was bent on butting me all over the hill country. I say INSTANT for it all happened in an instant, not moments. It was a nightmare in reality. This is the way it happened.

On a windy afternoon during hunting season, I took my .22 and went hunting for turkey. It was a long way over the mountains where they had been roosting, and the sun was getting low. I saw two turkeys but, they saw

me first. Being quite disgusted, I turned back. I hadn't gone far until I heard a baby goat crying. It had fallen in a hole and was half starved. I tucked the little fellow under my arm and started to hunt for its mother. Seemed I walked three miles up and down hills looking for that nannie. I got so tired I decided to sit for a few minutes on a felled tree near by. The tree had been cut about two feet from the ground and had fallen over but was still fastened to the trunk, making

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SHARP

By Bill Billingsley

When you hear someone complaining, "what a bum knife this is," reach mentally for a grain of salt. In most cases it isn't the knife itself that's at fault, but the job of sharpening that was improperly done or not done at all.

Although millions of people use some type of cutting edge daily, from the bank president's pocket knife to the woodcutters brush hook, rare indeed is the knife owner who knows how to sharpen a knife properly.

Whether you wield a butcher knife, machete, paring knife, cane cutter, or an ordinary pocket knife, you can effect a saving of effort, time and temper sharpening the blade.

There are only two basic rules for proper sharpening. First, bevel the cutting edge down to a gradual taper, and secondly make the finish of the edge agree with the type of cutting you expect to do.

The first rule is merely an application of an ancient physics principle, but it has caused more loss of temper and discarding of knives than all the faulty metal ever produced is illustrated by foundries. This principle is illustrated when you stick an ice pick and a wedge side by side in the ground.

The pick slides in effortlessly because it offers less resistance to the ground while the bulk of the wedge forces you to exert a great deal more pressure to push it into the ground.

Now picture the same effect in the cross section of a knife blade, but magnify it a few hundred times and you will see why you had so much trouble carving that roast and why only a light nick by a razor blade made such a healthy cut.

Most pocket knives are machine sharpened before they are packed for sale, and the resulting edge is a perfect illustration of how not to sharpen a knife. The blade tapers down only

slightly toward the cutting edge and then jumps into an accented "V" edge that can hardly be forced into the material to be cut. Then to further aggravate the condition, when you do sharpen the knife, since it is easier to simply sharpen on the actual cutting edge, we grind it into an even wider "V" and the knife gets progressively and more rapidly dull.

If, when you sharpen a blade, you take that little bit of extra time required to grind off the "bilge curve" just above the cutting edge and make a blade that gradually tapers into the

cutting edge, you will get back your effort many times when the cutting task begins.

The second sharpening rule is to keep the degree of the cutting edge finish in line with the type work you want to do. A knife cuts because of the multitude of small, saw-tooth serrations that make up its cutting edge.

Viewed through a magnifying glass, your knife blade looks exactly like an ordinary wood saw. The size that these teeth should be is determined by the material to be worked on, with a razor naturally having a finer edge than a butcher knife.

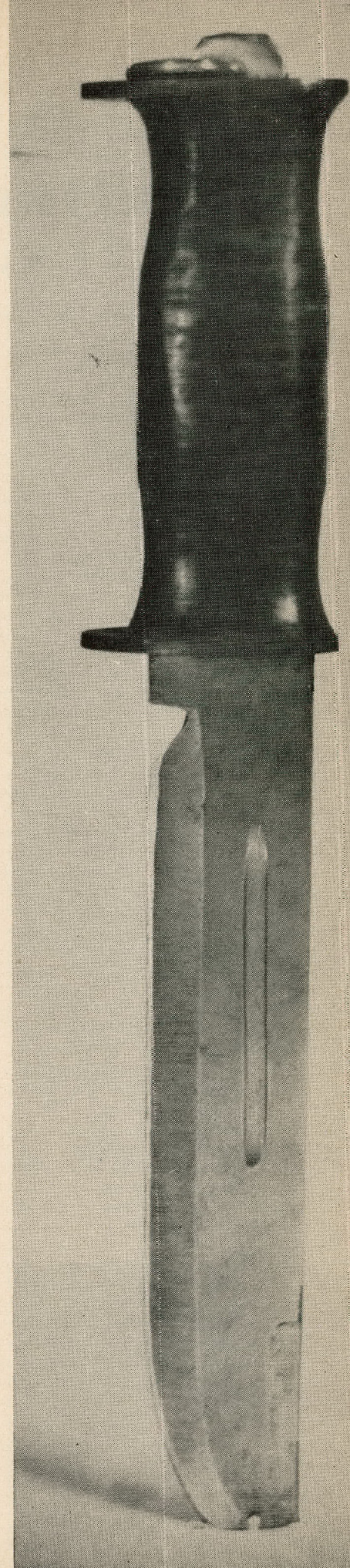
This degree of edge finish will be determined by the coarseness of the whetstone used for sharpening. The most desirable sharpening stone is the two-texture type oil stone with a rough and fine side. Such a stone can be purchased at any hardware store for less than a dollar and will become the handiest item to be found around an active household.

The coarse side is used only for rough grinding and for beginning the proper edge taper. Butcher and other rough-cut knives need only be sharpened on the stone's coarse surface.

The fine side of the stone is for

Every sportsman has his own favorite method of putting an edge on his hunting knife but to those nimrods who are using a hunting knife for the first time the method described in this article may save hours of labor and put a keener edge on the blade.

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Is Bounty System a National Farce

By David Hellyel

Reprinted by Courtesy Nature Magazine

IS THE bounty system approaching the status of a national farce? Will bounties become a thing of the past in the near future? Evidence exists to support this possibility.

Although at least thirty-three states still provide legally for payment of bounties for the destruction of so-called predatory mammals and birds, the bounty system, as such, appears to be largely in disrepute among professional fish and game officials and wildlife technicians.

For many years, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has frowned upon bounty payments. Representing a widely held view, Clifford C. Presnall of the Service states the case against bounties this way:

"The federal government does not offer bounties because it has been determined by long experience that bounties are not an economical and efficient way of spending money for the control of predatory animals. Such measures often result in a spectacular and sudden decrease in predatory populations in areas where surpluses of the animals exist, but the bounty system has proved ineffective in making any appreciable reduction in the basic breeding population of coyotes. With animals that have a lower rate of reproduction, the bounty system may at times prove effective."

Officials of several states report sentiments paralleling those of Presnall, although some cite other reasons for disapproval of the bounty system.

Said Colorado: "Bounties tend to build up illicit interstate traffic. For example, we have a bounty on mountain lions, which we are endeavoring to do away with, and Utah has a bounty on coyotes. As a result, Colorado coyotes are taken to Utah to collect bounties, . . . and mountain lions are brought into Colorado in an effort to obtain bounties. Such conditions naturally increase our costs of administration and law enforcement. We of this department are thoroughly convinced that bounties paid by individual states are of no particular benefit."

Convinced that predator control by bounty is "barking up the wrong tree,"

Nebraska officials recently contacted game experts in eight neighboring states with a questionnaire on bounties. Results of this survey are challenging.

Of the eight contacted, five states answered "no" to the question: "Do you feel that bounties offer an effective control on predators?" These included Utah, Kansas, Colorado, North Dakota and Missouri. One (South Dakota) stated that bounties had a "questionable" effect on predators, while Utah contended that bounties "help." Wyoming ventured no opinion on this point.

"Bounties are not effective in controlling coyotes," Kansas admitted. "We

Mr. David Hellyel recently completed an exhaustive survey of bounty systems in the United States. During this research, Mr. Hellyel personally checked the fish and game codes of every state in the Union. Fortified with information gleaned from nearly 200 volumes of law books, he prepared personalized questionnaires, addressed in each case to the fish and game director of each of the 48 states. He reports the results of this extensive search in this article.

have more than ever, despite the bounty."

Missouri reported that "the Commission does not contribute to the payment of bounties. We have been unable to find evidence that doing so is important to predator control. The coyote population has definitely increased during the years since bounty payment became popular."

North Dakota advised that strong sentiment for bounties exists among farmers and sportsmen, but that, in the opinion of the game department, bounties are "ineffective."

"Our conclusion," asserted Michigan, "after studying the bounty system in Michigan and its effects is that bounties cost a lot of money and produce no demonstrable effects on either the bountied predators or their natural prey." Michigan should speak from experience, for, since 1869, Michigan has spent over \$1,120,000 in bounty payments!

Nebraska, whose game department

sponsored the eight-state survey, reports herself, also, on the "no" side on bounties.

Bounties on coyotes, wolves, foxes, bobcats and other predators have actually had a thorough trial in many states, and under a variety of local conditions," an official reports. "A study of happenings of the past leads to one conclusion—that bounties cost a lot of money without producing any important control upon the bountied animals."

Shortage of natural food, rather than blood lust or wanton desire to kill, may be the answer to coyote predation, the Nebraska report stresses. "The coyote is a trader—you take the rabbit and he'll take the chicken."

"Memory tells us," the Nebraska report states, "that a good rabbit crop or two will be much more effective than bounties in lowering the damage to domestic animals by coyotes."

"Mass drives have done a great deal of harm to the rabbit population," the bulletin continues, "and the destruction of coyotes has probably been more than offset by the wholesale slaughter of rabbits, which are the coyote's usual food. Rabbit scarcity, from both hunts and natural causes, has undoubtedly done much to focus the coyote's attention on domestic poultry."

For 68 years, coyotes have been on Nebraska's bounty list, and the coyote population has "gone up and down anyway." During Michigan's 80 years of experience with bounties, "various predators have passed through the phases of their natural cycle, now up, now down, just about as they would have done had no bounties ever been paid." And it cost Michigan more than a million dollars to learn that lesson!

These observations would strengthen the naturalist's point of view on the "balance of Nature," which argues that Nature, left to her own devices, will strike the most wholesome balance in the bird and animal kingdom.

Still fresh in the memories of most naturalists concerned with preserving this vital balance is the tragic story of over-control in Kaibab National Forest, on the rim of Grand Canyon. About 1907, U. S. Forest Service and Biological Survey officials determined to exterminate the mountain lions and other predators in the Kaibab, convinced that only by such drastic measures could they "save" the deer in the Kaibab. The slaughter began, and continued until 1919. By that time, one government hunter had, single-handedly, killed more than 600 lions in the area.

Then Forest Service officials surveyed the results. They were appallingly different from those anticipated. An official National Park Service report tells the pitiful story:

"The cougar, bobcat, wolf and eagle

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Odds and Ends of Fishing

by Bill Wolf

FISHING literature abounds with advice on how to angle for game fish, the right rod, reel, line and lures to use, the proper technique to be employed in changing the direction of a cast with a fly rod and such assorted high-toned stuff; but it seems to me that a lot of important matters are neglected. For example, how do you skin a catfish? How do you scale a yellow perch which apparently is encased in plate armor? What do you take along on a salt water trip besides beer and tackle? These are some of the odds and ends of fishing that are of major importance to the man who might, conceivably, not be too much impressed with the finer aspects of angling, but is highly practical.

Let's consider that catfish matter. There are many ways to skin a catfish. Several years ago I had considerable correspondence with a number of fishermen on this subject, and each seemed to have a favorite method. Altogether, there must have been twenty ways of doing the job; but several were far superior to the others.

Now, skinning the cattie may not seem important, but I would be willing to bet that more catfish are eaten in this state than there are trout on the table. No figures are available to support such a statement, but this is being written up in Monroe county where there are a number of good trout streams, and, yet, the natives—seldom bother with trout. When they want a good mess of fish for the table they go out and catch some of the firm-fleshed bullheads that are found in cold water streams. They would rather have them than all the trout in the world, and anyone who has acquired a liking for the rich meat of these bewhiskered fish would agree with them.

However, before a catfish can be put in the pan its skin must come off. This slippery skin clings to the fish like a big court plaster does to the human

hide and the problem is: How to separate epidermis from fish?

Recently, I was fishing with some Philadelphians who now live in Minneapolis and among our catch that day were some yellow-bellied bullheads. The lady of the house looked at them rather regretfully when the catch was put in the kitchen sink for cleaning, and said that they were very fond of catfish, but that she hated the job of skinning them.

So I asked how she did it. She said that the best method they had found was to nail the fish to a board, make a cut behind the head, and use pliers to pull off the tough skin! And do you know a lot of persons still believe that is the best way to do it? Memory took me back nearly thirty years to the days when my grandmother was still alive, and my grandfather and I used to bring home a mess of catfish from Spring

grandmother would put them in a dish pan in the sink—which really was a “zinc” then, since it was a zinc-lined drain in the kitchen. Then she would Grove dam in York county, or from the Codorus at Hanover Junction. My take the kettle from the stove and pour scalding hot water over the catfish. Whereupon, their skin would peel off as easily as a peach will peel when similarly scalded. So I advised my Minneapolis friends to try it, and when back in that city later in the year, asked how it worked. They were delighted. It had worked perfectly.

That's the general country way to do it. The same idea, with slightly different application, is found in putting the catfish in a wire basket and dipping them briefly in a pot of boiling water.

In either case, take a dry cloth and wipe the skin from the flesh. A dry cloth is essential to ease in any skinning of a catfish, since they are naturally slimy and slippery. Even without scalding, a cut made completely around the body back of the big broad head will enable the cleaner to strip the skin back toward the tail if a dry cloth is used to get a grip on it. One correspondent suggested using sandpaper, a method which I have never tried, but which should work.

Another fisherman told of seeing a negro down south skinning large catfish and eels by standing on the tail with one foot, and scuffing off the skin with the heel of the other shoe. One man had an intricate device, consisting of a piece of sandpaper nailed to a board, across which he would draw the catfish to rub off the skin. Stick to the scalding method, however, it's the best. The same thing applies to eels, which also are notoriously hard to separate from their skins.

One of the most delicious fish in our Pennsylvania streams and lakes is the yellow perch. Most persons rank it well above the trout in flavor and are glad to bring home a mess of the dark-barred bright yellow fish—but they hate to scale them. Scrape as much as you will, the scales seem to cling to the body as though anchored there. Once again, hot water will turn the trick. Simply dip the yellow perch in boiling water for a few seconds, take them out, and scale them with ease. And, by the way, an ordinary table-spoon makes a fine scaler if nothing else is available. If held at the right angle, it will keep the scales from flying all over creation which is a fault with most patented scalers.

A Dash of Scalding Water Is Still the Best Way To Skin a Catfish and to Scale a Yellow Perch

All right, you have caught and skinned some catfish or eels. How are you going to fry them? Most persons dredge them in flour and let it go at that, but why not try a better method? Dip them first in flour well-seasoned with salt and pepper, then dip them into an egg which has been whipped up with a fork and diluted with half an egg shell of milk, then roll them again in half flour, half crumbs seasoned with salt and pepper. Fry in the pan, and enjoy your catfish twice as much as before.

And, since this is about odds and ends that no one ever bothers mentioning much in fishing articles, have you ever tried a mess of chubs or minnows? The four-to-six-inch ones that are found in nearly every stream and lake, but

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Handle with Care!

Pointers are probably the most intelligent of working dogs, but that intelligence can backfire unless they are handled with kid gloves

FINE feathers might make fine birds—but it takes a lot more than good looks to make an efficient bird dog! At least, that's been my experience in 20 years of raising and training pointers. But, of course, I'm referring to the ones that are dependable in the field—not the fellows that vie for blue ribbons at a dog show.

My success with bird dogs has required time, perseverance and—a vast amount of patience. However, for my



This pointer is receiving a kind word from his master as full reward for a job well done.

money, good pointers deserve a long, considerate training because, without a doubt, they are the most intelligent working dogs in the business!

If a bird dog training program is to succeed, careful culling is essential. This means constant weeding out of any of the dogs that fail to demonstrate the "know how" of efficient bird hunting. All bird dogs are endowed with basic natural traits but each dog has an individuality too. If the



Here's a picture that will thrill every bird dog man — four pointers and a setter on perfect point in a South Texas field.

dog is to succeed, it's up to the trainer to turn those individualities in the right direction. If it's apparent a young dog has habits that stand to ruin his

hunting future, cull him out of the pack by all means. You can't feed a race horse six or seven years to see if he can run, and by the same token,



The real test of a bird dog comes in the field and these two pointers are just beginning to range the field for bobwhites.

By Ben W. Breedlove

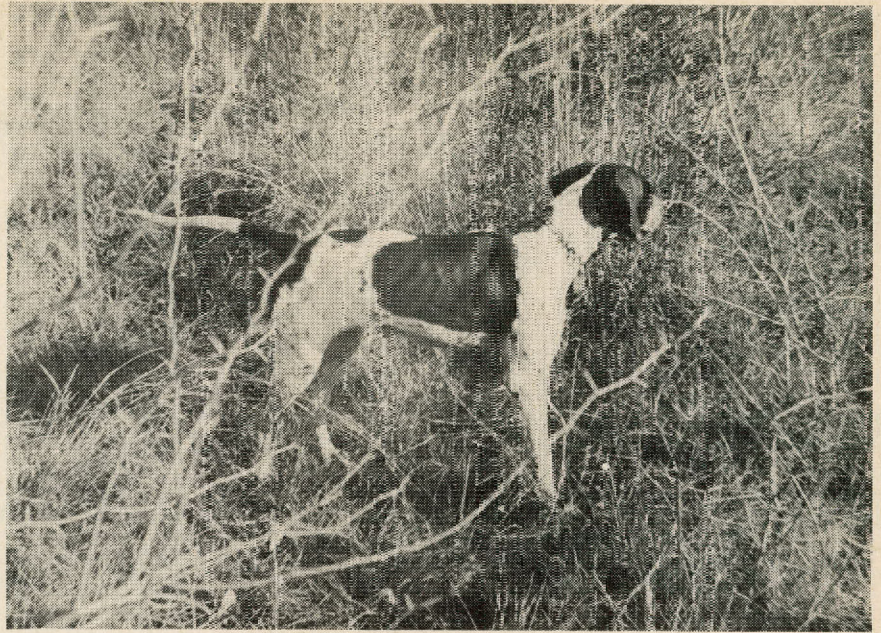
it doesn't pay to spend time and money on a dog that appears to be facing an unsuccessful future.

Many times throughout the years I have heard seasoned hunters complain that they have acquired an expensive, well-bred dog that is "naturally" gun-shy. In my mind such statements are top proof of utter misconception and lack of understanding of bird dogs.

There is no such thing as natural gun-shyness!

When a pointer proves gun-shy in the field it is an unquestionable reflection on the person who originally trained him. Dogs are made gun-shy by careless training. By nature they have no more fear of a gun than a baby does of an automobile. A youngster doesn't realize that a car can roll and hurt him. Neither does a dog know that a gun can injure or kill him.

I start training puppies against gun-shyness as soon as they start feeding from a pan. This sounds difficult, but in



It's a matter of natural instinct that makes a pointer freeze at rigid attention once his keen nose picks up the scent of a bobwhite.

reality there's nothing to it. Before each feeding I strike the bottom of a pan held close to the puppies' ears. This noise-making program, repeated at each feeding seems to bother the youngsters slightly at first. Eventually however, they pay no attention to the din, and without knowing it, they have completed the first essential lesson in the long training period that is to follow.

However, there is another type of "shyness," found in comparatively few dogs, that is hard to explain and harder to overcome. It's "man-shyness!" I guess all of us at some time or other

have seen dogs that cringe to the ground when they are approached or spoken to. When you walk toward them, the chances are they'll pull their tail between their legs; they'll shiver pitifully when you try to pat and comfort them. Experience has taught me that breaking a dog of "man-shyness" is a hopeless feat. It's a trait that's hard to understand or explain. Personally, I believe it results from some nervous disorder. On the other hand I've heard old-timers explain that it's a matter of instinct that dates back to the wild-dog age when man was classed as a dog's natural enemy. In any event, if your next litter contains a "man-shy" puppy, it'll be cheaper in the long run to weed him out. The odds are definitely against breaking him of the habit.

Under ordinary conditions I start preliminary training for puppies after they are seven months old. The first days of training are simple—but very important! This first training consists mainly of turning the puppies loose in fields and woods to slowly accustom them to the different types of places where they'll eventually go to work. In a lot of ways this portion of training is like taking a country boy to the city or a city boy to the country. Everything they see and hear will be strange, yet in the same manner that the country boy becomes used to city ways and manners,

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Too young to show much interest in hunting but it won't be long before these pups will be pointing at every piece of fluttering paper.

Do Dogs Think?

By Sirlo

MAN PUTS himself on a pedestal, above all other living forms of life and dogmatically says, "I am the only creature that can think with my mighty brain which is superior to that of other animals, and all others live by instinct." Yes, he does have the greatest brain, but there are times when man does not use it. For wrong he is when he says that some of the lower orders do not have brains and think.

Probably the five most intelligent animals of the present age are the humans, horses, dogs, cows and chimpanzees. Many rate the intelligence of the cow above that of the horse, but I cannot see it. Nor can I see how anyone can rate the horse as having a higher intelligence than man's best friend, the dog. Horses perform under constant restraint in harness; dogs operate with full freedom, just for the love they bear for their masters, and the chase.

That dogs at times do reason is plain to anyone who have given the matter thought, and knows something about them. One of my setters had to be chained to keep him from roaming off alone and hunting. If I fastened his chain directly to his collar, and the other end to something solid like a house, he laid down quietly and made no attempt to escape. But if I tied him with part chain and part rope, he would wait until I was out of sight and immediately gnaw through the rope and be on his way. Even if the tether was all chain except a few inches he would immediately recognize that fact, and chew through the weak link. Never did he try and bite through the chain.

Most dogs can distinguish between a forward and a back trail. They know which way the deer or rabbit is traveling. How, we do not know; but it may not be so mysterious, for we can tell which way the wind blows by watching the waves; and dogs can hear what we cannot hear, and smell things we cannot smell; why cannot they scent something in the trail that tells them positively which way to go? But he does not do it by instinct, he studies it out.

We all know that dogs can dis-

tinguish the days of the week. One is familiar with dogs turning up at certain points on certain days when the butcher is due. Sanco was a big setter. His master lived in a country town on a back street; he knew almost to the minute what time his master would be home from work, and shortly before that time he would go out and lie down in the middle of the street and watch for him. This of course was in the horse and buggy days or he would have been run over by some auto.

A good Chesapeake retriever usually brings in the dead bird first, which is farthest away; or goes after the cripple before bringing in the dead birds. He has learned this is the best way by thinking. A husky knows how to escape freezing to death by burying himself in the snow when the thermometer is around zero. Perhaps he did inherit this information, or just does it from self preservation; perhaps he watched other dogs do it and imitated them. All of which shows thought. Men also do things by imitation.

My niece has a springer spaniel, Ted, that is reputed to understand 40 words. He does all the well known tricks and only has to be told once what to do. Instinct? Ted was a great ratter; he loved to race and catch them. One day he was a little too slow, and the rat was partly down the rat hole. Ted always grabbed a rat, showing his good sense, well forward; he knew they could not bite. But this time he got a grip only on the hind quarters of the rodent which turned and sunk his teeth in the dog's nose. He killed that rat, but never chased another. Ted gave the whole rat problem his careful consideration, and decided the fun was not worth the risk. He still got fed—(social security).

It is reported that George Washington lost a hound dog while deer hunting in Missouri; several months later the dog showed up at Mt. Vernon. To do this he had to cross the Mississippi River, and travel over mountains to his home. The homing instinct was present it is true. But when a dog makes a long

Panhandle Duck Factory

Amarillo Sportsmen Chip in Down Payment for Waterfowl Project as Blizzard Fails to Put Damper on Enthusiasm

By Charlie Greef

Ducks Unlimited Round-up and a blizzard the same night! But, then this is the story of another unusual activity of the Panhandle Outdoor Sportsman's Club and not a weather report on Amarillo, Texas.

Climaxing a busy and successful year under the leadership of President D. W. Britain, Sr., this sportsman's group presented a check for \$1100 as their down payment on a Texas Panhandle Duck factory in the Ducks Unlimited program. Arthur M. Bartley, executive secretary of Ducks Unlimited New York office made a special trip to present some of the best motion pictures of wildlife ever seen by the 500 enthusiastic sportsmen. In his short address and his comments as the movies were shown, he completely convinced his audience of the almost unbelievable good work his group is doing.

Club member Gene Howe, also on the Texas Game, Fish & Oyster Commission as well as a member of the National Board of D.U. made the official presentation to Fred King of Wichita Falls. Mr. King, who is Texas chairman of D.U. remarked that "if we could have club meetings with people like this everywhere, we would have very small problems indeed, with our wildlife restoration work."

● Continued on Page 27

trip like that successfully he uses his brains, otherwise he would have starved to death, or fallen victim to enemies or accidents. Brains carried him through.

Some hunting dogs know the danger of fire arms. When I was a kid I used to hunt with a man named Shipley who owned a very intelligent Gordon setter. This dog would not permit anyone to point a gun at him. We were

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A wildlife barbecue dinner is a rarity and these 500 Panhandle sportsmen will swear there is nothing quite like barbecued wildlife to fill out the corners of an empty tummy. In the lower left photo, Charlie Greef, Rufus A. King, of Wichita Falls, and Dr. Roy A. Webb, President of the Texas Wildlife Federation, discuss the business at hand — the eating of barbecue. With the barbecue out of the way, the officers of the Panhandle Outdoor Sportsman's Club, Ducks Unlimited, and a cham-

pion duck caller, get down to serious business. Conferring on the proposed duck factory for the Panhandle in the lower right photo are, back row, Dick Coon, President D. W. Britain, Sr., President-elect Charlie Greef; front row, Howard Conrey, Stuttgart, Ark., champion duck caller, Rufus A. King, of Wichita Falls, Arthur M. Bartley, of New York City, and Bill Gunn, POSC chairman of Ducks Unlimited committee. — Amarillo News Staff Photos by J. Howard Miller.



The Chachalaca

The Chachalaca, or Mexican tree pheasant, is a mystery bird to most Texans.

That became apparent when hundreds of cash customers wanted to know what kind of a bird was depicted on the cover of the January issue of TEXAS GAME and FISH.

Some said they had consulted every known bird book and had failed to find anything that even resembled the big brown bird pictured on the January cover.

Others admonished us to confine our covers to birds found only in Texas. Still others insisted it was a composite of several Texas birds and one reader even wanted to know what kind of an ice box he would receive if he came up with the correct answer.

Well, believe it or not, the Chachalaca is a Texas game bird. Yet it is a little known bird because it is found only along the Rio Grande and in the country south of the border.

The Chachalaca is a large brown bird and superficially resembles the road runner, but is about one-third larger. It is distantly related to the quail, turkey, and other gallinaceous birds. It is very shy, elusive and difficult to observe in its chosen habitat of dense thickets along the Texas-Mexico border.

Early reports on the distribution and abundance of the Chachalaca are rare. However, it is a popular game bird with some of the local residents in the Valley who know how to hunt it. Old residents within its range have told of its former abundance in the once great expanse of bottomland of Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo Cameron, and Willacy counties.

Experienced hunters have been known to kill as many as 50 Chachalacas in one day. Nothing like this occurs today. To make such kills, hunters visited roosting areas and shot the birds as they arrived or departed. Roosts occupied by 75 to 100 birds were reportedly common in the 1900's.

The decline of the Chachalaca population in the Rio Grande Valley

coincided closely with the increase of agricultural activity. As more brushland was cleared for the production of fruit and vegetable crops, Chachalacas along with other wildlife species were forced farther into retreat. Increased hunting doubtless played a major part in this process of elimination.

In 1940 a survey was made of the known Chachalaca range and it was estimated that there were no more than 3,000 Chachalacas remaining in Texas. These occurred in scattered colonies from a point near San Ygnacio, Zapata county, southward along the Rio Grande through Zapata, Starr, and western

Hidalgo counties, thence north of the river on a line between Mission and Weslaco, Hidalgo county, and north-eastward to Raymondville and the Gulf coast in Willacy county. Within the region, including lower southeastern Hidalgo county, all of Cameron county and the southeastern half of Willacy county, Chachalacas were commonly found in isolated tracts of brush adjacent to irrigation reservoirs, resacas, inland bays, and the Arroya Colorado in addition to the Rio Grande bottoms. The greatest number of Chachalaca are

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**A Texas Game
Bird found only
along a part of
the Rio Grande**

Married

Squirrel Hunters

By E. W. (Doc) Odom

When Ralph and Tootsie got married a year or so ago they drew up a "Constitution and By Laws of Marriage," which said in part: "Everything will be on a 50/50 basis—what is your is also mine, half the work, half the play, everything is mutual.

When dish washing time comes, Tootsie stands on her constitutional rights—here is the dish towel—you dry them and I wash them.

When the Buick needs washing and greasing, Ralph reminds her of a passage in the "By Laws," "work is on an even keel."

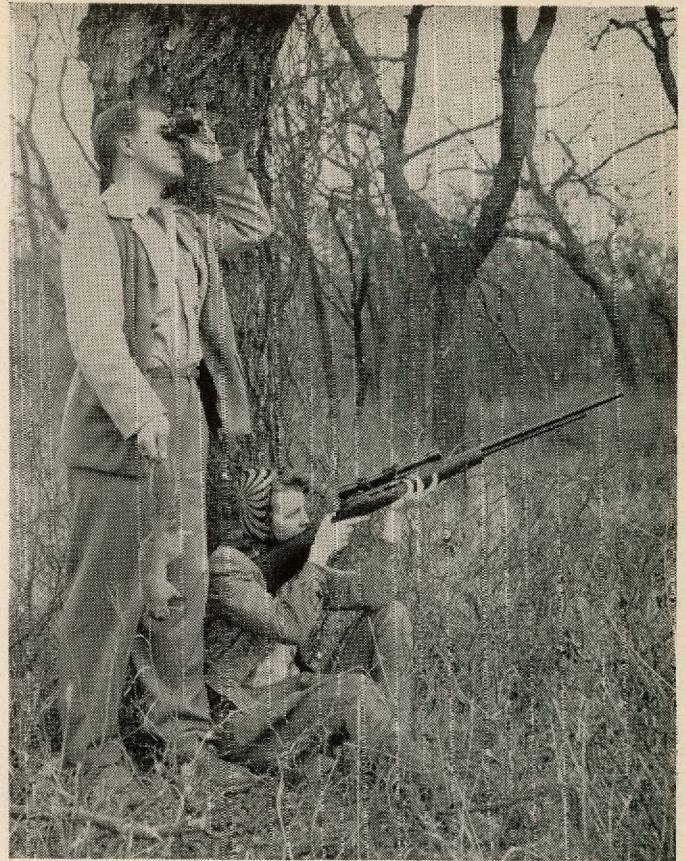
All possessions of OURS, not mine or yours—even Xmas presents are bought and paid for jointly.

Their most prized present this year was a new automatic 22 rifle fitted with an elegant scope, so naturally they went squirrel hunting the day after Xmas.

They had been in the woods but a short time when Tootsie saw one high up in a pecan tree, busy cutting a paper-shell open. Ralph offered her the gun, but she said "Remember, we are partners, I found him so you must shoot him." Ralph did shoot him, squarely between the hams, and the bullet hole can be seen in picture.

About an hour later Ralph was scanning the surrounding scene and spied one. This one was 50 to 60 yards distance, and no chance to slip up closer, so he said "We are STILL partners," and shoved the gun over to her, reminding her that the safety was ON.

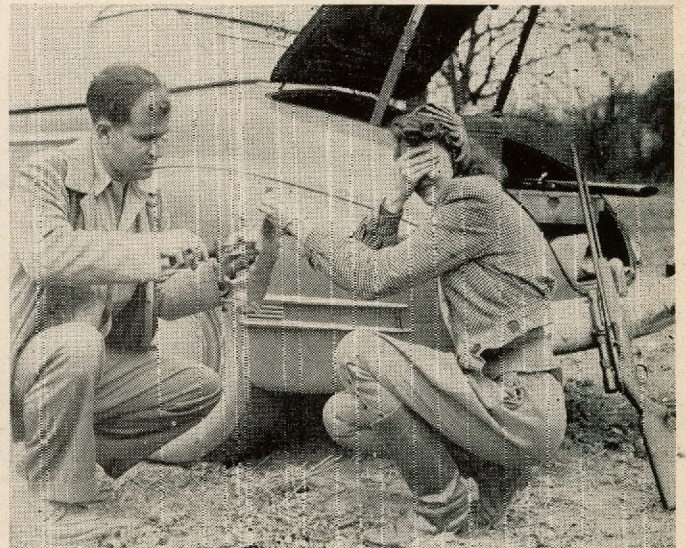
He watched through the binoculars (upper right photo) while she calmly fired—



Ralph scans the tree tops for a bushy tail while Tootsie waits with cocked rifle for the word to fire.



Into the ice filled thermos jug goes the cleaned squirrel while Ralph dreams of the wonderful stew he is going to have for dinner.



Ralph believes in using a good size knife in cleaning the squirrel but his wife just can't bear the sight and covers her eyes until the operation is performed.

She hit him in a non-vital spot but knocked him to the ground all right, and he crawled back to and up the tree, leaving drops of blood on the ground and on the tree he made his way to a big hole: to safety: to a long lingering death.

That was too gruesome for Tootsie; she remembered a passage in their constitution that stated he was to be "Kind

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ARMS AND AMMUNITION

By ADAM WILSON III

Gun Editor

On Gun Fit

Guns are like shoes and clothes . . . the more you use 'em the better they feel," says Henry P. Davis, public relations division, Remington Arms Company, Inc. "Almost everybody likes to look at and fondle the sleek, trim lines of a shiny new sporting weapon, but it is only when the stock becomes a bit scuffed and the bluing is worn through use that Old Betsy really becomes dear to the heart of the sportsman. Each worn spot or stock-bar has its own story, the memories of which bring retrospective tingles. And the more the shooter handles his gun, the better it fits him the better it, feels.

"It is true that the average sportsman, with only a little practice, can generally so accustom himself to the average gun that he will shoot it well. This is simply because he IS an average sportsman, of average size and proportions, and gun manufacturers have adopted standard stock specifications, designed to fit just such an individual. It is obvious that gunmakers could not produce guns in quantity if each stock had to be made to individual specifications. These standard stock specifications are: drop at heel 2½ inches, drop at comb 1⅝ inches, length of stock 14 inches. Years of experience have taught the manufacturers that these specifications are entirely suitable to the vast majority of American shooters, both young and old.

"Guns of these specifications may not be perfect fits for a lot of sportsmen, but they will so nearly approximate a fit that these individuals are able to adjust themselves readily to, such an extent that the 'feel' is right. There are able to adjust themselves readily to such an extent that the 'feel' is right. There are individuals so physically proportioned, however, as to make it impossible to feel comfortable with a gun of standard dimensions. Their necks may be longer or shorter than aver-

age; the same might apply to their arms. For proficiency in shooting to come easily to such a person, a specially made stock, built to his own measurements should be provided. Any good gunsmith can make a stock to order, or the shooter can have one built at the factory and fitted to his gun there.

"How is one to know whether or not his gun 'fits' him. There is one determining factor in the answer to that one. That is 'comfort.' If the gun feels comfortable, it can be easily handled and quickly thrown up to the shoulder and the barrel, naturally and without effort, properly aligned on the desired target, that gun fits the individual handling it. If, when you quickly place it to your shoulder and point at the target, you see a good portion of the top of the barrel, the stock is too straight for you, and you will be inclined to shoot high. If, when quickly mounting the gun, you see hardly any of the barrel, but only the top of the receiver, the stock has too much drop and is a bit too crooked. With such a gun you would be inclined to shoot under the target.

"Either of these conditions can be corrected by working on the stock. In the case of the stock which is too straight, a bit of the wood may be scraped off the comb, without too much trouble. In the case of the gun which shoots low, the comb should be built up a bit . . . and this takes some doing. Comparatively few gunners take the trouble to make these adjustments, for, in the majority of cases, shooting experience will allow them to adjust themselves to the gun or make adjustments in their manner of holding. To a few, however, this means a constant 'fighting the gun,' which is entirely unnecessary when simple stock adjustments would solve the trouble and bring complete comfort to the gunner. Any good gunsmith can quickly

make these adjustments and at little cost.

"Many sportsmen often wonder how gun dimensions are determined. Here is the simple formula, which any one can use: Take a piece of straight wood or iron sufficiently long to reach from the muzzle end of the barrel to the end of the butt. Lay it straight along the top of the barrel and over the butt. Measure up from the top of the comb (which starts just back of the top of the grip) to the straight edge. This gives you the drop at comb. Measure up from the top of the butt to the straight-edge and you get the drop at heel. Measure from the trigger to the end of the stock at the middle of the butt and you get the length of stock.

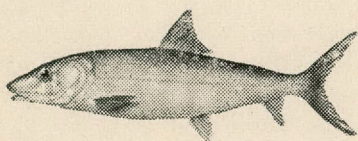
"An old and commonly accepted method of determining whether a gunstock is of proper length for you is to place the butt in the hollow of your elbow. If the first joint of your index finger can comfortably curl around the trigger, the stock is of proper length.

"Measuring for custom-built stocks is a rather tricky business, and at best a two-man job. All custom gunmakers, and many good gunsmiths, have 'try-guns,' through which proper dimensions for any individual may be determined by trial and adjustment. If no such 'try-gun' is available, the job is not for the amateur, for it calls for keen and experienced judgment on the part of the person taking the measurements. In all, the determining factor is the comfort of the shooter. He alone can tell whether a gun fits him or not, and the person determining the proper measurements must be guided by how the shooter says the gun 'feels' and then make adjustments according to his own judgment.

"To shoot at your best, have your gun feel much like a suit of old

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HINTS FOR THE ANGLER



BONEFISH
Albula vulpes (Linnaeus)

When a freshwater angler ties into his first bonefish, he is amazed at the terrific battle which a small specimen will wage. Many aver that a two pound bonefish if tied tail-to-tail with a six pound largemouth bass would burn the scales off the bass.

Be that as it may, most veterans agree that the bonefish is one of the fastest fish in the world and no other fish of equal size can touch it for speed. It can strip 100 yards of line from a reel in the twinkling of an eye and its speed is matched only by its endurance.

The utmost stalking skill is necessary to get within easy casting distance of this wary individual for the least commotion or slightest noise will cause the bonefish to vanish as if by jet propulsion.

NAMES . . . Bananafish, Bonyfish, Grubber, Ladyfish (a definite misnomer), Macabi, Sanducha and Ten Pounder.

CHARACTERISTICS . . . While bonefish cannot be classed as habitual "school fish," nevertheless, they do travel in groups from three to eight, and occasionally more. In feeding, these groups move along slowly in shallow water, practically "standing on their heads" as they feed on the bottom and fan the water with their tails which slightly protrude above the surface in the maneuver. This characteristic is called "tailing," in bonefishermen's parlance.

The coloration of the bonefish is burnished silver on the sides and the glint of sunlight on their seemingly polished scales makes a brilliant flash as they roll and "tail" in the water. The back has a darker tinge, slightly olive, and at times there are indistinct dark stripes on the sides.

The nose, or snout, overlaps the lower jaw giving the head a sucker-shad.

FOODS . . . The bonefish dines on small crabs, hermit crabs, sand fleas, shrimp and small crawfish.

LURES . . . Not too many years ago, it was only "once in a blue moon" that a bonefish was taken on artificial lures. However, the number of catches being taken on artificial lures is growing steadily, especially on casting plugs like the zaragossa, river runt and sea runt, also feathered jigs. Fly fishermen find streamer flies and wilder-dilgs very effective.

like appearance. The tail is deeply forked and powerfully built.

RANGE . . . The bonefish is an inhabitant of all warm and tropical seas. The most famous bonefish grounds in this country are the waters of the Florida Keys, although these fish have been reported at various times in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific. The Bahama Islands off the Florida Coast also offer excellent bonefishing.

Bonefish habitually come into shallow water to feed during the rising tide. At this time they will be found on mud and sand flats in water a foot or two in depth.

SIZE . . . The world's record bonefish, caught on rod and reel, was taken by B. F. Peek off the island of Bimini (Bahamas) B.W.I., on March 9, 1919. It weighed 13¾ pounds. Much larger bonefish have been reported from the Hawaiian Islands but none ever authenticated.

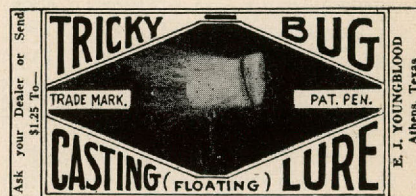
Bonefish ordinarily averages 2 to 4

pounds in weight but those exceeding 5 pounds are not rare.

FLAVOR . . . Because of a multitude of small bones, the bonefish is rarely eaten and most sportsmen release all they catch for this reason. However, if the angler has the patience to duel with the bones, the flavor will be found excellent, very similar to that of the

METHODS . . . Although most bonefish are taken by live-bait fishermen, plug casters and fly fishermen are now taking them with regularity.

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"DOC" JENKINS' AUTOMATIC FISH HOOKS
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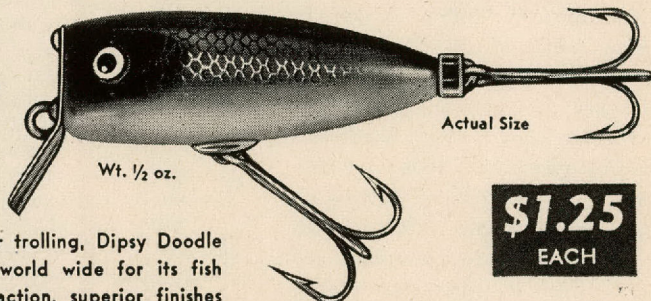
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Youth Fishing Rodeo Set

The Second Annual National Better Fishing Rodeo for Boys and Girls will be held at cities across the nation this year on Saturday, August 27, according to announcement by LeRoy H. "Cap" Dorsey, President of Better Fishing, Inc., the national sponsor.

Better Fishing, Inc., a national not-for-profit organization of sports fishermen, located at 509 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill., will give a grand prize consisting of complete casting rod, reel, line and lures to each local boy and girl champion.

Last year, on August 28, close to a million youngsters simultaneously wet their lines at 135 cities in 44 states and Hawaii. Mayors of these cities appointed citizens committees who supervised the local events and awarded prizes.

By appointment of citizen Rodeo Committees, issuing of proclamations and active personal participation, the Mayors were primarily responsible for making highly successful the first annual event of this new youth movement Mayor Harman W. Perry of Ogden, Utah, who now signs his letters 'Mayor and Rodeo Boss,' wrote President Dorsey saying, "I am most interested in your plan to make fishing available as a recreational outlet for the youngsters of Ogden and I heartily endorse your plan." Mayor Frank J. Warren, Topeka, Kansas, stated, "I am more than happy to help sponsor a program that will help make better fishermen and at the same time better citizens." Chief Burgess, William A. Griffith, Pottstown, Pa., wrote, "This rodeo seems to me to be one of the prize ideas of the year as it enables a much greater number of children to participate and enjoy a healthy outing than anything our community has yet undertaken." E. Spencer Walton, Mayor of Mishawaka, Indiana, said, "I hope we can continue this as an annual event."

"Cap" Dorsey, founder of the National Better Fishing Rodeo for Boys and Girls, in announcing the National Rodeo dates said, "The spectacular success of last year's Fishing Rodeo, which was an official part of juvenile recreation activities, in cities in forty-four states, is completely overshadowed by requests for participation in this year's event. Mounting interest in boy and girl fishing activities as a means of centering attention on sport fishing for its moral, recreational and health-building benefits, indicates that more than 500 cities desire to participate in the Second An-

nual Better Fishing Rodeo for Boys and Girls to be held on Saturday, August the 27th.

Dorsey stated that Better Fishing, Inc., is seeking the cooperation of all national youth organizations. They will be urged to organize local youth fishing events during school vacation months. These activities, he pointed out, would keep the youngsters wholesomely occupied and better prepared to have fun at the city National Better Fishing Rodeo before returning to school. According to Dorsey, a number of cities and towns last year built fishing ponds, and, aided by State Conservation Departments, stocked their lagoon, ponds and flowing waters for kid fishing. He strongly stressed that such action furnishes a means of recreation, during the out-of-school period, which is useful in building vigorous bodies, healthy minds and strong characters.

The Chachalaca

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found along the Arroya Colorado in northern Cameron and southern Willacy counties.

Game Department biologists say there is little reason to believe that the Chachalaca can be restored in the Rio Grande Valley to an extent comparable to its former abundance. Indeed its existence depends largely upon the presence of sub-tropical brushlands that afford cover as well as fruits and seeds for food. With this habitat already greatly reduced by agricultural activity and subject to ever greater restrictions, the future presence of the species may be limited to refuge areas maintained by the government.

For Whom?

By Ivan Blair Anthony

Did you, who think it is a grand event or a gay lark to take more than the limit of fish or game, ever stop to realize from whom you are filching the seed stocks of our natural, renewable resources? Did you, when the day is done and the cleaned fish piled high on the board—the plucked ducks heaped wing to wing and breast to breast—ever take stock of just how much of those huge piles you really needed? I know you did! I know the nostalgic feeling that was yours and you resolved never to do it again!

But you did do it again because you reasoned thus: "God made the fish and game and he put them here for the use of man. He made man greedy and while there was no greed in your soul, there were other men whose greed you knew, who could take the last oyster, the last fish, the last rabbit and the last duck." You said, "Why should I stand idly by and see our fish and wildlife absorbed by those greedy souls I'll get my share and perhaps a little more." So you got your share you preached your gospel and cohorts rallied to your cause. The gospel spread and grew and grew! Who can say how many ducks or geese or rabbits or quail or fish should be harvested this year? We'll set our own limits our own bags and we'll get them in the easiest and quickest way. We'll go early and stay late, in season and out. If the State wants to

dictate to us, tell us what we can do and when we can do it, we'll show it that we have a mind of our own."

All right, you've had your say and you've done your deed, but are you happy and proud? I think not, because of the fervor of your creed caught on like wildfire! The buddy, in whose ear you poured your confidential gospel, had another buddy and he in turn a buddy and on and on. The mountain stream, where you took your limit in the morning and again in the afternoon, now holds only an occasional fish. The uplands, where rabbit and quail bags were only a brisk jaunt after breakfast, are now almost devoid of game. The oyster beds, where you harvested the undersized, are as unproductive as a desert floor.

From Whom? is the question. Would you cheat at solitaire, to beat yourself? If you had rations for a month, would you consume them all in a day? If you had a sum laid away for your old age that would give you a weekly income the rest of your life, would you spend it all in a one week spree?

From Whom? are you filching when you take more than the limit of fish and game, not the State, not the law protectors, not one but yourself! *From Whom?* Yes sir *YOUR SELF*.—Maryland Conservationist.

Odds and Ends of Fishing

● Continued from Page 7

which should come from cold water in the spring to suit the purpose we have in mind. Catch a mess of them—which means lots because they are small. Draw them and clean them, fry slowly in butter and eat them like smelts. Fry the whole minnow, because if you try removing heads and fins there won't be much left; but eat them as you would trout fried whole, picking the meat off the backbone and throwing the rest away. The tiny bones will practically disappear if they are fried slowly. Genio Scott, writing of "Fishing in American Waters" back in 1874 listed minnows prepared thus as a country delight, and they are. This isn't recommended as steady diet because there's a State limit on how many bait-fish may be taken and there's a limit to how many a stream will produce, but it's a novel change.

Every expert advises against using water, when cleaning fish, to rinse out the body cavity. They say it will turn the flesh soft when the fish is cooked. I can't understand this and don't follow the advice, although I do wipe the fish dry after I have washed it. If the fish is squeezed or wiped dry, the water can't possibly affect it. Besides, Louisiana Creole cooks—who can handle fish about as well as anyone in the world—advise washing fish in water before it is prepared for the pan.

I always carry a piece or two of cloth in my fishing bag for the express purpose of wiping the fish dry after cleaning, and for wrapping up the fish. It saves hunting around for ferns or grass, and it keeps the fish from coming in contact with each other. Such contact causes those ugly splotches that appear on trout, robbing them of their natural beautiful coloring. I wrap one fish then, place another above it and fold the cloth over and so on.

Mention of the cloth brings up an essential part of equipment for salt water fishing, which is enjoyed by so many Pennsylvania anglers at nearby shore spots. Most of this is bait fishing, and most salt water bait is both messy and smelly on the hands. The experienced angler takes a large piece of old cloth with him to use as a towel after baiting up. He ties it before him on the rail of the boat he occupies, or to the pier from which he is fishing, or anchors it down with his bait in surf fishing. It isn't a matter of being offended by dirty, smelly hands; but wiping off the bait keeps the rods, reels and other tackle as well as the clothing fairly clean.

Too many men, and women who make only one salt water trip a year,

fail to take along a few things essential to their comfort. Some sort of sun tan lotion is necessary if the arms, face, neck—and bald heads!—are exposed. It will save many later hours of burning discomfort—and watch your legs where the sun might hit them between the top of the sock and the bottom of the pants. Many a man has come home from a boat trip with a fiery band just above his ankle.

The ocean makes passes at men who wear glasses, and I don't know of any more annoying thing than having to wipe salt spray off spectacles every few minutes. A long-visored cap, or hat with a big brim, will prevent a lot of this, and the same precaution applies to inland stream fishing on rainy days. It seems it always rains when I go fishing and one of those jockey-type caps with the long bills goes with me to keep my glasses reasonably clear on every trip. Some persons are bothered with lips that chap, crack and bleed after several days' exposure to sun, wind and salt spray at the shore. It's advisable for them to take along some camphor ice, or one of the several preparations put up in lipstick form to prevent chapping.

As you can see, this discussion of fishing's odds and ends leads everywhere in general, and nowhere in particular, so it isn't surprising that the

Snapping Turtle

The snapping turtle, as he is popularly called, is one of the really queer forms of turtle life. He is one of the meanest of all turtles, and will snap at anything that happens to get in his way or within his reach. So powerful is his 'strike' that he has been known to nip off men's fingers, and speaking of striking, which is exactly what he does, this turtle defends himself more like a snake than any other turtle. He doesn't pull in his head in most instances but, instead, goes right after the enemy with a quick and murderous strike of his jaws, his neck extending out much farther than thought possible . . . And perhaps the most amazing thing about this snapper is his unusual habit of eating everything under water. That's a fact! If snapper can't eat under water, he starves. And this even though he's an air-breather . . . If snapper happens to be in the same water as a few ducks, the ducks stand a good chance of being his dinner. Snapper grabs ducks by the feet and pulls them under the water until they drown, then he removes the feathers and has his meal.—Ohio Cons. Bulletin.

next topic would be boots. Some men can't afford to buy waders and wading shoes for stream fishing, and some don't like them, preferring hip boots of lightweight rubber. Now, why, in heaven's name, do boot manufacturers insist on making them with the hard, cleated soles which are the worst possible surface for wading most of our rocky streams? They not only make them that way, but call prideful attention to the cleats in their ads as though they were a virtue instead of the curse that they are. Such soles are all right for walking in sand, but they lead to many a spill in our Pennsylvania trout streams.

Felt soles should be optional on all models of boots, and some year the manufacturers may realize this. As it is now, a few firms make felt-soled boots; but most models are cleated and I have a score of friends who spent hours cementing felt to the soles, filling in the spaces between the cleats and covering the heels with felt. Or else they buy cumbersome chain gadgets and put them on over the boot soles for secure walking.

It's my firm conviction that fishing boots, and a lot of other fishing gear, are designed by persons who never go fishing and never wear the stuff they turn out. For instance, even a very small child could devise some better gadget for holding up the top of hip boots than that miserable rubber loop which is supposed to slip under the belt and snap down. The snap is either too tight or too loose. The loop is made of rubber, which makes it difficult to unsnap it because the rubber gives. Why couldn't they make the loop of canvas webbing, or something less yielding and more durable than rubber?

This brings us, by the devious routes employed in this article, to store clerks who sell fishing gear and never go fishing, don't know anything about fishing, and won't learn. This is a condition more likely to be encountered in the larger cities than in the small towns. A big new store opened in my neighborhood several years ago, and installed a large sporting goods department with a line of fine fishing tackle. I visited it, and asked the tackle clerk something about one of the rods. He replied that he hadn't any idea how it worked, and added that he couldn't understand why they had put him in the tackle department when he knew nothing about it, and hated fishing! He had never been fishing in his life. I never went back to that store. There's another one near it, and not one of the several clerks knows anything about the use of the tackle that they sell. The only reason I go there is because the owner—who also doesn't fish—is a friend, and I usually know what I want without

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These pointer pups have just about reached the age when they will get their first training as field dogs.

Handle with Care

● Continued from Page 9

so does the puppy become acclimated to the ways of the woods and field.

A month or so later, the young dogs are advanced to the second stage in the training course—and a very important section too. Each day I turn the “students” loose in territory that is known to contain quail. Then, I carefully watch for the youngsters to start “flash” pointing—that is, pointing for an instant or two when they start detecting the scent of quail. As time passes, they very likely will start chasing game, and for a portion of the training period, I actually encourage them to “flush” the birds.

I have found that bird dogs point instinctively, in much the same manner as cats automatically crouch to kill their prey. What’s more it is natural instinct that makes a dog want to flush coveys or quail. When this portion of training is completed, I cull out and eliminate each puppy that has shown no inclination to flash point or flush.

Once the successful candidates have been promoted to the next portion of training, I secure them with cords attached to their collars and start working them with seasoned dogs. Each time a trained dog points game, we lead the puppies to the area and encourage them to point too. This portion of training covers many weeks and ends only when

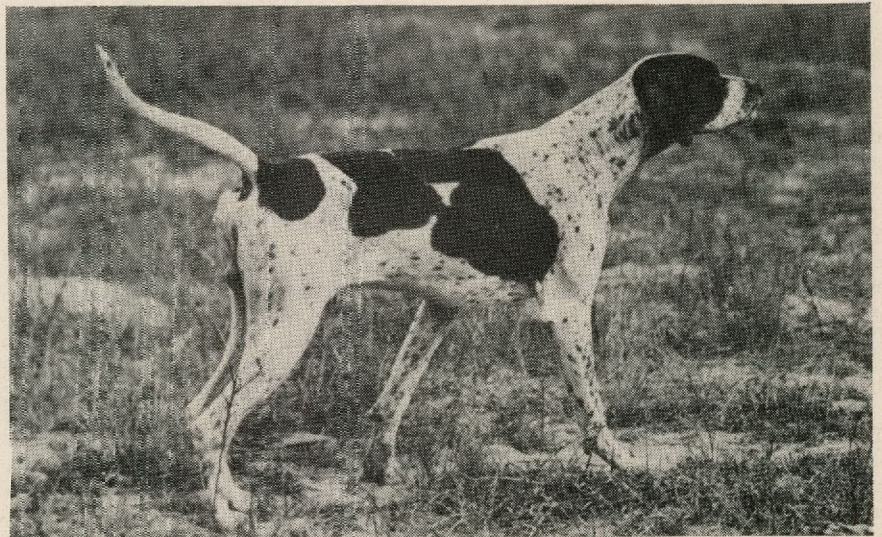
the “students” have definitely demonstrated steadiness in their pointing. For some members of the class, graduation in this part of the training means the end of being restrained by cord. For the ones that didn’t measure up to the requirements, it means failing grades and dismissal from the training class.

Training for “senior class” is of highest importance because it will determine one and for all if the student is destined to be a good hunter or bad hunter. Humans find health and endurance of first importance in their success or failure in the business or professional world, and the same requirements are equally important if a bird dog is to become an unquestioned success. He must possess health and strength that make it possible for him to hunt, and hunt hard, for three

consecutive hours in cool weather. In addition, he must show an immediate response to your affections and commands and, above all, respect you at all times. Your voice must be law with a properly trained dog and he must be willing to respond promptly to your commands to “come here,” “heel,” or, “whoa.” I have no regard for a dog that doesn’t respect my orders. In my estimation, a dog that leaves you in the field, conducts his private hunt out of sight and sound and pays no heed when he’s called, is worse than hunting with no dog at all: I always insist on my dog hunting WITH me or else not hunting at all.

There’s an old saying that “to spare the rod is to spoil the child,” but I’ve found the theory doesn’t work in dog training. For my money, a kind voice eventually will gain and hold respect that certainly cannot be attained in any whipping routine. Once in a great while I get a “problem child” in my training class—a hard-headed dog that refuses to recognize his name or respect my commands. He’s the only type I ever whip. But there are several things to remember when punishing a stubborn or disobedient dog—never lose your temper, and by all means, don’t lay the whip on too hard. Instead of winning the dog over to your side with a hard thrashing, you easily can ruin his future, make him afraid of you, and lose his respect forevermore.

During three years of World War II, I trained and handled dogs for army combat service and, the whole procedure was quite similar to training bird dogs. It was simply the same procedure of developing a dog’s hearing, sight and



Months of arduous training are amply rewarded when a pointer freezes on a perfect point.

smell and above everything else, winning and holding his affection and respect. Those are mighty important training points no matter what breed of dog you are handling.

There are quite a few things to consider before you decide to go into the bird dog training business seriously. One of the most important is the matter of feed bills. A few short years ago I boarded dogs in Alabama for \$5 a month—and three dollars pure profit. But times have changed for man and beast alike and here in the Norias Plantation, where I am dog trainer, it actually costs us \$10 each month to give a dog his proper rations of horse meat, dry dog food, vegetables, buttermilk and cod liver oil. Our present "dog family" consists of 50 old dogs and 20 puppies which adds up to a considerable monthly grocery bill. Then too you mustn't lose sight of the fact that a bird dog is more or less in the "specialist" class since he can only be used for hunting during the short annual open quail season. Bear hounds or wild-cat dogs present an entirely different picture because you can hunt with them practically year-round.

During the bird dog "off season" it'll be necessary for you to exercise your dogs daily to keep them in top physical and mental condition for the season that's to come. What's more they'll depend on you to feed 'em good and regular throughout the "vacation" period too. There's no doubt about bird dogs taking a lot of your time and money—but it's an effort well spent because, and I repeat, they're the most intelligent working dog in the business!—Florida Wildlife.

Squirrel Hunters

● Continued from Page 13

gentle and tender and demanded that he take her home, NOW."

At the car (lower right photo) he took out a little 6-inch blade deer hunter's knife, mumbled something about "Half the work," and asked her to hold the squirrel while he dressed it. When the knife slit the skin and the entrals oozed out, she swooned, slapped one hand over her eyes and said "I'm going home this very minute."

In a matter of about 45 minutes the one and only squirrel was skinned and dressed with no more than a pound of hair clinging to its body.

Tootsie, (lower photo) held up the thermos jug (half filled with ice) and as Ralph deposited the day's kill, he closed his eyes as if dreaming of the wonderful STEW they would have for dinner; and while his head was still bowed and his eyes closed he just went ahead with returning thanks, for hadn't Tootsie said the blessing at breakfast ? ? ?

Odds and Ends of Fishing

● Continued from Page 17

depending upon the clerk's advice.

I've seen such clerks sell some of the strangest things to boys and even adults who are just starting out in fishing and don't know tackle any better than the clerks do. Such a clerk is utterly incapable of outfitting the beginner, whereas the beginner should be able to depend upon the clerk.

That reminds me of the boy I saw fishing one day. He was sitting beside a pool, intently watching the cork on the water, and I stopped to watch, too. Then I realized that I could see down into the water to the end of his line, which was about a yard below the cork, and I wondered what in the world he was using for bait. So I asked him, and he replied rather proudly that he was using a fly! And so he was. He was bait fishing with an artificial

Things You May Not Know

The pelican derives its name from the Greek. It has a huge beak shaped like a great Greek *peleus*, an ax.

There are about 20,000 species of birds in the world, about 800 of them being in the United States

At birth a black bear cub weighs from 9 to 12 ounces which is about 1/200 to 1/250 of its mother's weight. It is about 8 inches long, blind, and covered with a dark hair so thin that it is practically naked.

The ermine, the ptarmigan the Arctic fox and the polar hare change their fur or plumage to white in the winter time.

The male prairie chicken has a wind sac on his throat with which it makes its booming call.

The sassafras tree bears leaves in three different shapes.

The toad's tongue is attached in front, not at the rear of the mouth. This allows it to be flipped out from back of the toad's mouth and as quickly flipped back to the opening of the throat.

The ferret, which is still trained to catch rats, is derived from Gaelic and ancient Celtic, meaning cunning one or crafty one.

wet fly. I explained that you don't let an artificial fly hang motionless below a cork float in a pool, and demonstrated with my own wet fly. By sheer dumb luck I caught a small rainbow trout on the first cast and the boy was considerably impressed—and I was considerably surprised! However, I pretended nonchalantly that fly fishing was as easy as that.

What I am trying to get at is this: Outdoor magazines are missing a bet by not giving as a regular service the simplest and most elementary fishing instructions for persons who know nothing about it and have no experienced friends to guide them. I have seen beginners with fly rods trying to cast flies with bait-casting line, or trying to cast plugs with a 25-pound test rope for a line, and have actually witnessed a wet fly tied directly to a heavy fly line without using a leader.

Since these magazines must depend upon future fishermen for future circulation, it seems to me that they should devote a larger section to teaching the ABC's of fishing. Simple, basic things, such as the right way to put a worm on a hook, how to tell a fly rod line from a bait-casting line, how to rig up for minnow fishing and how to hook the minnow. If flies are discussed, why not colored illustrations of the flies mentioned so the beginner knows what they look like? The big magazines use color lavishly in illustrations, but I don't remember ever seeing a colored chart of the most popular flies in any of them. Such a chart would be helpful, and worth cutting out and saving. Some catalogues contain such charts, and they are saved for years. If a magazine advertised that it was carrying two pages of colored charts showing perhaps one hundred trout flies, I'll bet it would sell out that edition, and, furthermore, that the buyers would hang onto their copies for years.

Well, this has been a sort of mumbling to myself about various fishing matters, none of which is of world-shaking importance, but all of which enter into that most pleasant of outdoor sports.—Pennsylvania Angler.

On Gun Fit

● Continued from Page 14

clothes . . . but treat it like a new one," concludes Davis.

"He done moved!" Turn to the B's in your arms and ammunition address BUHMILLER, scratch Eureka—the custom barrelmaker and ammunition loader's former town of business—and insert KALISPEL, Montana, Box 381.—A. W. III.

Tales of Fact

By Chas. G. Jones

District Game Warden

A wounded duck will dive, attach itself to blades of grass and drown in preference to coming to the surface and allowing itself to be shot. This I have observed while hunting ducks along the Cameron county coast. A few bubbles indicated where the wounded duck had submerged. A probe with my arm located the fowl and when pulled to the top, blades of grass were still in the duck's mouth.

A cross between a Cochin Bantam hen and a Ringneck Pheasant cock was raised by Harry Dennis of Mission. One of the male crosses was sent to the then Executive Secretary of the Texas Game Commission William J. Tucker, who could not realize the authenticity of the statement. Later, when Mr. Tucker was in attendance at a National Wildlife Meeting, Dr. Stoddard told him that such crosses were known, but the offspring would not reproduce. This was tried by Mr. Dennis and proved as Dr. Stoddard had said.

Coyotes will attack young fawn deer as witnessed on the McAllen Ranch in northern Hidalgo County. A Mexican cowboy, while riding the range, observed a doe and a young fawn, and a coyote trying to catch the young animal. Every time the coyote would rush in to get the fawn, the mother would strike the coyote with her sharp hoofs, the fur flying from the coyote. The cowboy finally shot the coyote, but at no time did the fawn suffer any harm, the doe providing all necessary protection to her offspring.

At times wild animals will seek protection at the hands of man. Several years ago a Mr. Craig, a game warden, was stationed at Victoria and once had camped on the coastal prairie where the timber and prairie joined. Mr. Craig had finished his supper and was reclining on his bedroll, a rifle by his side. A cow and young calf came near his camp, the cow bedding down with the calf in the folds of her legs. Shortly thereafter three coyotes came out of the brush, evidently with the intent of catching the young calf, but the report of Mr. Craig's rifle

sounded the death knell for one of the coyotes, the other two taking off to the tall timber. Evidently, the cow smelled the smoke of the campfire, and came to the warden for protection to its young.

The Javelina wild hog is dangerous, practically so when domesticated and made a pet. Several years ago Roy Lawrence who still is living in McAllen, had a pair of Javelina pigs. We went out to the pen and petted them every day. At the time of the first born (a single) a norther was blowing. Roy thought that the two day old pig would fare better in the house wrapped up in a cloth. After taking the little fellow into the house, Mr. Lawrence came back to the pen where the male was. As Roy had done dozens of times, he reached over to pet the boar and to his complete surprise the hog jumped up some two feet, sinking his tusks into Mr. Lawrence's chest. When the pig was separated from its mother, evidently the male thought that harm would come to the little fellow, so instinct prompted the male parent to come to its rescue, attacking the one that took the pig away.

Another display of ill feeling when a javelina is imposed on, happened at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ohler living on the Arroyo Colorado, north of Rio Hondo. They, too, had a pet javelina some three years old. A daughter from Dallas came down to visit her parents. She had never seen the pet hog. The first afternoon after her arrival, the lady went out the kitchen door to feed the chickens. Mr. Javelina, wanting to be friendly, rubbed up against the daughter several times. The lady became provoked, picked up a stick and hit the javelina. The next morning when the kitchen door opened, the hog went around to the back of the house to satisfy himself that it was the same person who hit him with a stick the afternoon before. Then he attacked the woman, cutting her so badly that she spent three months in a hospital. The husband of the lady tells me that two years following the attack, sunken places remain in the legs of his wife, scars inflicted from the ferocious animal.

Can You Beat This One?

By Richard Dodd

I have owned nine fine bird dogs in my life, the last of which was a drop. "Dan" had all the marks of a setter and covered the ground like that breed. I personally trained him and he was one of the finest covey dogs I ever had the pleasure of being in the field with. He also was one of the sweetest retrievers I ever saw.

And speaking of retrievers, I had a friend in north Louisiana with whom I hunted with frequently. He owned a setter named "Rex". We killed lots of birds, quail and woodcock.

One day we were hunting on the Hertzog plantation, Natchitoches Parish, just below the Cane River Lake Dam and one mile from Henryville, when "Rex" came to a point near the water edge. A hawk evidently had scattered a covey that had been feeding. But one bobwhite zoomed up. On the rise my hunting companion killed the bobwhite and it fell into the water where it was about 15 or 20 feet deep.

"Rex" was some retriever himself. He was good water dog as we had used him in our duck blind on Black Lake to retrieve wounded ducks. He always brought home the bacon. When the bobwhite fell into the water, my hunting companion said:

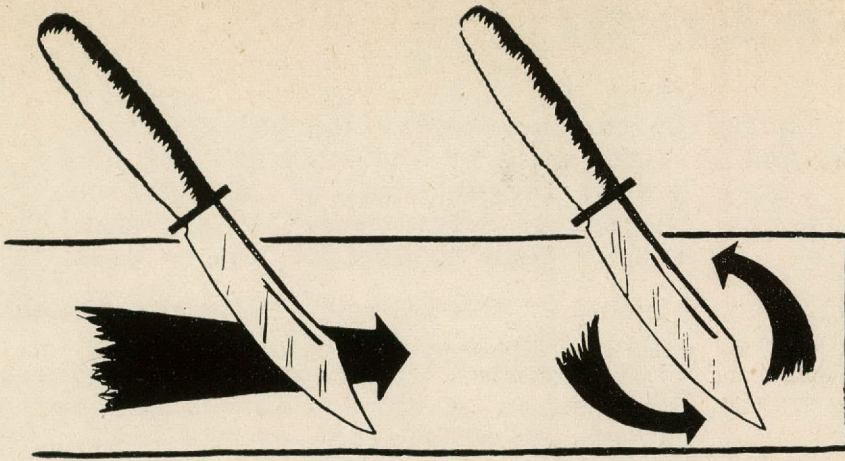
"Dead, Rex. Fetch! Fetch!" Rex plunged into the water, made a couple of short circles and then went underwater where he stayed for about 45 seconds. He finally came up without the bird. Frank, my hunting companion was a bit peeved and there was a sharp note in his voice when he commanded Rex to fetch the dead bird. Dutifully, Rex plunged into the water again, made the same small circles and then went underwater where he remained a little longer this time. Finally he came up without the bird.

Frank was real angry by this time and he broke off a small switch and started toward the dog, saying:

"Back, Rex! Dead bird! Dead bird! Fetch, I said, Fetch!"

For the third time, Rex made a mighty plunge. He did not make the small circles this time but he went underwater and stayed there so long I thought surely he was drowned. Then, about 15 feet from where he went down, he broke surface with a seven pound black bass in his mouth and took it to his master's feet. I said, "Frank,

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The two motions of the blade in sharpening, with arrows indicating direction of motion. On the left, the preliminary rotary motion for grinding proper bevel. On the right, the finishing stroke with the knife being pulled away from the cutting edge, then picked up and returned to repeat the stroke. This motion is used for both fine stone finish and leather stroppings.

Sharp

● Continued from Page 5

finishing smaller knives after the proper bevel has been obtained. A light machine oil should always be used on the stone since it fuses the abraive around the face being sharpened and gives the knife a smoother finish.

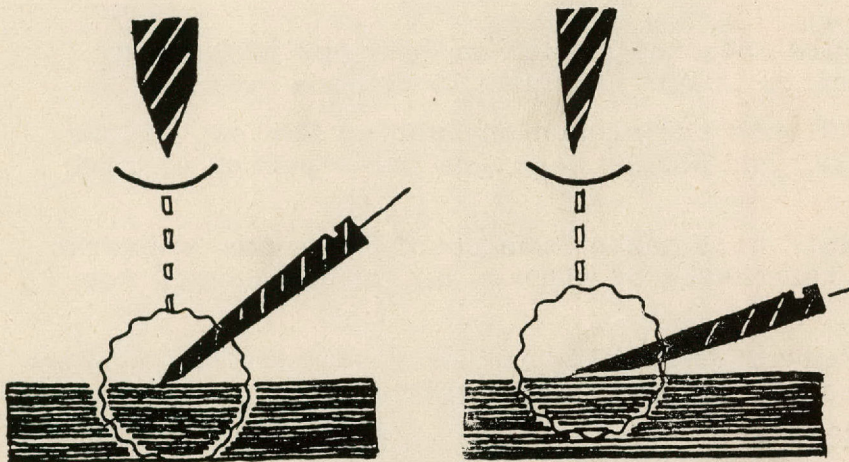
Smaller blades such as pocket and paring knives should be finished on a piece of leather. And old belt, boot top or shoe sole will do beautifully once it has been smoothed down by a few strokes of the knife. Strop the blade in only one direction for each side, always away from the cutting edge.

Sharpness can be tested by holding a strip of newspaper in the left hand and dragging the knife lightly across

the paper. If the blade catches and rips the paper, the finish is too coarse and should be stropped or sharpened to a finer degree. If it makes a clean, slicing cut through the paper, the blade is ready for any cutting job, including shaving.

Both the coarse sharpening and the preliminary fine sharpening should be done with a rotary motion of the blade and with the blade slanted away from the stone enough to give a long, tapering, cross section to the blade. Begin at the blade tip and work slowly back toward the handle, always with the same constant, circular, grinding motion.

Each time you resharpen the knife, maintain the same taper by grinding off metal toward the back of the blade. If you get lazy and cut down the taper angle, you will pay for it



The proper and improper way of holding a knife blade to give a desirable cutting edge bevel angle, and the resulting bevel. The top of the blade on the left is held too high off the stone and will give a blunt, dull cutting edge with too wide an angle. Blade on the right is slanted down near the stone and results in a sharp cutting edge that cuts cleanly.

later when you cut with the knife.

The final fine sharpening stroke should be in one direction, away from the cutting edge, in order to avoid a "wire" or fuzzy edge.

The two essentials, of course, are to keep the edge bevel angle small and to finish the sharpening on a fine oil stone or on leather. If you doubt or tend to forget these two simple rules, drop into your neighborhood barbershop some day and check the razors. These sharpest of all blade instruments demonstrate forcibly the rules of taper and leather finish.

And if you will follow these rules on your own pocket knife, you can take the barber on in a shaving contest and battle him on even terms.—Texas A. & M. Agriculturist.

Fights Pollution

The Associated Sportsmen of California are organizing their forces for a fight to the finish to clean up California's streams and coastal waters. Seeking new and forceful legislation to curb flagrant abuses of the state's waters by industries and municipalities, the sportsmen have been urging legislators to draw up an act compelling communities, incorporated or otherwise, to process raw sewage.

The Division of Fish and Game has been directed to "take every possible step under existing laws" to wipe out pollution, and Executive Officer E. L. McCauley has ordered "arrests if necessary" to halt contamination of waters where fish and wildlife are endangered.

The Associated Sportsmen pointed out that pollution is not only a death sentence for fish but is a great menace to the health and welfare of California citizens, especially of children. Without vigorous, unified action by the voters few industries and municipalities will undertake the expense of cleaning up waters in which may be found the bacteria and viruses of many diseases, including that of polio.

Life Span of Ducks

What is the life span of a duck?

Frank C. Bellrose, associate game specialist of the Illinois Natural History Survey, has worked out the answer for some ducks.

He says the average life expectancy for mallards who visit the Illinois River Valley is one year, 171 days, 13 hours and 12 seconds.

Of course, he admits some ducks live a good deal longer. A few, his records show, have survived eight years. Only 2 to 3 per cent live six years.

Considering dead ducks, Bellrose says that one out of three falls before the hunter's gun. The other two die what he terms natural deaths, most of which occur in the breeding grounds.

The Legislative Front

● Continued from Page 2

nets used in salt water, not including the bag, shall not be less than one and one-half inch square, and that the mesh of the bags and for 50 feet on each side of the bags, shall not be larger than one inch square. Provisions of the bill would permit the use of purse seines of any size mesh a mile off shore. No seine or net more than 2,000 feet can be used.

H. B. 332. By Luedemann. Would prohibit the taking of minnows caught in McCulloch, San Saba, Gillespie, Llano, Kendall, Blanco, Lampasas, Mason, Burnet, Williamson, Hill, Parker, Haskell and Washington counties into any other county of the State. Possession of more than 500 minnows would constitute evidence of violation of the provisions of the bill. The bill, however, would permit the taking of 150 minnows, for personal use, from Parker, Hill, Williamson, McCulloch, San Saba, Lampasas and Washington counties to other counties.

H. B. 330. By Walker. Provides for the licensing of commercial fishing craft and commercial fishermen in the tidal waters of the state.

H. B. 326. By Childress. Would close the season on deer and turkey for a period of two years in Nolan county.

H. B. 325. By Kazen. Would permit the use of dogs to run, trail, or pursue deer in Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Jackson and Fort Bend counties; and would permit the use of dogs to trail wounded deer in Kimble, Sutton, Edwards, Medina, Dimmit, Uvalde, Zavala, Kerr, Mason, Gillespie, Tom Green, Shackelford, San Saba, Llano, Blanco, Burnet, Bandera, Comal, Real, Kendall, Wharton, Schleicher, Crockett, Guadalupe, Jackson, Brewster, Caldwell, Denton, DeWitt, Frio, Gonzales, Haskell, Hays, Hidalgo, Jack, Kaufman, Cameron, Starr, Webb and Zapata counties. This bill also would permit the use of one dog for the hunting of deer in Tyler county.

H. B. 318. By Cannon and Shell. Provides for the taking of shrimp outside of the inland bays in a line extending from the mouth of the Colorado River due southeast for a distance of 25 miles into the Gulf of Mexico and a line extending from the mouth of the Rio Grande River 25 miles out from shore.

H. B. 314. By Gray. Would open the season on deer and turkey in McMullen county between November 15 and December 15 of each year.

H. B. 302. By Hughes. Closes the season on deer in Newton, Jasper, San Augustine, Sabine, Panola, and Shelby counties for a period of five years.

H. B. 278. By Slimp. This bill makes Wise county a minnow conservation district and prohibits the taking of minnows out of the county for sale.

H. B. 277. By Slimp. Regulates fishing in the public waters of Wise county and specifies the type of gear and tackle which may be used.

S. B. 231. By Jones. This bill provides for a Lake Texoma Fishing License to cost \$2.50, and a five day Lake Texoma fishing license to cost \$1.25. This license would permit fishing in any part of Lake Texoma but provisions of the act are dependent upon passage of a similar bill by the Oklahoma legislature.

S. B. 227. By Strauss. Would make it lawful to kill fox in Austin county at any time.

H. B. 256. By Vale. Provides that javelina may be killed at any time in Jim Hogg, Crockett, Dimmit, Frio, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Medina, McMullen, Starr, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Zapata and Zavala counties.

H. B. 247. By Willis. Clarifies the pollution laws.

H. B. 231. By Yezak. Provides for the killing of wild fox in Robertson county at any time.

H. B. 225. By Wilkinson. This bill would put fox on the protected list in Selby county and would permit the killing of fox only when the fox is caught destroying domestic fowl, or when a fox is rabid.

H. B. 218. By Henderson. Repeals all local laws regarding fox in Limestone county and provides for the general state law to govern the taking of fox in that county.

H. B. 215. By Henderson. Closes the season on deer in Limestone county for a period of five years.

H. B. 208. By Willis. Provides for a minnow dealer's license, a license for a truck transporting minnows, and prescribes the manner in which minnows may be transported.

H. B. 181. By Crosthwait. Provides for a universal hunting license, costing \$2.00, for hunting small game. Exempted would be those under 17 years of age and those who hunt upon their own land. This bill also provides for deer tags.

H. B. 149. By Loving. Provides an open season on deer in Jack county from November 15 to November 30 of each year.

H. B. 146. By Perry of Stephenville, Spacek, Stovoll, etc. This bill creates a big game hunting license for deer and turkey. The fee for the license would be \$5.25. Deer tags are provided for in this bill and it would be a violation for any person to have a deer in possession without a tag issued at the time license was purchased. Exempted are those under 17 years of age and those who hunt upon the land on which they reside.

H. B. 138. By Henderson. Provides for bounties to be paid by the State Health Officer for the destruction of rabid wild animals.

H. B. 104. By Moursand. Strengthens the trespass law.


H. B. 98. By Rampy. Would make it lawful to kill squirrels at any time in Runnels, Travis, Williamson, San Saba, Llano, Lampasas, Burnet, Goliad, Blanco Hays, Tom Green, Irion, Sterling, Concho, Erath, Bell and Hood counties.

H. B. 94. By Gandy. Provides two open seasons for squirrel in Hopkins, Franklin and Delta counties, from May 1 to July 31 and from October 1 to December 31. Bag and possession limit would be 8 squirrels per day.

H. B. 58. By Willis, et al. This is the universal fishing license bill. It provides for a license costing \$1.65 which would be good anywhere in the state.

H. B. 18. By Tatum and Crosthwait. This is the regulatory power bill giving the State Game, Fish and Oyster Commission full authority to

● Continued on Page 31



BROODS AVERAGING 2½ YOUNG
ARE BORN IN MID-FEBRUARY
AND AGAIN IN AUGUST



FALLS FROM GREAT HEIGHTS
CAUSE NO APPARENT INJURIES



MOTHER SQUIRRELS KILLED IN
EARLY SEPTEMBER HUNTING SEASONS
LEAVE HELPLESS YOUNG TO STARVE

Gray SQUIRREL

SQUIRRELS AID REFORESTATION
BY FAILING TO RECOVER SOME OF
THE HARSHHELL NUTS THEY BURY



LARGE HAWKS AND OWLS, WEASELS,
MINK, FOXES, AND BOBCATS ARE
ENEMIES OF THE GRAY SQUIRREL

Forest-Game Management Pays Off

A management plan for the Virginia National Forests evolved by the State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U. S. Forest Service has produced startling results during the past 10 years. The Dominion State's program might well serve as a model for action in other states where national forest lands exist.

Under the Virginia forest-game management plan deer have multiplied ten fold, and bear, turkey, squirrel, raccoon and ruffed grouse are increasing steadily. Foresters and game managers work closely together to create the best possible habitat for wildlife consistent with good silviculture. An unbroken forest does not provide habitat for game. Deer, bear, turkeys and grouse reach their greatest numbers in areas where the forest cover is broken by many clearings.

During the past decade the program on the state's two national forests has been directed toward habitat improvement composed in part of selective timber harvesting and in part of supplementary but specific wildlife management practices. Roughly 1,000 miles of trails and wooded roads have been opened and improved for game. Hundreds of waterholes have been established and thousands of food-bearing shrubs and trees planted in clearings along forest edges. Old orchards have been rejuvenated and their grounds seeded. Clearings have been planted with wildlife food plants and some 1,700 white-tailed deer have been restocked on the areas. Refuges have been zoned and fenced.

All work is organized on a unit management basis calling for the greatest degree of coordination between the Commission and the Forest Service. The district ranger, the game manager, the state game technician, and the county game warden all work together with a common purpose and a common determination. Improvements for wildlife are financed through the sale of a one-dollar stamp which is required, in addition to a state license, of all hunters and fishermen using the federal land. In addition to stamp money, Pittman-Robertson funds are being used to finance further habitat improvement projects.

Deer Chances Drop

Many young deer don't have time to grow up before they are headed for the deep freeze. And that is more true this year than ever before in the history of the Hill Country where more hunt-

ers went in this year as compared to other years.

Success of the hunters is going to depend more and more on conservation practices. Estimates from the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission are that 60 per cent of the animals slaughtered this year were not more than 18 months old, barely large enough to shoot for meat.

Hunters are cropping awfully close—that is the margin between the number of deer that can be safely shot and the number actually killed is mighty narrow. And the narrowness of that margin is the thing on which future sport is going to depend more and more.

Hunters have too much the advantage, and it may be that the limit per hunter will have to be reduced as a means of giving the deer a chance to survive.—San Angelo Standard-Times.

Two Lighter Shotguns

Streamlined inside and out, two completely new autoloading shotguns have been announced by the Remington Arms Company, Inc.

Known as Model 11-'48 and the Sportsman '48, the guns will be furnished in 12, 16 and 20 gauges.

A combination of advanced design and new materials has produced a definite saving in weight in both guns, which means saved ENERGY at the end of a day's shooting. In the 12 gauge the saving in weight amounts to about one pound. Yet despite the lighter weight, the recoil is astonishingly light.

The latest research techniques played an important part in the development of the new guns. Aiding in the design of minimum size parts of maximum strength was "stress coating," a new method of locating the strains to which metal is subjected. The use of high speed motion pictures, taken at the rate of 5,000 per second, was employed in the close analysis of the function of the various components of the action.

The guns have been subjected to more severe endurance tests, under greater variety of conditions, than any other shotgun models produced to date.

Darling Honored

Ducks Unlimited in Iowa will dedicate its second major waterfowl conservation project in Canada to Jay N. "Ding" Darling, nationally famous conservationist and cartoonist.

Lake Darling, to be constructed with funds furnished by the Iowa sportsmen's group, will create 10,500 acres of waterfowl nesting habitat on which water levels will be stabilized by eight earthen dams. The lake actually will be a chain of seven water areas, shallow, drought

Ranches Must Provide for Deer, Turkey

How do deer and turkey fit in with a soil conservation program on farms and ranches?

As far as deer are concerned, they are in direct competition with livestock for their food. Therefore, it follows that livestock numbers in greater numbers than the land is able to support will have fewer deer or deer in poor condition. Deer react to their food supply the same as all animals. Inadequate food supplies will either reduce the herd numbers or the deer will be small and light.

In this area, the natural enemy, the mountain lion, no longer preys on the deer. This together with a change in environment from less grass to more woody vegetation has also been favorable for increase in deer populations. However, the favorable factors will be cancelled out if their food supply is cut down by too much livestock on the range.

The authorities on the management of game animals agree that good conservation on the ground will have favorable effects in increasing their numbers. They even go farther in the belief by stating that without soil and water conservation the game will have little chance to increase and will eventually be displaced, especially if they compete directly for food with domestic livestock.

Practically all the vegetation in this area is used as food, either by sheep, goats, cattle or horses. What is not eaten is either out of ranch, inaccessible, or unpalatable. Even the acorns on which turkeys thrive are eaten by livestock. Conservation aimed at increasing the food supply for domestic animals will also increase our deer and turkey population.—Comfort News.

resistant, and ideal for the production of waterfowl.

A total of 19.5 miles of shoreline will be planted, fenced and managed carefully. The cost of the project, which will be located 80 miles northwest of Yorkton, is estimated by Wilson Abel, chairman of DU in Iowa, at \$35,000. In announcing plans for the lake, Chairman Abel stated, "This new project is being dedicated to Jay Darling because of his great and untiring efforts toward the saving of North America's wild waterfowl."

An ordinary table fork can be used as a fish scaler. Hold the fork tipped forward and use short strokes.

- Letters -

More About Javelines

I am enclosing my check for \$1.00 for another years subscription to you very good magazine. I like this book very much although there are times when I do not fully agree with some of the articles you publish. For example the article by Mr. Burr, "It is the Peccary Dangerous," I don't believe he has had much experience with this animal, he should come to south Texas and have a hunt or two, he might change his mind. I have hunted most of my life and many times I have had to climb a tree or top a fence to get away from Javelines. It's true if you *kill* one, notice I say 'kill', the others may run away, but if you wound one, a pig or a sow, the best thing you can do is to look for a tree or fence, and you will *find* one, and what's more *you will climb* it too. It doesn't make any difference how heavy your gun is or how many thorns on the tree you will get up alright. Another thing the meat of a half grown pig is mighty good; that is, if prepared right. The musk bag must be cut out at once, let the hog hang up over night then skin it, cook it properly and you have meat that tastes much like young veal.—Chas. C. Bugher, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Dove Is Faster

From some unauthorized source I have heard that the wild turkey is the fastest flying game bird in this part of the country. To me, this does not seem at all possible, so I would surely appreciate it if you would verify or vise-versa this quoted statement: "The wild turkey flies faster than quail, pheasant, dove or prairie chicken. It's the fastest of our upland birds. Because of its size, its speed in flight is the most deceiving of any game bird."—Fred Molesworth, Clarendon, Texas.

The wild turkey is not the fastest flying upland game bird. Top honors in getting the most speed in the air goes to the dove. The wild turkey ambles along at about the same air speed as the quail, pheasant and prairie chicken.

Red Snapper Fishing

How far offshore and at what depth are red snapper fish caught? Where are the best fishing areas on the Texas coast for this fish and what season of the year do you recommend?—L. G. Moroney, Fort Worth, Texas.

Generally, red fish are caught only from the shore. They ordinarily feed in the surf. They may occasionally

travel as much as half a mile out. They are caught anywhere in the bays. The best place for red snapper fishing are Heald Bank at Galveston, the 18 and 32 Mile banks at Freeport, Baker Hospital and Aransas Reefs at Port Aransas, and some small lumps around Port Isabel. There are charter boats at Freeport and Galveston that regularly fish those reefs. From a standpoint of catching lots of fish and big ones, the best time for red snapper fishing is during January, February and March. However it is rough, hard fishing at that time.

Articles on Camping

How about some articles on camping and camping equipment best suited to Texas in some of your forthcoming issues? I don't mean so much the ideal camping outfit as dreamed up in a rocking chair with outfitters catalogs all around, but articles on the camping outfits used by old-timers at camping in Texas and their ideas of their own outfits and how they use them . . . Having camped off and on for the past 15 years I have a pretty good idea of what to take to make camp life pretty complete and comfortable as long as there is plenty of transportation. My particular aim now is to work up an outfit light enough for back-packing, if necessary, and still have a complete, comfortable set-up against the elements . . . Of course, shelter and bed make up about 75 percent of the comfort and represent about that much weight and bulk of an average camping outfit . . . I've read several books on camping and equipment and collected several magazine clippings . . . They all boil down to light "cruiser," "mountain," "one man," and other type tents and down sleeping bags . . . These type items are very expensive and obtainable only from northern outfitters. Most of these books and articles were also written by men who live and primarily hunt and camp in the north . . . What I would like to know is what weight down bag is practical for fall and winter camping in Texas, or is some other type light bag more preferable? What outfit for sleeping on the ground in Texas has met our wide range of temperatures and humidity? Since we don't have forests to cut tent poles from here in the Panhandle, what is the lightest and most durable material that can be used to make a regular old cowpuncher "hot roll" bed tarp and still be sure of keeping dry should a heavy blowing rain come up during the night, that is, so long as the flat on which you are sleeping doesn't get two inches under water as I saw it once . . . Luckily, we were

in a tent and sleeping on cots, but we had to put all our chuck and belongings on the cots and spend two hours pushing the tent stakes down on the windward side. If the tent hadn't been a "teepee" or miner's type tent it would have probably blown over on us that night . . . The desire for a light, compact outfit is prompted by the fact that when an occasion arises for a weekend hunt one can have everything ready to go in a hurry, taking up little room, and if a pet water hole or hunting spot is out of reach by car, one can pack camp to it on his back and be ready for that coyote or whatever at dawn the next morning. One can make and break camp with minimum time and effort with such an outfit, too . . . If any of the old timers in the game service have had experience camping with such an outfit, or you know of any other men with such experience, I, for one, will sure welcome an article on some of their equipment and experiences.—C. P. Hudson, Plainview, Texas. P. S. Forgot to add that TEXAS GAME and FISH is now one of my pet magazines. I've stopped taking all other hunting magazines because after several years they seem to have the old stuff about fishing in Minnesota and hunting in Canada. Since I do well to get around to doing half as much hunting and fishing in my home state as I would like to, TEXAS GAME and FISH is just what I have been looking for.—CPH.

H. L. McCune, of El Paso, in his article "Tips from an Old Timer" which appeared in the January, 1949 issue of TEXAS GAME and FISH, gave some interesting camping tips from the viewpoint of an old-timer. However, the editor is receptive to an article answering the camping equipment question raised by Mr. Hudson.

In renewing my subscription to TEXAS GAME and FISH, I wish to state your magazine is "tops" of them all for the Texas sportsman.—B. P. Willis.

The neck is absent or unimportant in fishes and other aquatic vertebrates, but in most land forms it is of great importance inasmuch as it is the flexible body region which gives the head the wide range of movement necessary to it in a rapidly moving terrestrial animal.

Sharks differ from most fish in that they either lay a few large eggs protected by a horny egg-case, or, as with the majority of present day sharks, the eggs develop within the body cavity of the mother and the young are born good sized and fully developed.

Turkey Hunt?

• Continued from Page 4

a passageway underneath. That passageway surely saved my hide, as you will well agree.

I leaned my .22 against the trunk, tied the kid to a limb, picked up a rock and then sat down on the log. Being hungry, I delved into my pocket and got a hand full of pecans. I started cracking and eating them. I am sure I had not cracked more than eight or ten pecans when I heard a crash and when I glanced up I was looking right into the eyes of a big hostile buck, with horns like every hunter dreams about. It's hair was sticking out like a mad porcupine. He must have thought I was Fighting Bull, or Sitting Bull, or perhaps stealing his baby, for I had the kid tied with a red bandana, or he must have been sure two bucks were fighting, hearing me crack nuts with that stone. Whatever it was, he was right there staring at me right in the face, snorting, pawing, shaking his head and looking like a fiend or demon.

Maybe you think I wasn't paralyzed? Well I was—or was I? That old self preservation stuff in me popped up. I just knew the way he was carrying on that he was going to jump right into the middle of me. I kept staring at him with an ugly face (I vaguely remembered some place along the line I had heard that you could stare an animal down) but I was not taking any chances. I mustered all the, (whatever it is one has) and very cautiously and slowly reached for my gun, never taking my eyes off that demon. Someway and somehow I aimed and pulled the trigger, but shot too low, and hit his forehead just below the eye level. The blood flowed down one awful snort and here he came. his nose and out of his nose. He gave Whooley.—So, I ups and rolls off that log backwards, him right over me in a flash. I bumped stars into my noggin when I hit the ground, but he never touched me. Then, we were both on the other side of the log. I turned over in time to see him hit a tree in his blundering haste and bounce back like a rubber ball, stumble and fall. I was sure that bullet had got him after all, so I crawled through under that log and got to my knees. By that time he was getting up and I was emptying my gun and no cartridge came up for replacement. I tried again and nothing happened. All the time that demon was getting up. I looked and the clip was gone, lost. Fumbling in my pocket for a cartridge, I finally found one and got loaded up. Talk about buck fever, I had it! Shaking all over like an autumn leaf I got the gun loaded just

in time, NOT to shoot, because he charged me again. He was really MAD this time. Such a guttural bellow I never heard. I hit the dirt, flat, as he went over. Again I went under the log on all fours. I was for keeping that log between us. I jumped up and fired, hitting him in the back right leg, for the last I saw of him he was still going, on three legs. I never could get another shot. He did not come back, guess he had enough, and I am sure that I had. Should any of you hunters find a buck with a punctured nose and a hillbilly limp, he is mine, I saw him first.

Good luck finally caught up with me as I found the kid's mother and that was a load off my chest. By the time I reached the ranch house I felt I had been pulled through a knot hole, piece by piece, instead of creeping backwards under a log 100 miles per hour. Seemed I had lived a year in that one or two minutes. Try it some time!

Next time I go hunting I'm going to borrow some football player's back pads, knee pads and helmet. And hereafter I'm going to crack my pecans at home by the fireside.

After reading this, men hunters will no doubt say, "that's just like a woman, dumb and awkward." One of my hunters told me, after I had told him what had happened, that he would not tell this story. Next day another hunter came in and told me that a buck had jumped right in front of this fellow and he shot three times and missed. So he talked out of turn. My son said, had it been him, he would have jumped on the buck's back when he was down and knifed him. Well, I never rode a wild horse and I sure did not want those pitch forks dug into me, and also, I did not have a knife, just a little .22. At least I did hit the critter each shot. **JUST WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE? A \$64 question???**

But I'll bet anyone that buck I did not get, that **DID NOT GET ME**, I moved back and forth under that log faster and more gracefully than any man in Texas could have. — Uvalde Leader-News.

Public Hunting Tract

The State Game Department has purchased the 34,000 acre Combs ranch near Brewster county and will establish on it and 30 sections of adjoining leased school land the state's first game management project and public hunting grounds.

The 53,120 acre tract lies south of Alpine and east of the Big Ben National Park, which it touches at one point.

A real bring-home-the-bacon bass bait is a small bullhead or catfish with the horns, feelers, and fins removed (Use scissors.)

Panhandle Duck Factory

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Duck hunters were given a great treat when Howard Conrey of Stuttgart, Ark. gave proof of his ability as Worlds Champion Duck Caller by demonstrating various types of calls for 'Bringing 'em in close'.

True to Texas style the special meeting was called a Round-up and included a special wildlife barbecue with all the trimmings Everyone had his fill of delicious game of everal kind—proof that POSC member can really bring in the game.

W. D. Gunn, prominent local sportsman, heads this Ducks Unlimited committee for the club this year and he is determined to carry on further with the restoration project. Styled the "Texas Panhandle Factory" it will be established through co-operation with the seven other sportsmens clubs which are located in the Texas Panhandle. The future of hunting and fishing in Texas will be brighter indeed when similar groups throughout the state realize the importance of the work they can do—and the fun they can have doing it.

Do Dogs Think?

• Continued from Page 10

sitting on a log one day while hunting and decided to see what he would do if we played a trick on him. He was lying a short way from us, and along side of me. I laid my gun across my knees so that it pointed directly at him. He did not wish to be disagreeable, so he promptly got up and walked around me and sat on my other side. I waited a few moments, then carelessly turned the gun so the muzzle again pointed his way. Evidently he thought once was enough; instead of changing his position again, he just looked at me squarely in the eye and growled. I moved the gun. Instinct? More sense than some hunters.

A bird dog knows his master's gun and hunting coat, and expresses his pleasure whenever they are taken out, thinking of course he is going hunting. I have even seen a good bird dog look over a field before entering to hunt it, and go almost directly to a covey of birds. I am sure he looked the situation over and with experience, decided in his mind where the birds were most likely to be; and there they were.—Maryland Conservationist.

A very small snelled hook baited with a strip of red cloth is a sure-fire frog getter. Just lower it in front of a frog for action.

Is Bounty System a Farce

● Continued from Page 6

were all completely exterminated by 1919. The deer increased and reached such numbers that they ate more forage than the forest could produce. By 1924, more than 1700 deer were counted in one meadow. The deer kept increasing and the forest diminishing. Winter came, and deer died of weakness and starvation, and those that lived ate every leaf and twig they could reach, until the whole country looks as though swarms of locusts had swept through. It will probably take fifty years of careful game management to cover the scars. If there had been moderate hunting of both deer and predators, the situation in the Kaibab would not have occurred."

Which is substantiation of the naturalist's contention that man is not qualified to eliminate predators. In his predatory habits, man is not selective; in fact, he prefers the fit to the unfit, taking the best head of horns, the healthiest and largest game birds, the biggest and best in everything.

Birds and beasts of prey, on the other hand, thin out the weak and below-par. Diseased and unfit animals fall first. The hawk singles out the ailing quail; the cougar finishes off the unfit deer; the coyote makes short work of the sick cottontail. And even in their predation on herds of cattle and sheep the coyote and lion thin out the below-average animals first, thus doing the rancher a service. So go the naturalist's arguments, and they are supported by fact.

What of the much-touted destruction of game birds about which bounty supporters complain so loudly? Here again Nebraska experts come forward with an opinion.

"Most of the investigations concerning predator control have been conducted by agencies interested mainly in game birds and other animals. This has been done because of the common belief that predators hold down the game supply. These investigations can be summarized by the following statement: PREDATION IS A MINOR ITEM IN DETERMINING POPULATION TRENDS OF UPLAND GAME BIRDS SUCH AS PHEASANTS, QUAIL, GROUSE, ETC. (Capital letters are theirs.)

"Quail and foxes both exist in high numbers in southern Iowa and in Missouri," the Nebraska report continues. "Foxes and coyotes are present in Nebraska's better quail territory. Coyotes are numerous in the world's best pheasant range in South Dakota, Nebraska

and North Dakota. Both coyotes and sharptailed grouse are numerous in Nebraska National Forest."

Referring to the author's request for information regarding gray fox bounties said to be paid in one county of North Carolina, the Commissioner of that State's Department of Conservation replied:

"It is interesting to note in this connection that since the law was passed four years ago, authorizing the county commissioners to pay bounties, foxes have increased in that county just as rapidly as in other counties .."

The Commonwealth of Virginia reports that "our Commission discourages the payment of any bounties." Arizona states that "basically there is no bounty system operating in this state from any source," despite the presence of bounty laws on Arizona's statute books.

Evidence is ample that the bounty, in most states, is more of a political football than a serious effort to control destructive mammals and birds. Pressure is brought to bear on legislators to enact bounty laws; they do so in order to keep peace in the political family. In some instances, where an unusually serious predator problem has caused real alarm, legislatures have enacted bounty laws in an honest effort to solve the problem.

In a great many instances, such laws merely empower the county, village, or some other political subdivision to pay such bounties as they may "deem advisable" such payments, although there are exceptions, of course. During the period from 1944 to 1946, 93 counties in Nebraska alone paid out \$33,000 for 30,000 coyote scalps. Virginia is typical of the opposite viewpoint. Referring to the state law authorizing county boards of supervisors to pay bounties, the executive secretary of Virginia's Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries comments:

"A very few counties have availed themselves of this privilege."

Bounty laws, legalized by action of the state legislature, in such instances merely "pass the buck" to local officials. This is true in many of the 33 (or more) states that have written bounty laws into their codes.

Which birds and mammals are the principal targets of the bounty advocates? The writer's nation-wide survey shows that the crow ranks as "Predator Number One," insofar as legislation is concerned, with the English sparrow trailing close second. But even these birds have their islands of safety, with five states protecting crows and eight offering haven to the sparrow. Eleven of the 48 provide safety for the great horned owl, the rest putting him on the "wanted" list. Runners-up for the title of "most unpopular bird," are

the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, the goshawk and the starling, although the gamut runs from blue heron to blackbird, and from eagle (excluding the bald) to buzzard.

Among the bountied mammals, the wildcat is most sought, even outranking the coyote in the total number of states outlawing him. The wolf and fox top the reward list in "dollar value," bounties as high as \$100 being offered for the former. Close to 80 different birds, mammals and reptiles were outlawed.

Could this nation-wide trend away from the bounty system presage a trend toward wider acceptance of the balance-of-Nature viewpoint? It seems unlikely that the near future will see it. Yet predator control, in years to come, might wisely be returned to Nature herself who, practices it with superior wisdom.

Salt Of The Earth

● Continued from Page 4

Much is a Man Worth?" and in his estimate he included the chemical composition of the human body.

It is very true that we are just what food has made of us, and this takes us back to the fundamentals of soil and climate. There is some reason why deer in South Texas are larger than in other parts of the State. A rancher in Leon County (East Texas) remarked that he could not raise beeves as big as those grown in West Texas where abundance of lime and phosphorus made big bones possible.

Some years ago Mr. Caesar Kleberg, then manager of the King Ranch, asked for an analysis of the rock so abundant in Baffin Bay, an arm of the Laguna Madre. They had been grinding up the rock and mixing it with stock feed, presumably for the lime needed in bone building. The rock contained much calcium but also a large portion of insoluble compounds which may have caused a discontinuance of those ingredients. No doubt the ranch has overlooked nothing that would aid in the building of the biggest beeves in Texas. They build not only the finest livestock but they build better pasture lands by fertilization, and in land improvement the wild game has shared in the general benefits.

When range values deteriorate as a result of over-grazing, erosion takes over, fertile soil is washed away and poverty sets in. Conservation of the soil and the animal life which depends on it is everybody's job and few people are aware of the vastness of the undertaking in which government agencies are now engaged.

The atom bomb has created an unwarranted belief that our troubles are all over. Splitting the atom and new

discoveries, it is believed, will meet every demand for a comfortable and easy life, and when that happens we can forget about soil erosion and water supplies. Let us live in a fairy-land of dreams with the magic wand of Science to do our bidding, is the attitude of many. In the final emergency we can live on capsules manufactured in laboratories, and all acute shortages will become a think of the past.

In a recent address by Dr. L. W. Blau, food emergencies were alluded to when he said "I like steak and I don't like capsules." It might be added that he and others like venison, quail, wild turkey and even ducks if they are cooked right. Instead of quail on toast it would then be quail on capsule, or turkey tablets instead of the old-fashioned turkey in the straw. In the fish line it would be tincture of trout, and powdered pompano. Imagine, if you can, a group sitting around a camp fire, inhaling the tantalizing fumes of frying bacon, when some one stepped up with the melancholy report that bacon was, bacon is, but bacon shall be no more; and the camp fire luxury is OUT! No one would believe that, until it was explained that hereafter you'd get only SYNTHETIC BACON!

It is doubtful that synthesis can produce the flavor that Nature intends, and Nature herself can not do it on an exhausted soil. The vegetable gets its flavor from the kind of minerals available. Worn-out land may still grow something, but flavorless food is apt to be the reward. Just compare the taste of grass-fed beef with that of grain-fed, the kind that Dr. Blau likes. But even grain that grew on exhausted soil can not contain nutrients which do not exist.

Let the stioc frown on the epicure and ask what is the difference whether food tastes good or not, just so it fills one up. The difference is that when the palate puts approval on food, the stomach is in better shape to take care of it. The palate does sometimes mislead, but the final arbiter is the faculty of digestion and appropriation. In a large measure we are what we eat.

Go down to the coast and pull a red snapper from the bottom of the Gulf. If the fish had lived on shrimp you will have a splendid meal; if on a certain shell food, the flavor is not so good. The oyster which, least of all can choose its diet, has a flavor which is dictated by its ecology. If the oyster you sample has a delicious taste it probably came from Mesquite or Matagorda Bay. Those waters receive their far-away nutrients from the regions of the long stretches of the Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers. If therefore, the kind of water consumed by a beef has to do with its juicy flavor, it is equally true that the excellence of an oyster depends on the rich nutrients

washed down from fertile river basins. *ON THESE SALTS OF THE EARTH* beasts, is brought on by lack of a proper *DEPEND THE SAVOR WHEREWITH "IT SHALL BE SALTED."*

It can not be doubted that much of the blind craving and thirst, and the frustration experienced by men as well as balance in the mineral content of the body. That was what the little Sonora deer thought about it, or at least felt about it. The lower animals have the answer to many of the questions that are yet unanswered.

Hints to Angler

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Still-fishermen usually ply their sport either by wading or poling along quietly in a small skiff. Fishing for bonefish is somewhat like still-hunting deer, you actually hunt the fish.

An obvious bonefish flat should be approached at the start of an incoming tide and the water scanned for signs of "tailing" fish. The idea is to locate the feeding fish, figure which way they are moving and stake the skiff, both fore and aft, in their path well ahead of them.

When the bonefish come within the distance of a careful cast, the lure should be placed accurately just ahead of the fish so that they will work over the spot where the bait is lying. Absolute quiet should be exercised because any undue noise in the boat will send the fish scurrying.

A bonefish is a notoriously light biter; just a mere touch is felt when it picks up the bait and mouths it. The angler should be careful not to have the slightest tension on the line at this time for if the wary feeder has any cause for suspicion it will drop the bait and vanish.

After mouthing the bait, it will slowly start to move away with it. Allow the bonefish to go a foot or two—then, set the hook. After that, watch your thumb and knuckles for you're hitched to greased lightning.

TACKLE . . . For still-fishing, the typical tackle is known as an "Official 4/6 outfit." This means a rod made of either split bamboo or tapered, tubular steel like the "Pal." The tip must be not less than 5 feet in length and not over 4 ounces in weight.

The detachable butt is usually 17 or 18 inches in length, giving the rod an overall length of 6½ feet. With this is used a 1/0 free-spool reel holding approximately 300 yards of 6-thread linen line. A ½ ounce or 1 ounce sinker is recommended, together with snelled hooks ranging in size from 3/0 to 5/0.

Many anglers prefer a regular bait casting rod for this type of fishing. When

this type of rod is used it should be from 5 to 6 feet in length and of medium or stiff action. Usually, the preferred reel for this type of rod is an over-size model level-winding bait casting reel, holding from 150 to 200 yards of 6-thread linen line. This will be found satisfactory for the majority of bonefish, but if a large specimen is hooked, the line capacity will be found inadequate.

Bait casters use the same procedure as described in the foregoing paragraphs and any medium to heavy outfit is preferred in order to properly work the lure and handle the fish. Small, sinking plugs, surface lures and feathered jigs are effective; especially such favorites as the zaragossa, river runt, sea runt and vamp.

Fly fishermen find the thrill of a lifetime when they handle their first bonefish, and every subsequent catch gains in sature for the bonefish never fails to put on a show.

The proper rod should be made of split, tempered bamboo, at least 9 feet in length and built along sturdy lines like the power-plus action. In addition to the regular fly line, enough 6-thread linen line backing should be used to fill out the reel.

In the past, anglers as well as writers have frequently confused the bonefish with the ladyfish (*Elops Sourus*). The ladyfish is an entirely different fish from the bonefish and is a great battler in its own right.

The ladyfish is slimmer than the bonefish and does not have a low-set mouth. Also, the ladyfish puts on an aerial display that surpasses even that of the tarpon; the bonefish confines its acrobatics to the sub-surface and does not break water but merely boils at the top.

The ladyfish is a great sport fish and has many of the same fighting merits of the bonefish—but, they are two distinctly separate species.

What Cats Are

The following essay on cats was turned in by a grade school pupil:

"Cats and people are funny animals. Cats have four paws but only one ma. People have forefathers and only one mother.

"When a cat smells a rat he gets excited, so do people.

"Cats carry tails and a lot of people carry tales, too.

"All cats have fur coats. Some people have fur coats and the ones who don't have fur coats say catty things about the ones who have them."

Use a large tablespoon to scale fish. Keep the hollow toward the fish's head and the scales won't fly.



BOOKS

ANIMALS ALIVE by Austin H. Clark, 472 pages. Illustrated with pen and ink drawings. Published by D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., 1948. Price \$4.00.

This is a unique book written by an author well qualified to prepare such a treatise. Although it contains a modern classification system, it is not mere catalog of animal life. It deals rather with the relationships between all forms of life from Protozoan to the highest. The activities of groups that are harmful and those that are beneficial to man's interest are both outlined. In clear understandable English that any layman can appreciate, Dr. Clark points out the relationships that exist in the animal world and some of the rather remarkable things that happen when man, deliberately or otherwise, interferes with those relations.

The volume is divided into four parts. Part I, "Man and the Animal World," deals primarily with man's direct relation with various forms of life beginning with the one-celled forms and going through to many of the higher groups. Included is a fascinating chapter on how other people of the world live and the strange variety of things that they use for food. Part II deals with land animals, including insects, various other invertebrates, and birds, mammals, and reptiles. Part III includes fresh water animals in a similar discussion and presentation, while Part IV covers marine life.

Out of a wide experience, Dr. Clark has assembled many curious and interesting facts to show vividly the complex interrelationships of all forms of life between one another and with humanity. Every adult should read this amazing book. It is more fascinating than most modern novels should enjoy wide sale, and command a large audience.

THE SALTWATER FISHERMAN'S FAVORITE FOUR by O. H. P. Rodman, 192 pages. Illustrated with two color plates and numerous line drawings by Jack Murray and with many half tones of photographs. Published by William Morrow and Company, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. Price \$4.00.

This is the best written and most interesting book on in-shore saltwater fishing that this reviewer has even seen. The author, a noted writer and publisher has served as Chairman of the Salt Water Fishing Committee for the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association, has written numerous articles and books on fishing, and probably knows as much about the four species of fish covered in his new volume as anyone else in the country. "The Favorite Four" referred to in the title are the striped bass, the channel bass, the bluefish, and the weakfish and within, the covers of this book will be found hundreds of informative and valuable tips on how and where to take them.

The author handles a pen and a surf rod with equal facility. The pages of this volume are filled with fascinating anecdotes and even the most technical information is presented in the most interesting manner possible. This is not just a book for the beginner. It will be read by all saltwater fishermen, regardless of their experience, with equal pleasure.

FISHES OF THE WESTERN NORTH ATLANTIC Part I, Edited by John Tee-Van, 576 xvii pages. Illustrated with 106 figures. Published by Sears Foundation for Marine Research, Yale University, 1948, Price \$10.00.

This new book is the first of a proposed series which eventually will cover all the fishes of the North Atlantic. When completed, the series will have the unity of a ship of the various sections. The present volume contains the known facts and information about the lancelets, hagfishes, and sharks which inhabit the waters adjacent to the eastern coast line of North and Central America and the northern portions of South America.

This volume is the product of three authors, each writing under his own name about the species or groups with which he is especially familiar. Chapter One on lancelets was written by Henry B. Bigelow and Isabel Perez Fafante. Chapter Two on Cyclostomes was written by Dr. Bigelow and William Schroeder. Doctors Bigelow and Schroeder collaborated on the final chapter on sharks.

The accounts are uniform in style

and arrangements and are published in systematic order. Under each species will be found detailed descriptions and distinctive characters which set it apart from its relatives together with a discussion of its color, size, general habits, abundance, range, and relation to man. Economic importance and sporting qualities of all species are covered completely. On the basis of the first volume, this series when completed should prove a classic text for the marine biologist and for the salt-water sport fisherman who wishes to delve deeply into the habits of his favorite species and its associates.

THE CONTEMPLATIVE ANGLER by Roy Wall, 215 pages. Illustrated with chapter decorations by G. Don Ray. Published by G. P. Putman's Sons, 2 West 45th St., New York 19, New York, 1948. Price \$3.50.

Roy Wall claims to have some fishing first in a basket on his mother's arm at the age of two months. This new volume, filled with valuable information and many interesting and humorous anecdotes, is the record of a lifetime spent on streams and lakes in North America. It is an exceedingly well-written dual purpose volume which may be read with equal pleasure either as a book of instructions in fishing techniques or for entertainment alone.

The author covers quite thoroughly the choice and use of fresh-water fishing equipment and yet he has woven this more prosaic matter together by the use of many stories from his own broad experience. The result is a readable and entertaining treatise filled with information which both the beginner and the expert will find useful.

Can You Beat This One?

• Continued from Page 20

don't you make that dog go back into the water again or he will surely drown."

"Okay," replied Frank. "Let's go. It's getting late and we have a nice bunch of birds anyway."

With the bass, dog, and birds we loaded into my old family chariot, "T" model, and went in. We dressed the birds and then I came to the bass. I scaled the fish. He was a beauty. He looked like he would measure at least 28 inches around the girth. I cut the bass open and saw the quail Frank had killed. Frank immediately went out and apologized to Rex. He should have, don't you think so?

The eel is remarkably prolific, a single female 32 inches long having been estimated to produce 10,700,000 eggs.

The Legislative Front

● Continued from Page 23

set open seasons on game and game and game birds, bag limits and possession limits, and regulate hunting in general.

One of the most surprising aftermaths of the recent sub-zero weather was the small damage done to livestock and game. We have secured reports from over the State which show a very favorable condition of livestock and game, and this is indeed heartening as it had been feared much damage would result. Reports from various sections are: Chas. W. Jones, Weslaco: "Neither have I observed nor have I had any word from others as to any damage done to livestock or game during the recent cold spell in the Valley." Jess Felts, Dalhart: "There was no damage done to livestock or to game by the late cold spell in the six Northwest Panhandle counties that are in my district." E. M. Sprott, Lufkin: "No damage to livestock has been reported or observed." Cob Carpenter, Falfurrias: "The county is in fair shape—plenty of grazing and fresh water and it wasn't cold enough to draw the stock, much less kill them." Jack W. Gregory, Kerrville: "I believe there was very little damage to game and livestock in Kerr County. A few deer died." James J. White, San Angelo: "No game reported lost. A light loss in livestock, both newborn and old stuff." C. E. Whinton, Laredo: "We suffered no damage in this area to livestock or wildlife." Adolph Heep, Fredericksburg: "Livestock and game apparently suffered very little during recent blizzard in this section." John E. Hearn, Cotulla: "If there has been any damage to livestock or game, I have not seen it." W. C. Cave, Wichita Falls: "Estimated 375 newborn calves and few deer lost; quail seem to be in fine shape." A. R. Williams, Alpine: "Very little damage was done to livestock and game in this area. We lost few very old antelope that would have died soon anyway." About the heaviest loser we have heard of is Gene Ashby, Warden out of the Austin office, who lost better than two-hundred (200) young kids.

The new fish hatchery at San Marcos has been named the "A. E. Wood Fish Hatchery", after the first Chairman of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. It is now completed and ready for production and is being rapidly stocked with brood fish. R. P. Winn, formerly of the Huntsville Hatchery, is Superintendent in charge and A. Y. Ball and A. P. Boyett are the Assistant Superintendents. Bill Brown, Aquatic Biologist, is in charge of the laboratory, which lacks the installation of some equipment for complete operation. Present plans call for the production of several million bass fry for the Colorado and Guadalupe River lakes, as well as ample amounts of bass fingerlings, crappie, bream, and catfish to stock private and public waters in twenty-five (25) Southeast Texas counties in co-operation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife hatchery at San Marcos.

The fourth Game Warden School conducted jointly by the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission and A.&M. College of Texas got under way February 1st. Sixteen men from the various geographical regions of the State were selected to take the course. The men will be required to take four months of intensive training in Law Enforcement, Public Relations, Records and Reports, Wildlife Conservation and Management, Natural History of Vertebrates, Conservation and Management of Fishes, Practical Public Speaking and Municipal Sanitary Engineering, with emphasis on water analysis and detection of pollution. Jim Smith, Game Warden of Fort Worth, is the instructor of the Law Course, Public Relations and Records and Reports, while the other courses are taught by professors of A. & M. College.

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