

# Texas Game and Fish

SEPTEMBER 1949 TEN CENTS



ORICE

# Why

## **TEXAS GAME and FISH is a "MUST" Advertising Buy . . .**

1. Because TEXAS GAME and FISH is written and edited EXCLUSIVELY for Texas by Texans who, through training and experience, know Texas hunting and fishing from A to Z, and who have earned the confidence of one of the fastest growing family of readers and friends in the nation today.
2. Because TEXAS GAME and FISH reaches the very persons you want to reach — the men and women and youngsters who REALLY LAY THEIR DOUGH ON THE LINE for hunting and fishing equipment that will get the job done. Ninety-two percent of the readers of TEXAS GAME and FISH are buyers of hunting and fishing licenses. Think that over, because Texans don't buy hunting and fishing licenses to frame.
3. Because TEXAS GAME and FISH is adding new subscribers at a rate better than 500 a month WITHOUT THE USE OF PREMIUMS — HIGH PRESSURE SOLICITORS — OR A CLUB RATE. Subscribers lay one buck on the barrel head for a one year subscription to TEXAS GAME and FISH and in return they get a magazine THEY LIKE and SWEAR BY.
4. Because TEXAS GAME and FISH right now has a PAID circulation of more than four times the combined circulation of all the other hunting and fishing magazines IN TEXAS. And TEXAS GAME and FISH is growing rapidly. A low basic rate, which is bound to be upped very shortly, makes TEXAS GAME and FISH a "MUST BUY" on the schedule of alert and progressive manufacturers and advertising agencies.

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# TEXAS Game AND Fish

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

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COVER—By Orville O. Rice

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ROGER M. BUSFIELD  
Editor

### The Cover



Crabbing is not what you might call a thrilling sport but to the youngster who dangles his line from a pier and feels the tug on his line as the crab reaches out and clamps a vice-like claw on the bait, there is no greater thrill. Crabbing is a favorite pastime of the young fry along the Texas coast. To the grownup, crabbing is an easy and quick way to vary the menu. Crab meat, when properly prepared, is a delicacy. Expensive tackle and gear is not needed to catch crabs. Just a stout line with a chunk of bait tied securely on the end is all that is needed. Of course, some sort of a pier is necessary to drop your line from as crabs like to hang out around pier piling.



## Split Season on Ducks; Bag Limit Down to Four

**T**exas has a split season on ducks and geese this year, a reduced bag limit on ducks and an increased bag limit on geese.

The first half of the split season opens on November 4, at 12 noon, and ends one hour before sunset on November 21.

The second half of the split season opens on December 21, at 12 noon and ends one hour before sunset on January 7.

The bag limit on ducks is four per day and eight in possession. This is one less than was permitted last year. However, an additional goose may be taken this year bringing the total to five geese, all of which may be snows, not more than 2 may be Canada geese, or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 each of Canada and white-fronted geese.

The regulation which prohibits the use of automatic loading or repeating shotguns capable of holding more than three (3) shells continues in effect. An amendment which went into effect last year provides that the plug in such a shot gun must be incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun. Neither may waterfowl be lured or enticed by means of grain or other feed or with the aid of live duck or goose decoys.

To permit sportsmen to transport to their homes ducks and geese killed on the last day of the season at some distant point, shipments from Canada and Mexico can be made this year as late as five days following the close of the season in the province or state where taken. In the United States hunters can make interstate shipments up to

48 hours following the close of the shooting season in the state where taken.

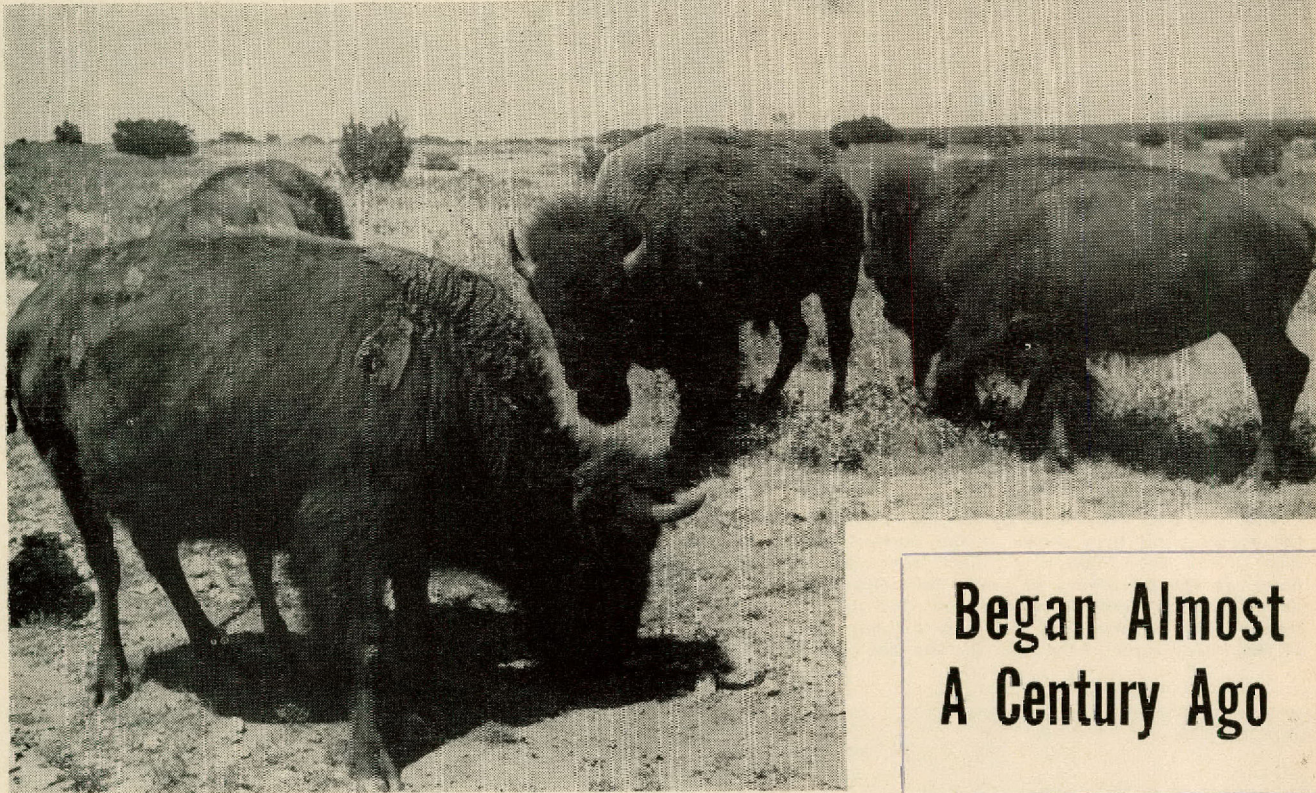
The regulation this year also permit the transportation out of and possession in another state during the period of the open season where killed, and for 90 days thereafter, of wild ducks and geese taken in a flyway having a larger possession limit than in other flyways. In other words, if you do your hunting in the Pacific flyway states, where the possession bag limit is ten ducks, you may ship your ten ducks to Texas and have them in your possession in Texas even though the possession limit in this state is only eight.

In shipping your birds this year be sure to leave the head, head plumage,

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# Conservation of Texas Wildlife



**Began Almost  
A Century Ago**

## FOREWORD

Here is set forth the high points of a hundred years of man's dealing with the wild animal kingdom of Texas. As a climax to nearly 28 years of service with the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, to which he owes much, the writer has assembled historical data to be put in book form at some later date.

By J. G. Burr

## Chapter I

### SIZING UP THE SITUATION

The Indian's faith in a happy hunting ground hereafter had a substantial value. It stemmed from a belief that the best is yet to come. Assuming that to be true, the ingenuity of man is such that when things in this terrestrial sphere do not measure up to our standard we can often refashion them here and now without waiting for the dispensation of an uncertain future. That is the American way of life. On all sides and in all fields economical or political we see the principle applied whether it be an attempt to build a

fortune or a political future that will land one in public office.

Getting things done a little better instead of tolerating the intolerable is the burning desire of the reformer. Members of the legislature who have observed the status of wildlife, often bring to the capital the contention that the hunting grounds of Texas could be made happier by the adoption of certain controls over human conduct. This view is shared by many. Far and wide we have heard the expression; "There ought to be a law," and the urgency of this "ought" has loaded the game code to the breaking point. Laws designed to make game plentiful have been piling up for more than fifty years, but at no time has hunting-ground happiness reached the shouting stage. Happily, something is to be done about the plethora of game and fish laws which, doubtless, will be an extension some day of regulatory powers to the Game

and Fish Commission, and a consequent reduction of the number of laws governing wildlife.

Texas, once a hunter's paradise which has been lost, can be regained as such, within certain feasible limits by the reconstruction program now in operation. Definite scientific information on wildlife management has been substituted for the old hit and miss methods long ago outworn. Further elaboration on this will be presented in subsequent chapters, but first we are to follow some of the game trails back into the days when bag limits were considered preposterous, and few there were who believed that the wild game species could ever be exterminated.

We begin by contrasting the abundance of the past with the scarcity that resulted when man over-reached a modest harvesting of the various wild

• Continued on Page 24

**Buffalo Had Almost Disappeared When Aroused  
Public Took First Steps to Conserve Wildlife**

# Operation Deer Trap

By W. C. Glazener

In the past nine years, "Texas" and "big scale deer trapping" have come to be almost synonymous to many game technicians of the United States.\* Back of this development lies a chain of closely connected events following one after the other. It all hinges on intimate knowledge of deer as accumulated by a few observing men, and a practical application of that knowledge.

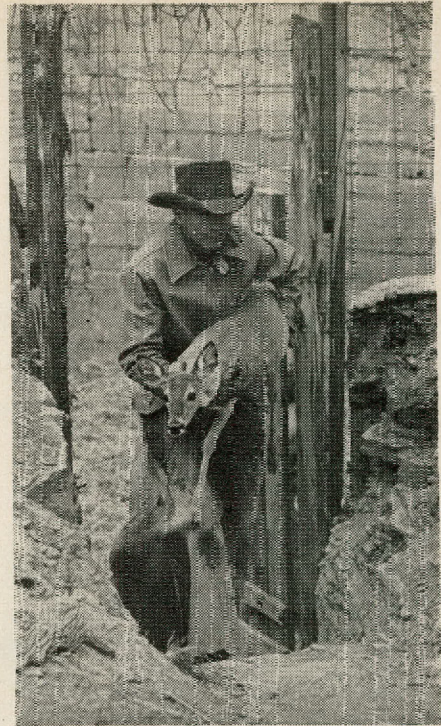
Early efforts to stock deer on depleted areas involved use of pet animals. However, the pets usually re-

fused to "go wild." On the contrary, many of them established themselves at ranch or farm houses and became nuisances; others placed too much faith in mankind on or along public roads and come to an early end. Re-population result were disappointing to all concerned.

Game officials were convinced that live-trapped native stock was greatly to be desired for broodstock. Unfortunately, it was very difficult to capture wild deer in numbers. Cowboys roped a few, and herded some into

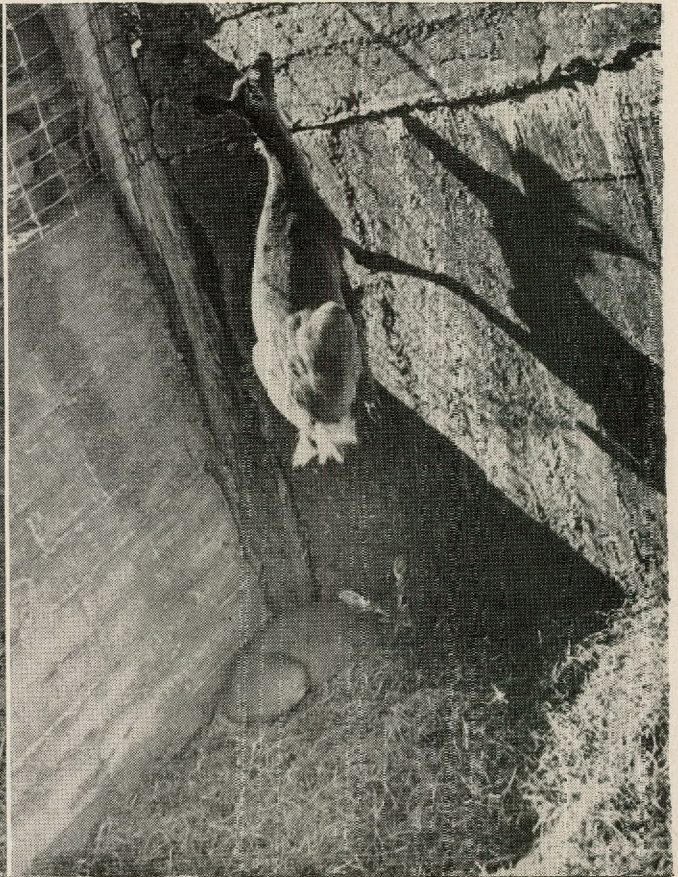
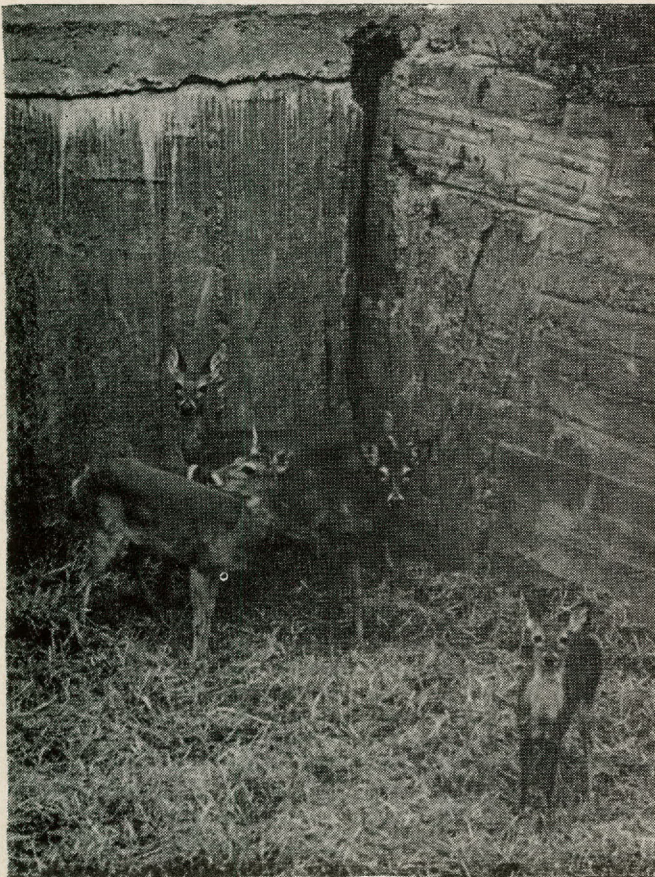
\* Beginning in 1939, deer trapping and transplanting have been conducted through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

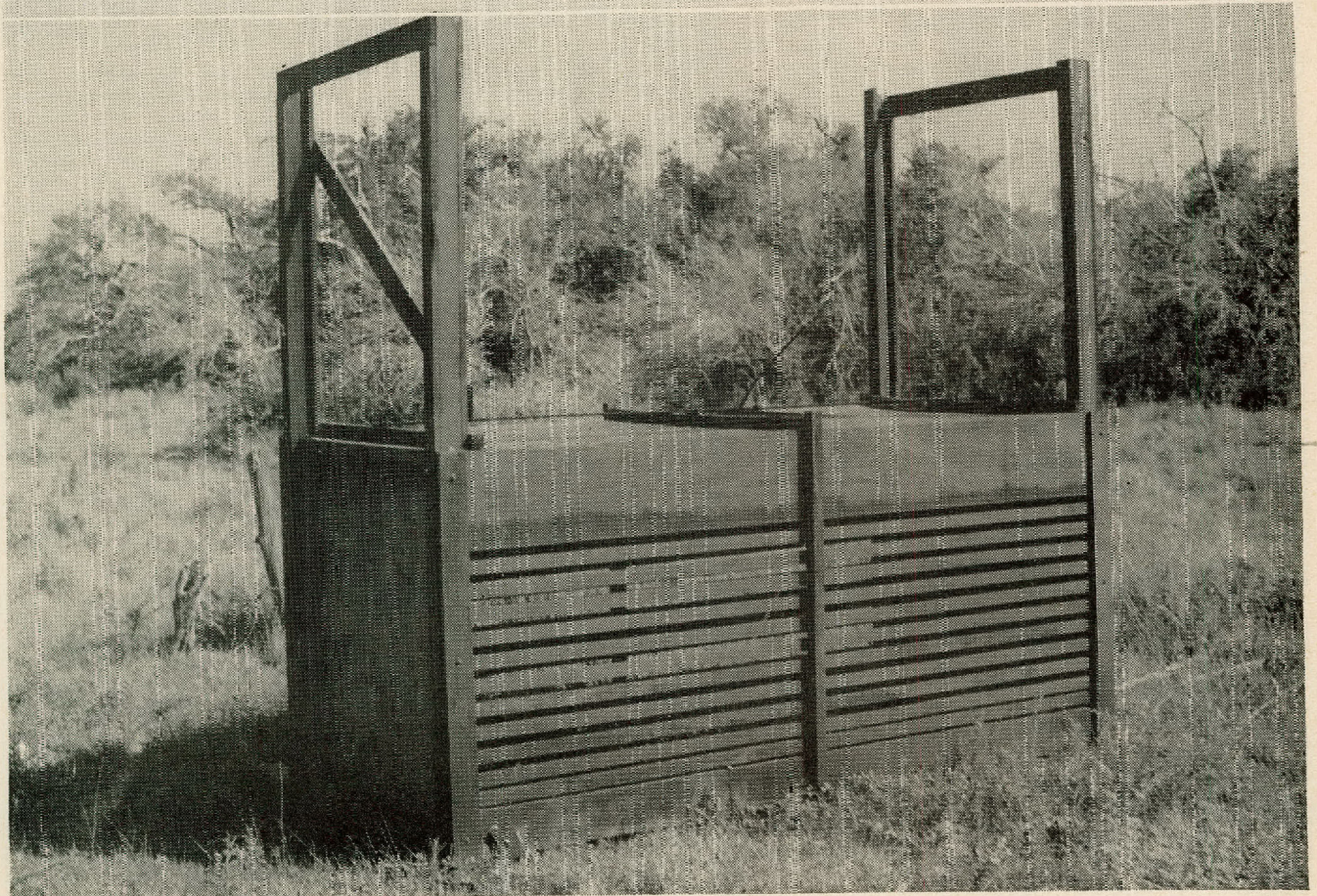
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*The first deer trap used by the Game Department was the concrete pit trap shown in the bottom photos (Fig. 1 and 2). The deer jumped a "blind" fence and landed far below in the pit. Photo at lower left (Fig. 1) shows four deer in a hay-bedded, concrete-walled pit. A whitetail, trapped in a concrete pit, is trying to jump out of the pit in the lower right photo (Fig. 2). She can't do it, but she*

*may die trying. Carrying deer up and out of pit-trap is slow, steep work as the upper photo (Fig. 3) shows. The top photo (Fig. 4) on the opposite page shows the Texas version of the Pisgah deer trap. Sides, top and front door are wire covered. The back section is of plywood. The bottom photo (Fig. 5) is a view of the Texas single-compartment trap designed by G. E. Colbath, champion deer trapper.*





# Gulf Fishing

By Les Bennett

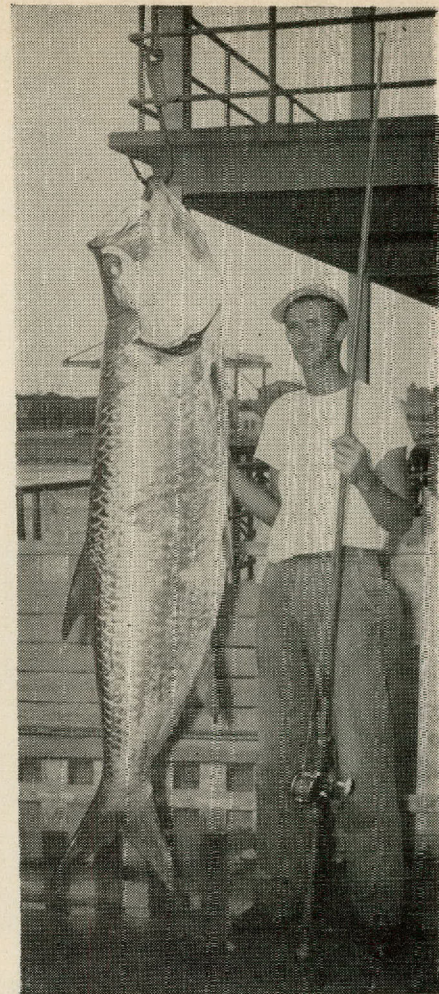
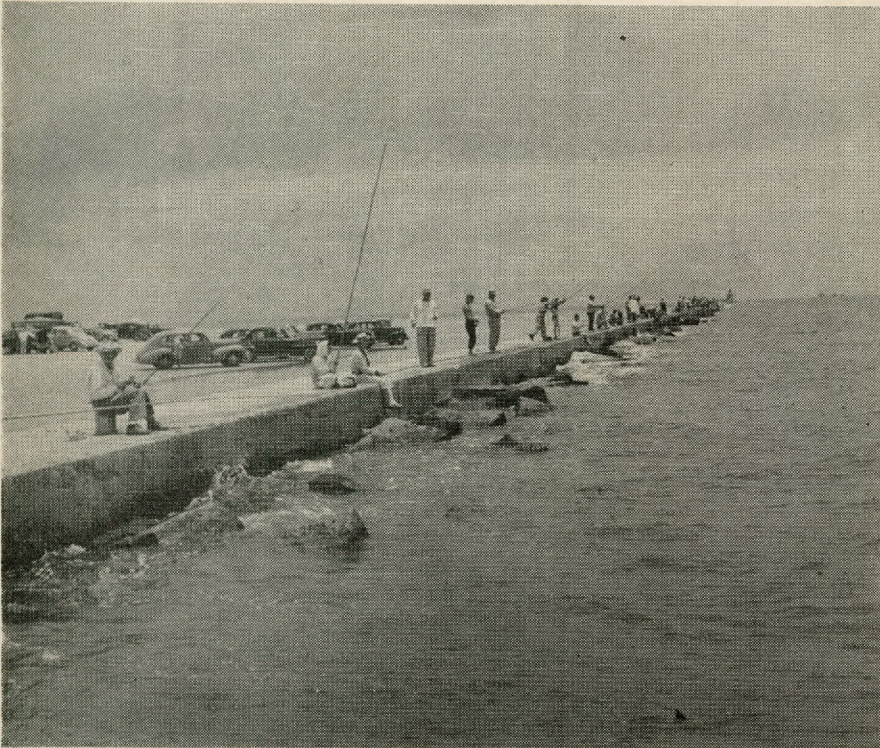
"Fishing is no sport for a lazy man."

That's what nearly every fisherman will tell you as he scoffs at the picture of the Isaac Walton sleeping beside a stream.

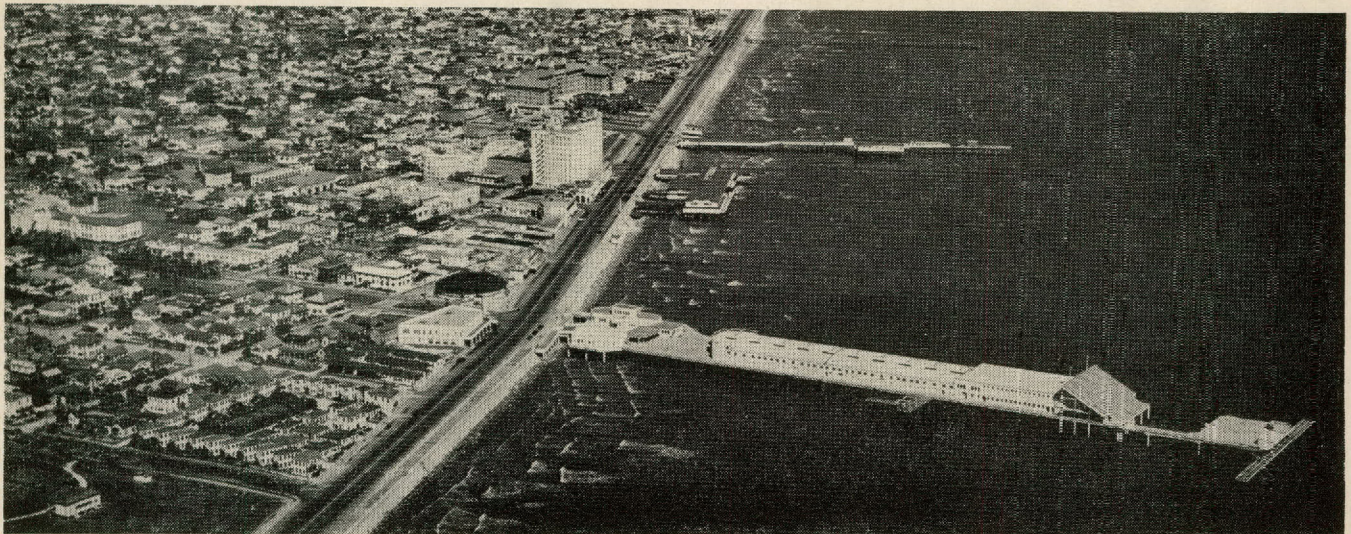
And 99 chances out of a 100 he is right.

That one unaccounted for chance is to be found in Galveston.

For on that island in the Gulf of



*Many good sized tarpon were caught off the \$2,000,000 Galveston pleasure pier during the summer. One of them is shown above. It weighed 145 pounds and was caught by O. J. Burns. Galveston's jetties also yield some mighty good fishing. At the left, anglers are trying for pompano and mackerel off Galveston's south jetty. At the bottom is an aerial view of Galveston's pleasure pier with fishing deck at the tip. It is off the tip of this pier that many tarpon were caught during the summer.*







*This giant jewfish was not the prize of a sports fisherman. It was taken near Galveston's south jetty by commercial fishermen and it was not landed until after a long and hard struggle.*

Mexico fishing is just naturally a lazy man's game.

At Galveston, the fisherman can sleep late, have a big breakfast and then take just a short stroll and be at the spot where he will soon be fighting

to pull in a 150-pound tarpon.

And when those big specs are coming in shore, just any time at all during the day is as good as another.

But, of course, most fishermen wouldn't feel like fishermen under such con-

ditions, so daybreak finds many in the surf off 9th street or on the jetties anxious to make the first catch of the day. It is believed by some experienced

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# Big Bend Hunting

By ALBERA I. SERNA

As each hunting season rolls along, more and more men plan to make their first trip for black-tailed deer in the Big Bend country. With some, it is lots of fun, because they were lucky enough to secure a reliable guide and bring in the bacon. With others there are lots of disappointments, however, it will be hard work for all.

So to help out in a small way, here are a few tips that have been learned the hard way.

I will first start off with equipment a fellow ought to carry along. Transportation is of prime importance. You should not go into that country with a heavy car. A light car with a trailer, or better still a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton truck with side boards covered with a tarpaulin is ideal. I suggest you take along a few spare accessories, such as a coil, condenser, fuel pump kit, and a new tube besides your spare tire and a couple of good tire boots and also a new fan belt.

Next is your bedding. You can't tell just what the weather has in store for you, but a good sleeping bag is sufficient. If you do not have a sleeping bag, take along enough bedding to sleep warm. Clothing comes next. You should take along at least three changes from the skin out. A couple of sweat shirts, a couple of wool jackets, one light and one heavy, preferably rain repellent. Shoes are important. A good pair of heavy boots with rubber soles are excellent, plus a heavy pair of high top shoes. Regular hunting boots with canvas tops and rubber soles and tennis shoes are plumb out of the question, and are useless to hunt in, unless you want to walk a half day and come in with your feet sore.

Cooking utensils are universal, suit yourself, but take several five gallon water cans with you, and fill them up for drinking purposes before you get away from good water. A pick and shovel plus a good axe are musts. A couple of poles, about 2' in diameter and of tough wood will come in handy. One should be about 12 or 14 ft. long, the other about 6 ft. long. Old army

signal poles are ideal. Later on I'll explain the use of these poles.

You should leave your home in time to reach your destination in the day light, and be in camp a full day before the season opens. Strike camp near a water tank or pot hole, yet far enough away so as not to bother the live stock that come to water. Put your tent on well drained ground and behind a small rise or a bunch of bushes as a wind brake.

There should be several men in the party for security reasons, if for nothing else. The morning before the season opens, I suggest a plan be formed to send a man into the four points of the compass, covering as much territory as possible. Each man circling to right or left to form a complete circle

## New Duck Stamp

The 1949-50 Federal "duck stamp" features goldeneye ducks. The design is the work of "Roge" E. Preuss, Minneapolis, Minn., free lance artist and decoy designer. A black and white wash drawing, the original sketch shows a male and female goldeneye winging in to the quiet cove to view the courtship antics of two male ducks on the water. This stamp is the sixteenth in the series of migratory waterfowl hunting stamps and it can be purchased at any first or second class postoffice. The stamp must be attached to your state hunting license when hunting ducks or geese.

when each man has covered his territory, coming into camp on practically the same route as the other man has gone out on. The reason for this is to find your best territory without losing precious time.

I believe here is a good time to bring forward a rule that our group considers important and is very important. Go as far from camp as you wish in the morning, if you intend to stay out all day and not come in for lunch, let some of the fellows know your plan. But for gosh sakes be in camp when the Sun goes down. Tell the other men in the group where you intent to hunt and then stop in that ter-

ritory even though you believe there's a buck just over the mountain. A lot of things can happen to a man in that country, and there is generally lots of country out there. A sprained ankle, a broken leg, or a bad fall can really fix a man up, to where he can't possibly get into camp. So stay in your own territory, in the event something does happen, the rest of the fellows can narrow their search down to one locality. Carry plenty of matches with you and keep them dry. Regardless of how much it rains, you can always easily start a fire by lifting up the dry leaves of the Sotol bush and set a match to it. Sotol burns like gasoline, and the white smoke from the Sotol can be seen several miles. If you are in doubt just where you will have to go back to pick up a deer you have killed, just light several Sotol and they will burn for quite a while. They make an ideal marker. However use some discretion don't set a fire, where it will burn up the whole hill side.

Now what to look for while you are prowling around looking for range. Tracks are hard to find because of the rocky formations and darn few are found. Look for Letch-u-jua. I don't think this is the correct way to spell the name of the plant, but I will try to describe it to you the best way I know how. This plant grows about 18 inches high, and has leaves very similar to the Spanish Dagger with small brown spots. The thorns are not poisonous like the Spanish Dagger. They grow in patches, sometimes covering a number of acres, and this Letch-u-jua is what the deer feed on mostly, plus Sotol and some Candellia weed. The deer take their hoof, and stomp the heart of the Letch-u-jua out. The heart comes out something like a celery stalk. They eat the center of the plant and part of the tender part of the leaf which of course is next to the bottom. The heart and the bottom of the leaves are waxy white, and deteriorate very slowly. The way to tell if they are fresh is to feel the center of the heart. If it is fresh it will be moist, and if it

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## Citizens Whip Pollution

Most people regard pollution and erosion as problems that can be handled only through state or federal action. The citizens of Brandywine Creek watershed in Pennsylvania and Delaware, however, felt differently and, in doing so, produced one of the most amazing examples of non-governmental civic achievement to come to the attention of the Wildlife Management Institute.

Like many other, the Brandywine was a sick stream three years ago. Potentially a thing of beauty and great recreational value, it was laden with silt, sewage, and factory wastes. Unsightly dumps littered its banks. Unwise farming practices were depleting the topsoil and outdated forestry practices were adding to the annual silt load, which had reached the astounding total of 1,400,000 tons by 1946.

Under the leadership of Edmund du Pont, president, and Clayton M. Hoff, vice-president, the Brandywine Valley Association was formed in 1946 to check such abuses in the 300-square-mile area. At a meeting of community leaders a plan of action was drawn, and work on attacking major problems began at once. There was no coercion. Soil conservation and forestry experts were called in to help farmers reduce the loss of topsoil and the resultant silt load of the stream. Industries and municipalities cooperated wholeheartedly by installing waste disposal plants. Clean-up crews went to work on the stream-side dumps. Flood damage has been alleviated, new industries have been attracted to the area, and crop production has increased.

Much of the credit for the establishment of the Association and for its accomplishments can be traced to the widespread educational campaign carried on by the founding officers. Numerous colored photographic slides were made of the stream and watershed to show flagrant abuses. These were used to illustrate forceful lectures, which were presented before hundreds of meetings. The approach did much to stimulate voluntary action and to crystalize public opinion.

Here is a project which organized sportsmen in almost any community could undertake to good advantage. It takes imagination, cooperation, salesmanship, and hard work, but the accomplishments of the Brandywine Valley Association show what can be done in a short time when leadership is furnished. Take a long, hard look at your own Brandywine Creek.

Men, the males in the sunfish family build the nest, care for the eggs and the babies without help from mama.

## No Melons For Deer

Electric fences have often been used to keep livestock confined within a pasture but a Hearne farmer has used an electric fence to keep deer out of his watermelon patch. Not a melon has been molested since the patch was enclosed with an electric fence.

## Georgia Doves Hit Down Trail

Georgia, only a few years ago one of the foremost dove-hunting states, today probably has fewer excellent game birds than any southeastern state, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

A release from James Silver, regional director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reports that Georgia mourning doves now face the most critical season in the state's history. Further restrictions on the open season appear inevitable. Lax and inadequate law enforcement and flagrant violations of federal and state laws are cited as the primary reasons for the rapid decline. Many state wardens sit back and permit illegal slaughter over baited fields, unmindful of the dove's high importance to the hunters of the state, while the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is handicapped by lack of enforcement personnel. The general lack of interest in the future of his sport on the part of the average Georgia hunter and the tendency of others to wink at open violations is taking a serious toll.

The apathetic attitude of many Georgia hunters toward the fate of the dove stems from three sources: Some hunters are deceived by seeing large concentrations on a few grain fields; some officials have placed political expediency ahead of conservation; and the recent history of Georgia has been marked by widespread resentment against federal jurisdiction on the part of a large number of the state's hunters. Laboring under the delusion that a migratory bird such as the dove can be managed by local legislation, many fail to realize that, if all states through which doves pass in migration were to compete for the few remaining birds, the species would not long survive. Drastic action is essential if the mourning dove is to be preserved as a game bird in the Southeast.

Many Georgia hunters have been resentful of what they have considered unfair federal regulation, although Georgia has been given seasons and bag limits equal to those received by all other states where state laws permit dove shooting. Unless the real sportsmen, of which Georgia has many, get busy and awaken the rest of the state's gunners to the urgency of the

## Bombs Blast Water Holes

Minnesota's "great bog" area became the target for 1,000-pound Navy bombs recently in an errand that combined military functions with wildlife habitat restoration.

Help was requested from the Naval Air Station at Wold-Chamberlain Field by Frank Blair, director of the State Division of Game and Fish, when it was found that moose in the Red Lake Game Preserve were suffering from lack of water. During the summer months, the 3,000-square-mile bog area often dries completely and moose are without protection from blackflies, deerflies, and midges. Without deep water in which to escape from insect tormentors, moose frequently are blinded and starve to death. The Navy operation blasted seven deep craters, averaging 100 feet in diameter, which will provide adequate protection and drinking water for the herd.

While this is the first known time that military bombing has been employed for game conservation practices, the method may have other uses, such as creating nesting pounds for ducks in similar bog regions.

Before you leave your camping grounds, bury all garbage, especially fish refuse. Many a good dog has been poisoned on decayed fish.

To remove the odor of cabbage or any cooked food from your cabin, boil some vinegar and water on the stove. The same mixture will remove the smell of onions, fish or scorched food from a skillet.

A long-handled pair of blacksmith's tongs are handy around camp to handle hot pots and skillets, poke the fire, turn meat and fish when frying, drive nails and tent pegs and "peel" catfish.

Eels are bottom feeders. Use a small hook and a heavy sinker to keep the bait on the bottom. The best eel baits are tainted chicken gizzard, bloody beef heart and worms.

situation, the only federal regulation may be one closing the season completely. "The moving finger writes," and the writing is becoming increasingly clear.

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# ARMS AND AMMUNITION

By ADAM WILSON III  
Gun Editor

## Silvertips and Soft Points

The result of a two-year study on the improvement of center fire cartridges was announced recently by the Research and Development Division of Olin Industries, Inc., parent organization of the Western Cartridge Company.

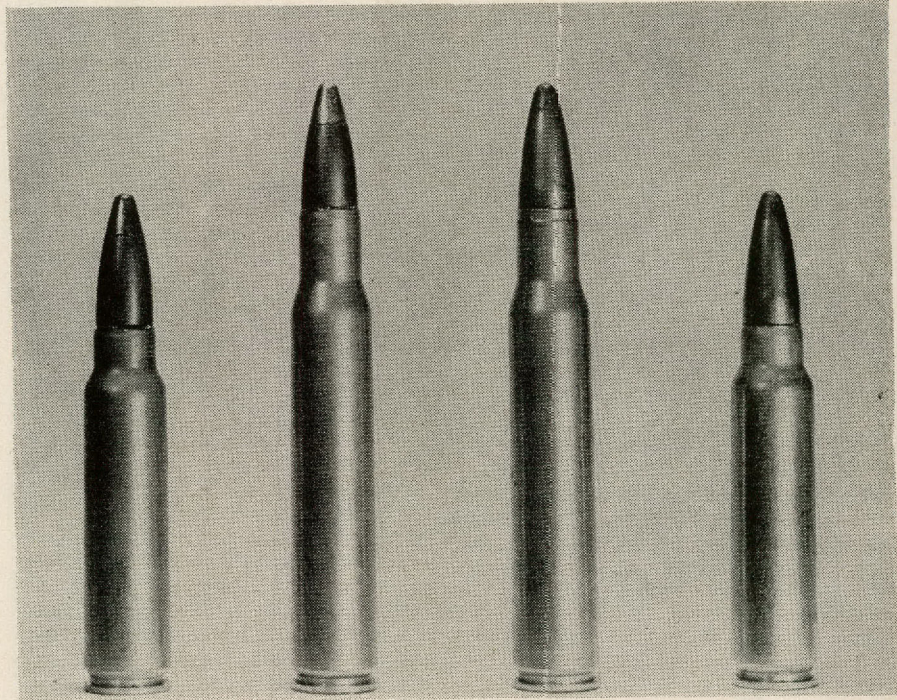
Using new ballistic equipment, developed during the war, the Olin scientists thoroughly re-analyzed the performance of each cartridge of the entire Western and Winchester Silvertip and Soft Point line. Following rigid specifications, set not only by themselves, but through correspondence received from literally thousands of hunters and gun specialists, the ballisticians conducted precision tests on each cartridge.

The use of electronic and X-ray equipment, millionth of a second still photography, and ultra-high speed motion picture cameras made possible the determination of ballistic facts which were impossible to detect prior to the development of new equipment and techniques.

Armed with a host of new and revealing information, it was possible radically to test and double check the entire line resulting in the apparent possibilities for further improvement of many of the various hunting bullets of the Western-Winchester line.

Each cartridge project in itself was a manifold and intricate challenge which tried the best of ballistical minds. When the laboratory was satisfied with the improvements as it incorporated them in the cartridge; hundreds of the improved cartridges were sent into the field for test under actual hunting conditions.

Colonel Walter F. Siegmund, General Sales Manager of Olin Industries, after reviewing the detailed results, described the new line of center fire cartridges as follows: "With these new improvements, the Silvertip and Soft Point line of cartridges now unquestionably represent the greatest advance in hunting bullet performance



Among the new items in Western-Winchester line. From left to right: 150-gr. .300 Savage Silvertip, 150-gr. .30-06 Springfield Silvertip, 150-gr. .30-06 Springfield Soft Point, and 150-gr. .300 Savage Soft Point. These new items have been developed because of popular and widespread demand for light, higher velocity bullets for use on game in deer and antelope class.

yet developed by the sporting ammunition industry. We are more than pleased to not only announce them but also announce that they are on dealer's shelves and ready for hunters' use this fall."

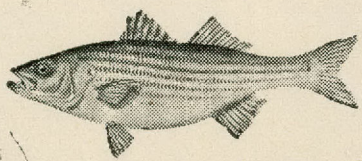
The cartridges which have been re-designed and modified for improved performance are:

Silvertip Cartridges	
250 Savage .....	100 Grains
.257 Roberts .....	100 "
.270 Winchester .....	130 "
.30-30 Winchester .....	170 "
.30-30 Remington .....	170 "
.30-06 Springfield .....	220 "
.30-06 Springfield .....	180 "
.30-40 Krag .....	180 "

.30-40 Krag .....	220 "
.300 H&H Magnum .....	180 "
.300 H&H Magnum .....	220 "
.300 Savage .....	180 "
.300 Savage .....	190 "
.32 Winchester Spl. ....	170 "
.32 Remington .....	170 "
.375 H&H Magnum .....	300 "
Soft Point Cartridges	
.257 Roberts .....	117 Grains
.270 Winchester .....	150 "
.30 Remington .....	170 "
.300 Savage .....	180 "
.30-30 Winchester .....	170 "
.32 Remington .....	170 "
.32 Winchester Spl. ....	170 "
.35 Remington .....	200 "

• Continued on Page 22

# HINTS FOR THE ANGLER



**STRIPED BASS**

*Morone saxatilis* (Walbaum)

If surf fishermen from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras were polled as to their favorite gamefish, the unanimous choice would be the rough and ready striped bass.

Vicious on the strike, heavy on the fight and delicious on the platter, the striped bass now ranks as one of the most popular of all saltwater fish. Its willingness to tear into both live and artificial baits attracts a large following among coastal anglers.

Although a trifle later in coming into its own on the Pacific coast, striped bass fishing now ranks high on the list of saltwater sportfishing in California. Many striped bass derbies are held annually and the popularity of this fish is such that thousands enter the competition.

The striped bass is also known as the Rockfish, Rock Bass, Sea Bass, Striper, Greenhead, Linesides, Squid-hound and Streaked Bass.

The striped bass, provided it has an occasional revitalizing in salt water, has the faculty of adapting itself to freshwaters and are caught many miles from the nearest saltwater.

They spawn in freshwater rivers and bays in the spring and early summer. The eggs are exceptionally small and a 20 pound fish on test yielded 1,500,000 on an estimated count of 25,000 to the quart.

The overall appearance of the striped bass is silvery, with the upper sides changing from brassy green to an olive on the back. The nickname "linesides" stems from the seven or eight dark stripes which run laterally from head to tail. The lower jaw is underslung and very powerful. The dorsal fin is divided.

Originally, the striped bass had a natural distribution from the Gulf of St.

Lawrence to Florida, with spotty appearances in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the early 1880's a number of plantings of striped bass were made in California. Success was instantaneous and from these has come the finest striped bass fishing in the world, particularly on some parts of the California coast.

Its habit of hanging out around rocks leads to another of its nicknames, "rockfish." It is also fond of white water and a plug placed in these spots, or in sloughs, will increase the chance of a strike.

The world's record is a 73 pounder taken on rod and reel by Charles B. Church, Vineyard Sound, Mass., August 17, 1913. Commercial fishermen have recorded striped bass up to 125 pounds.

Although the average size of striped bass will vary greatly, as a rule those taken from rivers and bays will be under 8 pounds; those caught in the surf will run 10 to 20 pounds and over.

The flavor is delicious.

Anglers using live bait achieve best results with the natural foods of the striped bass such as blood worms, clams, mussels, shedder crabs, eels, mullet, whiting, menhaden and herring. On the Pacific coast sardines are a highly popular bait.

Generally speaking the artificial lures which are most productive are squids, feather jigs, spoons like the Queen and King, spinners, eel skins, strip bait and pork rind combinations. Large size surface-commotion type plugs like the Giant Flaptail, and larger underwater plugs like the Vamp Spook and Giant Vamp also get results.

Fly rod fishermen prefer the larger streamers and popping lures like the Wilder Dilg and Bass Bug Spook.

Probably more striped bass are taken trolling than by any other method. For this type of fishing the most popular rod is one with a four ounce tip, such as the No. 241 Bonefish and Kingfish rod and the No. 2541 Pal tubular steel rod.

These 4 ounce tips are designed to be used with 6-thread lines and are therefore known as a "4/6" outfit. With this is used a 2/0 or 3/0 free spool reel holding from 300 to 400 yards of 6-thread linen line.

The reel should have an adjustable drag; the handle of the rod should be approximately 18" and the tip exactly 5 feet, making a 6½' rod overall. For inexperienced trollers and those desiring heavier tackle a "6/9" outfit is recommended. This means a 6 ounce tip, 5' in length and a 3/0 reel with some 500 yards of 9-thread linen line.

Favored lures for trolling are Giant Vamps, Giant Jointed Vamps, Vamp Spooks and King or Queen spoons. The trolling is done to best advantage in rivers, inlets or sheltered bays; larger fish are taken right in or just outside the breakers.

Another highly popular method is

surf casting. While there are many types of surf casting rods the most widely used rod is made of split bamboo with a tip 6½ to 7 feet long and has a 30" spring butt which gives the rod an overall length of 9 to 9½ feet.

Either a 2/0 or 3/0 reel with from 200 to 300 yards of 9 or 12-thread linen line is used and should have an adjustable drag. Wire leaders 12 to 18 inches long are preferred, and for live bait hooks from sizes 7/0 9/0 are best.

Smaller striped bass which are found in tidal rivers and bays make excellent sport for the bait caster. For this sport the rod should be of stiff action like the "Pal" tubular steel with butt 2" longer than usual, 5' in length. A standard bait casting reel like the "Pal" is suitable.

Lines should be 20 or 25 pound test and a short wire leader 9 to 12 inches long is recommended. The better lures are Vamps, River Runts, Chuggers, Lucky 13 and Torpedoes.

Still fishermen use most any kind of outfit that happens to be handy but the best sport can be had by using any of the previously described outfits. These should be fished with little or no sinker so that the bait will drift naturally with the current. Cut bait, shedder crabs and sardines are the most popular baits.

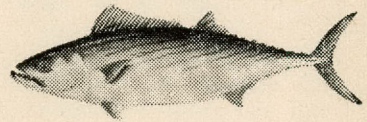
Fly fishermen find their ranks swelling daily as more and more anglers are discovering what excellent sport the fly rod provides against stripers. Of course, the rod must be of stiff action split bamboo like that used for salmon or steelhead.

The most popular rod is one particularly designed for saltwater use, the "Riptide." This rod is 9 feet long and weighs around 6½ ounces. A D level or HCH tapered line with some 100 yards of 18 pound line for backing is best and nylon leaders of 15 pound test are preferred.

Streamer flies are excellent, especially plastic and cork body creations like the Wilder Dilg Spook, Bass Bug Spook and Popper Spook.

Striped bass are wary, elusive and difficult to predict but fly fishermen swear by their method as the one which pays off on the greater number of trips.

In any event, when a scrapping strip-er tags your lure, regardless of the outfit, a new angling thrill is all yours.

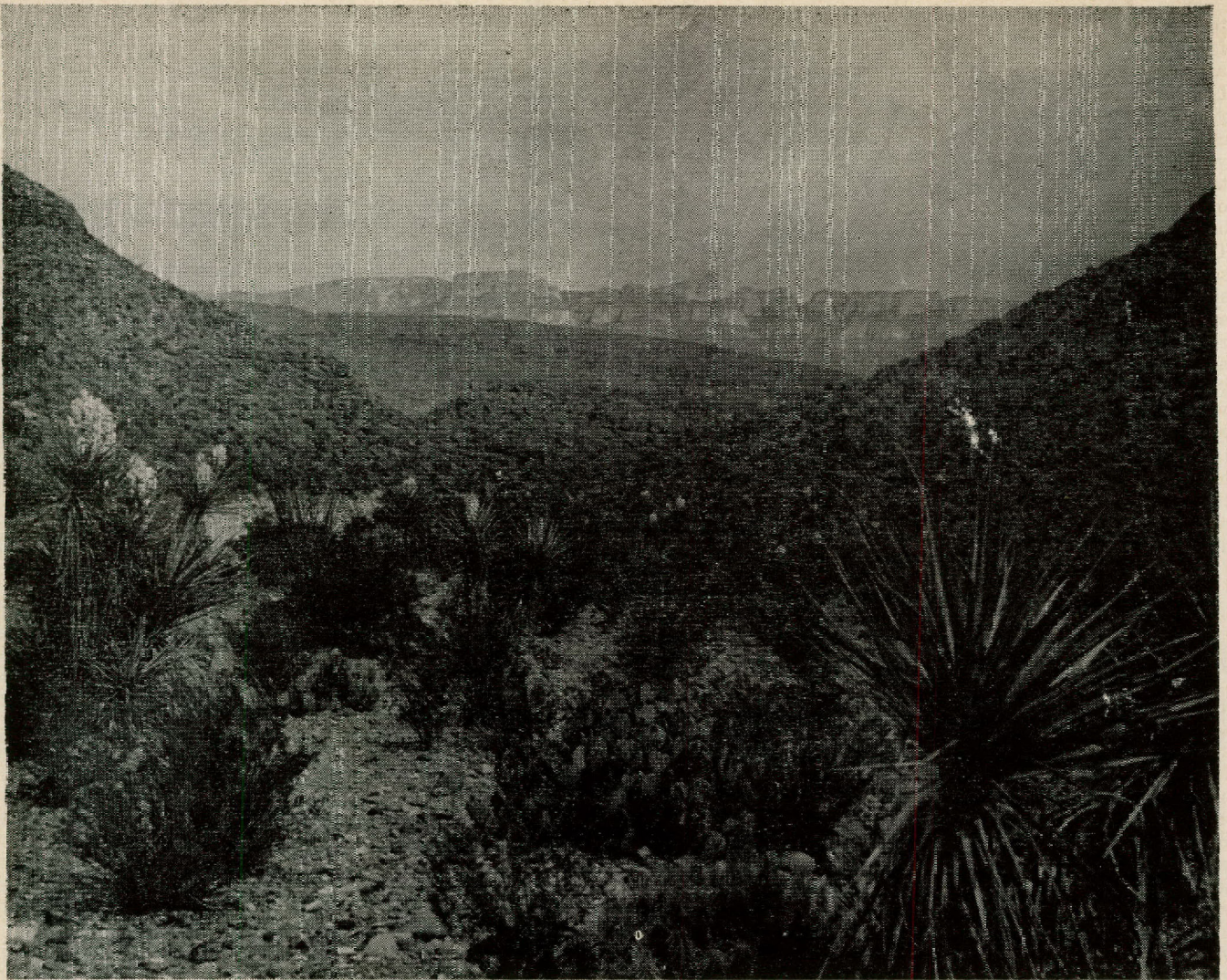


**ATLANTIC BONITO**

*Sarda sarda* (Bloch)

Modern engineers would find it mighty difficult to improve upon

• Continued on Page 25



*The Big Bend is a beautiful but rugged country and it is full of pitfalls for the novice hunter because hunting*

*in that area calls for different equipment and technique than that used in the deer camps in the Hill Country*

## **Big Bend Hunting**

• Continued from Page 10

is moist, you had better tread easy and keep your eyes and ears open, because there is deer around, and close. Now Javalina hogs also go for this plant in a big way, but you can tell the difference right quick. Hogs will eat the center of the plant and also the tender part of the leaf, but they do not swallow the pulp. They suck the juice and drop the pulp on the ground if you find this you know that a hog has been there. Deer cut the leaf off smooth and do not leave the pulp.

Letch-u-juu also shoots up a bloom on a stalk sometimes as high as 10 or 12 ft. tall and about 3 inches in diameter, depending on the age of the plant. Later on, I'll explain a use for this stalk. Droppings are to be watched also. This will almost always be dry as a powder house, but if it is fresh, it will be black, turning brown and finally grey with age. The darker the

fresher. Blacktail usually feed on the top of small hills, (foothills) and so called flats and Mesa's. However, if the weather is warm, you will find them on top of the mountains, where it is cool. If the weather is cold, you will find them on the flats and foothills.

You can't hardly still hunt out there. You either have to hunt horseback, or hoof it. Blacktail and especially the bucks have a habit of lying down with their head square on the ground and let you walk right past them. I have killed bucks lying down not more than fifty steps from me. They can hide behind Sotol, and you would swear that a Jack rabbit couldn't escape your eyes, and yet I've walked right past them, only to have them to jump up and take off like a Jet job. Blacktail don't run like Jersey deer, they jump up and down, landing on all four feet at the same time. But Brother they can carry the mail. If you surprise

the buck, he'll run about 100 yards, then stop to look back, giving you plenty of time to place your shot well. If you miss that shot, you had better start throwing lead and lots of it, for if you don't down him your buck has gone Pa-Yah. However, if he sees you first he'll keep going, so personally I start shooting quick, and take my chances on the run. I've had pretty good luck, but as a general rule you'll have plenty of time to get in a good shot. So use your own judgment, as to how you want to take your chances, depending on how good a running shot you are. Personally I never could figure out whether the buck saw me first or I saw him first, unless it was a great distance.

Oh yes! I forgot something that you shouldn't overlook. Take a good First Aid Kit with your camping equipment.

Now here are a few tips I've picked up and which will come in handy. First keeping your buck from spoiling for several days, when it is a far piece

to the ice house, and it usually is a far piece in this country. Dig a hole about 8' feet long, 3' wide and 4' deep. Lay a tarpaulin into the hole. Hang your buck up at night, and let him chill out good. The next morning put your buck up at night, and let him tarp, put all your bed clothing on top of him, and wrap both ends of the tarp back over bed clothing deer and all. Tromp the tarp down around the deer so as to exclude as much air as possible. That night take the deer out again and hang him up. The next morning repeat the process. The deer will be just as cold when you take him out as when you put him in, even though it does warm up during the day. If the ground won't permit digging a hole, put the tarp in the shade of the tent, truck or lean-to put the bed clothes on top of the deer and cover the whole business with the loose ends of the tarp. This does the same trick as the hole, but I personally prefer the hole if you are in ground where you can dig. If it is any ways cool at night at all, you can keep the buck for a week, or until the other fellows have killed their buck.

While you are prowling around, pick up a Letch-u-jua stalk, about a foot taller than you are, and carry this stalk with you. This stalk has a two fold purpose. First it will act as a brace when you are crawling around mountains, and across rough terrain. Second, but not least is this. You know as well as I do, that when you have walked for quite a while, and especially when you are climbing around those hills and across ravines or canyons, you become pretty well winded, and your old ticker is pumping 90 per. Naturally you can't hold your rifle still, and you can't hit the side of that little old house. With your stick, all you have to do, is to stand that stick up, grab hold, rest your gun on your hand and against the stick and you are ready to get that steady bead. Boy! that stick really anchors that gun barrel and keeps it from making those little Merry-go-round circles. You won't appreciate that stick until you've had the opportunity to use it, then and then only will you realize it's real value.

Now for the long pole I mentioned at the beginning. When a pack horse is not available or when you have killed a deer where a horse can't get to, someone has to do some packing, and that someone is you and the other fellows. Now this is what you do. Take that long pole and lay it right along the bucks back. Take a piece of quarter inch rope or anything similar and stout and tie it around the deer's neck just under the jaw bones and to the pole. Then another one just in front of the shoulders, one behind the shoulders and another one around the deer's flank. Make sure all these ropes are good and tight around the pole and the deer.

Take his front feet, and pull them up

# First Aid for Gunshot Wounds

By Norman Kirk

Surgeon General, U. S. Army (Retired)

**A**lthough hunting is one of the safest of all sports pursued, it could be a great deal safer. The assurance of a proper, unobstructed target, and a complete familiarity with the mechanism of the gun and its killing potentialities would eliminate better than 90 per cent of hunting casualties. Still, hunting accidents do happen.

In combat, when gunshot casualties are to be expected, each doughboy carries his own first aid dressing on his belt, and he knows how to use it. Hunters might follow suit. This belt kit could well be supplemented by a first aid packet carried in the car or stored in camp. The expense is small.

When a gunshot wound occurs (or any other injury in which the skin is broken), the clothing should be cut away or otherwise removed from the area of the wound. If antiseptic is available, it should be applied to the wound and the skin around it as well. Otherwise the first aid dressing is applied directly to the wound and secured in position by the bandage.

Hemorrhage is usually controlled by the dressing, but moderate pressure of the open hand over the dressing may be of aid. If, however, the wound is in an extremity and has apparently injured a main artery, causing excessive loss of blood, a tourniquet should be applied. Your belt will serve as a tourniquet, and a small stick can be used to twist it tight. The tourniquet should be loosened at the end of an hour to prevent gangrene caused by stoppage of blood supply, but if bleeding recurs the tourniquet should again be tightened. Remember that death frequently results from shock; blood loss causes shock, and so does pain resulting from moving the patient or undue roughness in handling him. Often there is no pain immediately following injury, but it soon develops, so that speed in dressing the wound and gentleness in handling are essential.

Fluids should be withheld from patients with wounds in the abdomen

If a fracture of a bone has occurred, it should be splinted as soon as the wound has been dressed and before the patient is moved. If the upper arm or shoulder is fractured, the arm should be secured to the side of the chest and the forearm carried in a sling. If it be the forearm or hand, it should be splinted on a board or some flat object about the width of the forearm which has been padded with clothing, and a sling applied. If hip or thigh has been fractured, the two extremities may be secured to each other until proper splinting can be obtained. If the injury is to knee or leg, a pillow secured by a bandage is a good splint, or brush wrapped in clothing may be used.

To carry the wounded person, a stretcher may be improvised by using two long, straight poles and two or more hunting coats. Turn the sleeves inside out and run the poles through them, then button the coats.

Always remember that first aid is only first aid. Move the wounded individual to the nearest physician as quickly as is consistent with his comfort.

—New York Conservationist

to his side and tie them up. The rear legs are pulled back and tied to the pole. Now take the shorter pole and place it just at the base of the horns. Tie several loops around each horn and around the pole. Be sure this is tight. Leave as much of the long pole sticking out the back as possible. Now you are ready to pack or drag your buck out. Take two men, one on each side of the deer, place the pole next to the stomach and start walking. This method will save you lots of work and hard pulling. You and your partner are only carrying half the weight of the deer. The pole sticking out the back is carrying the other half, and the deer won't be swinging from side to side taking

all the hide and hair off your shoulder. Try this sometime it really works.

Never wash your deer out with water. If you must wipe your deer out due to being gut shot, dampen a cloth and wipe what you can out, but don't wash it, unless you are going to get your meat to the ice house but quick.

A little blood on the meat won't hurt it. Never salt the inside of a deer. Salt draws blood and moisture. Blood draws flies, and moisture spoils meat. Of course if you are going to completely cover your meat with salt you are OK. I'm speaking about meat in camp. Pep-

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## ***New Angle on Stunted Fish***

There are two different points of view regarding the stunting of fish. Nearly every fresh water angler knows waters where bass, perch, catfish, or some other species runs smaller than average, but there is usually disagreement as to the cause.

To one school of thought the answer is "heredity," and the introduction of "new blood" is often urged as a remedy for local stunting problems. To the other school of thought the answer is "environment," and even the fastest growing types of fish are regarded as being unable to bring about improvement in situations where they would be subjected to crowded population conditions, with intensive competition for a limited food supply.

A recent paper by Dr. Gunnar Alm, noted Swedish biologist (Investigations on Growth, etc., by Different Forms of Trout) can be cited as proof that there is something to be said for both sides of the argument. The brown trout of Europe, for example, is extremely variable in size. A small type, indigeous to mountain brooks, seems very difficult from a large variety found in the larger lakes. When samples of the small type of trout were transferred to other and more favorable areas, they grew much larger. However, when progeny of the two trouts were reared in the same environment, river fish could not make as rapid growth as the lake fish. The study demonstrated that, while growth is primarily conditioned by environment, heredity is also to be considered an important factor.

It seems clear that no "super" race of fish can overcome all the problems of stunting. On the other hand, fast growing strains of fish offer considerable promise as a solution.

## ***Georgia Hikes License Fees***

Georgia resident fishing license fees were hiked 100 per cent during the recent Georgia legislative session. The previous annual fee of \$1.25 was raised to \$2.50. It was pointed out that the raised fee was approved by the legislature despite the fact that it had not been requested by the State Game and Fish Commission.

The other license schedules are: non-resident license, \$3.25; and, one-day non-resident license \$1. The one-day license is issued only to persons possessing a fishing license from another state, and is good only on the day it is issued.

## **That's All - There Is No More**

At night around Lake Travis fishing camps for the last several years we have been stopping the show with a fabulous catfish story. Because it's obviously a fabrication, it makes other liars stop, take a deep breath and deduct many pounds and inches from the yarns they were about to tell.

Although this catfish story comes from the southern tip of Padre Island near Port Isabel, it's about Lake Travis. The one who related the tale was Jim, colored cook, general handyman and part-time fisherman at the hotel at Padre. Jim had been born and raised in Central Texas and how he came to be on Padre Island is another story.

Anyway, we were sitting on the hotel porch watching Jim bathing in the surf. He was in water shoulder deep when we noticed the fin of a prowling shark. When we let out a yell, Jim looked back and saw the shark. Never in history has man or beast moved so fast: Jim was out of the water and on the beach in a fraction of a second.

In our perverse way, we thought the incident extremely funny. We went down to the beach and needled Jim about how that old shark could eat him up. One thing led to another and Jim told us this story:

Back on Lake Travis, Jim and his friends used to go fishing for catfish.

There was one old cat called Blue Joe that they never could catch. They hooked Blue Joe time and time again but he always broke their lines. They tried the heaviest lines and the biggest hooks but nothing worked. Always they tied their lines to big trees because Blue Joe could pull a man into the lake and drown him.

Then Jim and his cohorts got together and decided once and for all to settle the Blue Joe problem.

As Jim explained it:

"We went to Mr. Johnson, the blacksmith, and had him make a great big iron hook. We tied it onto four-ply rope. Then we killed a goat, skinned him and put him on that old hook.

"One of the boys had a team of mules. So we hitched them up to that rope.

"Sure 'nough, old Blue Joe swallowed that goat and got hooked.

"Old Blue Joe pulled against that team of mules for ten hours before they got him out of the water. We drug him up on our two wagons. Old Blue Joe was so big that his head hung over the front of one wagon and his tail hung over the back end of the other wagon."

With that Jim left the beach and went in the hotel to cook supper. Sometimes when your correspondent reflects on this story, he wonders if Jim wasn't smarter than he was.—Ken Harper.

# STATE OF TEXAS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

## Game Fish and Oyster Commission Federal Aid Project

Watch for these signs when you go hunting this fall. They mean that the area on which you find the signs has been restocked with game, principally deer, turkey, beaver and antelope. And furthermore, these signs mean that through an agreement between the landowner and the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, hunting is prohibited on some species and that hunting on other species is permitted only by the written consent of the owner.

The signs do not tell you on which species hunting may be permitted. You will have to obtain that information from the landowner and if hunting is permitted on some species of game then you will have to obtain the landowner's consent to hunt it. And that consent must be in writing.

These new signs are large ones. You can't miss them nor can you mistake the wording on them. The signs have yellow background with black letters.



# CANVAS-BACK DUCK

No duck, not even the grand Mallard, is more esteemed than the lordly Canvas-back, found only on the North American continent. The Canvas-back is the choice of the epicure because of its exciting flavor which is supposed to be acquired from its main diet of wild celery buds. When migrating southward the Canvas-backs fly in large wedge-shaped flocks at high altitude. There is tremendous power in the speed and directness of their driving flight. They are conceded to be the fastest fliers among the ducks. One flock was timed by an airplane at 72 miles per hour. The Canvas-back is a wary bird and difficult to approach. Early arrivals in Texas will decoy readily but after a few weeks they avoid the decoys with great cleverness. Canvas-backs like large bodies of water. They spend the days out in the bays and move in toward shore in the morning and evening to feed. A diving duck, the Canvas-back frequently seeks its food in twenty to thirty feet of water. It is a difficult bird to retrieve when wounded.

# OLD-SQUAW DUCK

This happy-go-lucky little bird is known as the "noisy winter duck" and the male is easily identified by its long tail. The Old-squaw is probably the most expert diver among ducks. When feeding, they string out in a long line and swim abreast. At a signal, the duck at the extreme end goes down, the rest follow in regular time, never all at once, and rarely more than two or three at a time. When migrating they fly in irregular flocks or in Indian file. At other times they fly close to the water, twisting and turning. Their flight is so erratic that it is difficult to shoot them although they may turn and fly right into a blind. They decoy well, are trusting birds and full of curiosity.

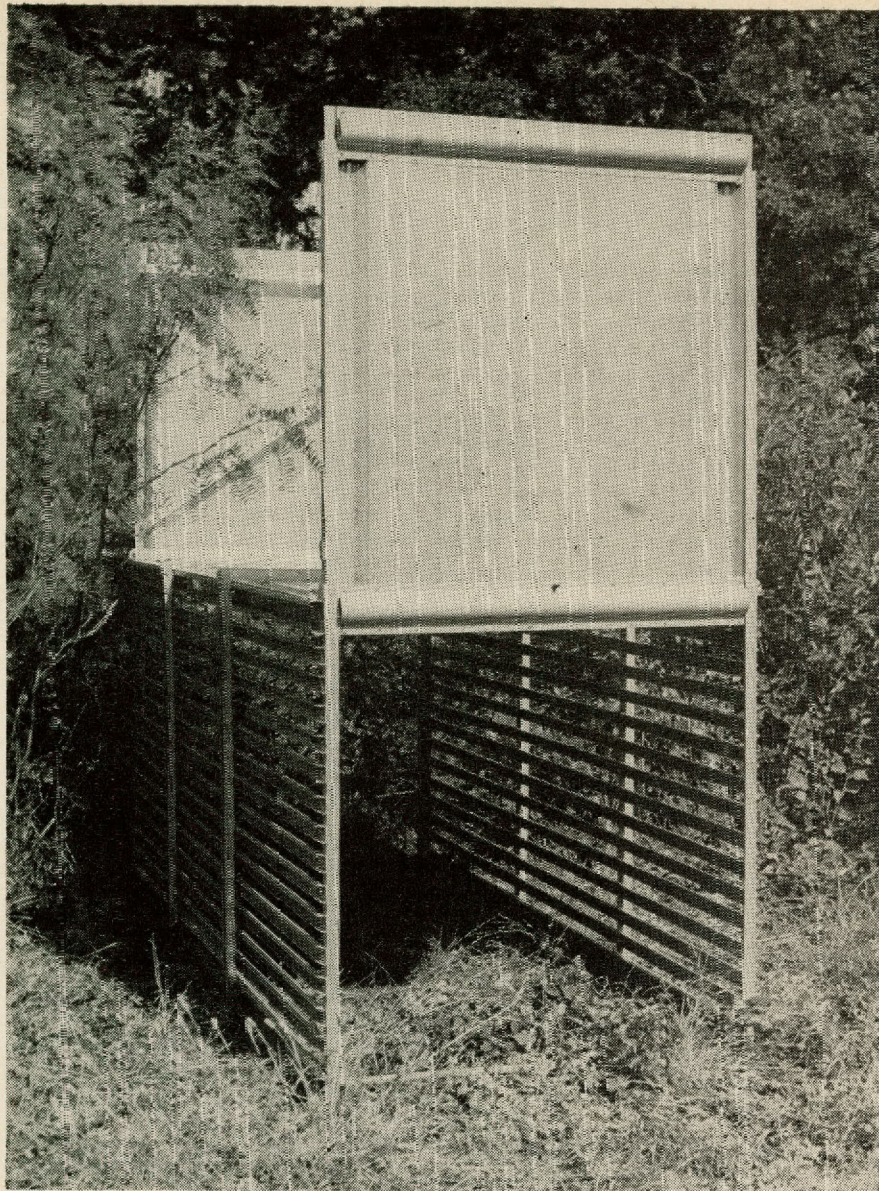
*Canvas-back Duck*  
Male and Female

*Old-squaw Duck*  
Female and Male









The new Texas single-compartment deer trap which is made of airplane aluminum alloy. It is light of weight but strong.

## Operations Deer Trap

• Continued from Page 6

high fenced corrals. Losses were high, but local increases from a few successful transplants confirmed the desirability of using wild deer for broodstock. The chief problem was development of satisfactory trapping techniques.

Enterprising representatives of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, in the early 1930's, followed the example of a prehistoric hunter, with variations. On a ranch in Mason County, they drove deer over a blind fence into a deep pit (Figure 1). Although a deep bed of loose hay had been placed in the pit bottom to ease their landing, deer losses from injuries alone made the method impractical. In addition, it was difficult to herd deer into corrals, even

a few at a time. In the absence of a better method, a second attempt to pit-trap wild deer occurred in 1938. Again, results were a low catch and a high degree of mortality.

In 1939, Texas game technicians learned of a deer trap used with promising results on the Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina. They secured plans of the Pisgah trap and built a few, slightly revised, for experimental use (Figure 4). The outcome was a big scale deer trapping program beginning in the fall of 1940 and continuing to the present on an increasingly expanded scope.

G. E. Colbath, in charge of deer trapping, worked through the 1940 season with seventy-five traps, catching 500 deer by the end of February, 1941. In-

jury losses were low, but trap operations were not perfect by any means. Each time a trap failed to trip, and each time a deer was injured in a trap, or escaped from one, Colbath looked for reasons. Thereafter, he pondered ways and means of overcoming the difficulties, always in terms of his insight into deer habits and reactions.

By 1945, many of the problems had been solved. Proof was represented by a catch of 1,575 deer in seventy-five days. Still, the trappers continued their inquiries into whys and wherefores when results were not to their satisfaction. One result was a new trap, designed to remedy weaknesses of the Pisgah model and to incorporate numerous improvements.

The new trap (Figure 5) was a single compartment structure. It contained no mesh wire on sides or top, and one-inch lumber replaced plywood except for the drop doors. Greater ease of handling and operating, coupled with longer life, were distinct advantages. A higher catch rate with the new trap further increased its rating.

Another gratifying feature of the new trap was the even further reduction of injured deer. A fully smooth interior prevented cuts, scratches and abrasions. Since deer were inclined to remain quieter, they could be delivered in better condition than ever.

In spite of all the progress, perfection had not been achieved. Only relatively green lumber was available for use and it would warp and cup under the hot Texas sun. Again, it would swell from prolonged rains and then shrink when it dried. Rot and decay still attacked wood, particularly parts in contact with the ground. Furthermore, water-soaked traps took on more weight, becoming very heavy and unwieldy at times.

Traps adjusted to operate on a dry afternoon might fail to trip the next morning because of rain during the night. If so, no deer were caught and the trapping crew had a service job to do. Traps adjusted loosely enough to allow for water swelling rattled in Gulf breezes and frightened away deer.

All these things pointed up the need for a material not affected so much by changes in weather conditions, and that would have longer life. Light weight, strength, durability, workability, and relatively low cost were all desirable features. Not until 1949 did a possible answer appear.

Following reduction of the airplane building program at the close of the war in 1945, there appeared numerous aluminum gates on many Texas ranches. These were built by the Aluminum Products Company of Mineral Wells, along lines giving maximum strength with minimum weight. After seeing and opening a number of these gates, Mr.

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# Plenty of Good Eating In the Lowly Turtle

There are many reasons why thousands of Texans pass up the freshwater turtles as food. But the outstanding reason is the lack of knowledge as to how to dress, prepare and cook them. Though the dressing of the turtle may appear to present a difficult problem, it requires less time to dress a turtle than to dress a chicken! Experienced people say it is easier to dress the turtle, and with a little practice five or ten minutes will suffice.

Turtles are usually caught in traps. However, they may be taken with a long rod with a hooked end when they are hibernating under a stream bank or in the bottom mud. And there are always those you hook out fishing for fish. You may not think a small turtle weighing a couple of pounds worth taking home, but when you realize that an 8-pound turtle provides enough succulent soup to feed 50 persons, it is possible you can change your mind. Once served, in soup, broiled, stewed or roasted, you'll be glad you did!

Depending somewhat on the species and size, a turtle dresses from one to two-thirds of its live weight. The simplest and quickest method of dressing yields six portions of good, edible meat. Four portions consists of the legs and surrounding muscles, the tail, and the neck. Two strips of meat under the back shell, called tenderloins, can be removed by careful dressing.

Snapping turtles, soft-shelled turtles, and so-called "sliders" are the best known and most widely used species for food and market from the fresh water sources. However, practically all kinds are edible and there are no estimates available pertaining to the potential quantity of turtle meat in Texas.

Now for dressing the turtle. The first step is to remove the head. This is easier with the snapping turtle which will snap and grasp a stick held in front of it and hold on tenaciously. This enables you to pull its head out of the shell. Other species can be made to protrude their heads by application of pressure with the foot to the back or upper part of the shell. When the head is well stretched out, it can be cut off.

With the head out of the way, the rest is easy. Run a sharp knife around the edges of the skin where it joins the shell. Pull back the skin over the legs to the feet and disjoint them. Remove the lower part of the shell (plastron) by cutting through the bridges which join the upper and lower shells, cutting close to the lower part of the shell. Bridges of snappers and soft-shells can be cut with a sharp knife as

they are rather soft and cartilaginous. With the terrapin the bridge may be cut with a hatchet or saw. The bridges cut, the under shell can be easily removed by inserting the knife just under it and lifting it off. This done, the entrails may be extracted with very little trouble, the four quarters easily taken out of the upper shell. To remove the tenderloins in the upper shell, cut the ribs with a hatchet and take out the two strips of meat next the upper part of the shell. Does this seem lengthy and complicated to you? It is much simpler than killing, plucking and drawing a chicken.

The snapper is the favorite soup turtle of the Mississippi Basin, but the following recipes may be applied to terrapin and soft-shells as well. If turtle meat is cooked too long, the flesh becomes stringy. It should be cooked just long enough so the meat leaves the bones when making soup.

The simplest way to cook snapper soup is to follow your favorite recipe for old-fashioned beef soup with any assortment of vegetables desired. Substitute turtle meat cut into small pieces for the beef. For soft-shelled turtle soup, treat the turtle meat the same as for snapper soup, adding a slice of bacon and onion to modify the flavor. Another way to treat both is to make soup stock without the vegetables and then add egg. In Terrapin soup use the meat and eggs for one terrapin. Put into a stew pan with 2 tablespoonfuls of butter. Let it simmer until thoroughly hot in a covered pan. Serve with the following sauce: 1 beaten egg yolk flavored with nutmeg and mace,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup currant jelly, 1 pinch cayenne, salt to taste, 1 tablespoon of butter. Sound good? Believe me, it is.

Here are some recipes you can add to your master file. The above directions for making soup are general and more simple, though the following are simple enough. However, you can now have variety in your preparation of Turtles. Once they are dressed and ready for cooking . . . you can do many things with turtles!

## TURTLE SOUP A LA CREOLE

No other recipe for turtle soup will seem quite so savory after you have once eaten this ancient recipe for snapper-turtle soup. And here it is:

Cut the turtle meat into small pieces. Cut up several onions, a slice of ham, (cut into small pieces), and  $\frac{1}{4}$  clove of garlic. Mix with turtle meat and brown in a pot with a little lard. Add some flour and mix (not cooking), pour a

quantity of soup stock (you have originally boiled the turtle meat in) and let it cool. Then add a knee joint of veal. Turn on fire and let simmer for an hour. Then put in some thyme, laurel leaf, parsley, shallots, (in a bag is alright if you prefer), let cook for one-half hour on very slow fire. Take from fire and add several sprigs of parsley and two slices of lemon chopped very fine (juice and all). Let it set until just the right temperature to eat and still taste hot. Then add wineglassful of Madeira Wine and serve at once.

## TURTLE SOUP (standard)

3 pounds turtle meat, cut small and parboil 10 minutes. Save stock. Fry meat in 4 tablespoons fat—ham or bacon drippings are best. Then take  
2 onions minced,  
4 tablespoons flour, browned in fat,  
Add cup of canned tomatoes.  
1 tablespoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  clove garlic minced fine  
4 quarts stock and water.  
2 bay leaves  
2 sprigs parsley  
6 cloves  
2 blades mace (or  $\frac{1}{2}$  teasp. mace)  
1 lump of sugar  
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Brown onions, flour in fat with garlic and salt, add tomatoes. Simmer until onions are brown. Add stock and water and spices then bring to rapid boil. Add turtle meat to boiling ingredients. When boiling point is reached, turn fire down and simmer 3 hours. If desired, this soup may be strained, but it is delicious if served without straining. Garnish with sliced hard cooked eggs around the bowl with slices of lemon, cut thin. Some may like additional lemon. Sherry jelly may be added for flavor.

## TURTLE CHOWDER

One-half pound turtle meat, 2 medium-sized potatoes, 3 onions, 3 carrots, any other vegetables wanted, as parsley, all diced into the pot. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of salt pork diced, 1 teaspoonful pepper, 1 level teaspoonful butter. Cook about 2 hours over a slow fire. Serve at once.

If soft-shelled turtle is used, cut up the shell also and cook for 4 hours instead of 2.

## SNAPPER STEW

4 pounds snapper meat  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  pound minced onion  
2 tablespoons flour  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup lard or olive oil  
1 wineglass Maderia wine  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints water  
1 small clove of minced garlic  
Bay leaf, Thyme,  
Salt to taste

Mix all very thoroughly with the exception of the wine and cook over medium fire for one hour. When done add wine and serve at once.

## STEWED TURTLE

2 pounds turtle meat

## Do Outboards Hurt Fishing?

- 1 onion
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 sprig of thyme
- 1 cup of water
- 1 wineglass of sherry

Cut turtle meat into inch cubes. Chop an onion and brown with meat in a saucepan in 1 tablespoon butter. When it begins to brown add flour, bay leaf, garlic chopped fine and thyme. Mix thoroughly, then add sherry and water. Cook for one-half hour.

### CREAMED TERRAPIN

- Meat of one terrapin, cooked
- 1 cup white sauce\* (recipe below)
- ½ cup cream
- 1 cup chopped mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 eggs

Heat sauce, add cream, eggs, seasonings and lemon juice. Cook over boiling water 5 minutes. Add meat and mushrooms. Cook until thoroughly heated and serve at once. Serves 6.

\*White sauce is made as follows:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper

Heat butter in saucepan, stir until bubbling, add flour mixed with seasoning and stir until blended. Pour hot milk gradually over butter and flour mixture. Stir until smooth and creamy.

### SIMMERED TURTLE

Take 1 pound of turtle meat, cut into cubes. Brown in fat with 1 large or 2 medium-sized onions chopped. Add water to simmer until tender with few dashes of Chili pepper to taste. Pour over boiled rice and serve.

### CURRY OF TURTLE

Take 1 pound of turtle meat, 1 large onion chopped and brown as directed for simmered turtles. Take off fire.

Chop as for vegetable soup and put into pot the following:

1 medium sized potato, 1 carrot, add onions that have been browned with the turtle meat, a small piece of parsley, ½ teaspoonful pepper, 1 teaspoonful salt and ½ teaspoonful curry powder. Add turtle meat to the mixture in the pot with enough water to simmer and cook until tender. Make molds by hollowing out cups of boiled rice filling the hollows with the curried turtle and serve in molds.—Thed Bourke.

Here's an easy way to measure a fish if you don't happen to have a measuring device available. The length of any standard brand cigarette is 2¾ inches. Just lay as many cigarettes as needed end to end beside the fish and add the total

Anyone who has ever added their bit in the perennial argument concerning the use of outboard motorboats in fishing waters might keep an eye peeled on the University of Michigan.

Through the cooperation of the Outboard Boating Club of America, the University is conducting scientific tests to once and for all determine conclusively whether or not outboards are in any way detrimental to fish and fishing.

The tests will take all summer long and it is expected that summer's end will see the climax to the long, unsettled controversy that more and more is debated on legislative floors and where ever fishermen gather.

OBC decided to launch the series of experiments after conducting a survey among State Departments of Conservation throughout the country to secure evidence for or against the use of outboards in fishing waters and in that way solve one of the most frustrating of fishermen's arguments.

The survey proved inadequate. OBC found that very little data and clinical evidence has ever been taken on the problem. Out of thirty-five reports received, only two were based on any experiment at all. The remaining conservation departments labeled their reports as opinions only. This opinion showed a great deal of divergence—almost a smuch as is shown by fishermen themselves. Yet, despite the lack of evidence, the arguments still go on stronger than ever.

Some sportsmen contend that the operation of outboards keep fish from nesting, lead directly to the death of eggs or newly hatched fry, prevent the propagation of insect life, and create so much disturbance as to spoil fishing success.

That group of sportsmen however, who use the trim little speedsters to get to and from their favorite fishing grounds in a hurry, not only claim these arguments highly exaggerated, but highly impractical as well.

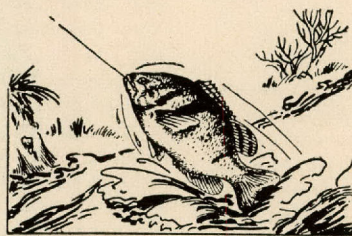
They point out that outboards have no effect on nesting or fry inasmuch as spawning water is two shallow and weedy to be good boating water. They say that the negligible amount of oil seepage from modern motors is soon dispersed even on small bodies of water and therefore has effect on cutting down the natural food of game fish. And they tell the rowboat fisherman to

blame something else for their lack of fishing success—not the nearest outboard. All in all they claim that the outboard has been much maligned and has taken a lot of unfair beating.

The arguments have become so heated within the last several years that legislators have been often called upon to drive the outboard from the outdoor scene. Unfortunately, they too have had little background to form true and impartial decisions. The arguments turn to debates which go on and on with nothing settled and no one left any wiser.

Now however, the debates are going to be settled. Enough experiments and clinical evidence will be obtained this summer to prove conclusively that outboards either have or have not any effect on fish and fishing success.

The laboratory will consist of six ponds at the Wolf Lake Hatchery near Kalamazoo, made available by the Michigan State Department of Conservation, and a private lake at Ann Arbor.



Breeding pairs of adult bluegills will be placed in two of the ponds and breeding pairs of adult largemouth bass in the other ponds. A third pair of ponds will be stocked with known number of

bass fry. Outboards will be operated twice daily in one of the bluegill and one of the two kinds of bass ponds. Study will then be made of fish behavior and nesting in four of the ponds and survival in all six ponds.

Comparisons between ponds in which outboards were run and those in which no motors were operated will furnish a fundamental solution to the question as to whether outboards harm fish and nesting and spawning.

### Fox Hunt Set

The Texas Fox and Wolf Hunters Association will hold its annual meeting and hunt at Camp Tonkawa, near Garrison, Texas, October 17 to 20. Association officials anticipate an attendance of 5,000 and about 500 dogs are expected to be entered in the various events. Camp Tonkawa is in the heart of the East Texas fox hunting area.

Of this number, 262, with 10,164 acres, are in the United States, and 20, with 7,929,239 acres are located in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

# LETTERS -

Texas Game and Fish is getting better and better and I congratulate you on putting so much that is worthwhile in so little space. Here is a question I would like to have the answer to:

A little lake in a park is fed largely by a draw that runs through a community with surface toilets. The lake covers about two acres and fishing is pretty good. Would the fish, because of the toilets be unfit for food?—J. C. Martin, Cameron, Texas.

*No. Any bacteria affecting humans that might get into the water will not effect the fish present. In fact, such a condition would be beneficial inasmuch as valuable fertilizing elements would be added to the water. Fertilization, plus sunshine is converted into algae (a microscopic plant) which is eaten by small animal life which in turn is eaten by the fish. Cooking the fish would kill any harmful bacteria harbored by the fish. However, on the coast where raw sewage effluent is released over oyster beds it would be best to cook the oysters rather than eat them raw.*

## About Education

I have just read with some interest the article "Conservation Education for Rural Schools" in your June edition. The writer of this article may have a title that takes up three sentences but he doesn't seem to have the faintest glimmering of the true relationship between the urban hunter (as he classes himself, I believe—and I can believe that) and the farmer.

To be specific he has not realized that farming is a business, a profession, and must be such if it is to supply the nation with food and clothing and the farm family with decent living. Hunters are a definite liability, and represent a terrific annual loss to the farmers of Texas each year. Do you know a greenhouse operator in his right mind that would give slingshots to all the kids in his neighborhood and tell them to shoot the humming birds off his flowers? That is exactly what the hunter is asking the farmer to do. He is asking the farmer to give him free run with a shotgun or rifle in a pasture full of cattle and shoot the birds that are destroying insects.

Conservation of game birds, or all birds for that matter, are an asset to the farmer. That is not true of game animals. However, farmers are at heart almost all conservationists—they just like to see the game running around the place even though they hunt very little themselves. The (good English by Presidential Proclamation) S. O. B.'s who do all the hollering about conservation never do any

and have never done any. What they mean when they say "we must conserve our natural resources" in loud tones is "I want each farmer to forego some two or three hundred dollars of next years income in order that I may come out and amuse myself by killing it off and do another hundred bucks worth of damage to crops and fences. If I shoot any livestock in the process, I will do everything humanly possible to get away without paying for it."

The farmers are the only people who do any real practicing of conservation but it is rapidly being proven a false economy to conserve game for the "conservationists" who live inside the city limits. I certainly am in favor of supplying the farmer with conservation knowledge—I like wildlife—I like to have it around the place, but do very little hunting.

Let's look at the economics of raising game from the farmers' point of view—and any lasting approach to game raising and conservation must necessarily be from the farmer's point of view or it won't work. Fence rows, etc., allowed to grow up as habitat for small game birds and animals are a constant source of weed infestation, necessitating extra expense and work on the part of the farmer. Opossums, skunks and weasels which grow up in these hedge rows are a constant drain on his poultry and the rabbits eat his crops, his garden and in the winter snow, destroy his orchard. Land allowed to grow up in timber, in our area, not only does not supply a source of additional income, it detracts from the value of the land itself and provides a breeding place for wolves and foxes. If you do not think this is a menace to the farmer, I might mention that wolves alone cost us slightly more than \$55,000 during the seven years that we tried to raise sheep. Squirrels can eat and destroy about as much corn each as a cow or horse, and deer do the same.

The bird family are more of an asset. Although they eat a certain amount of grain, this loss is off-set by the insects destroyed. By far the greatest liability of game birds is the hunters after them. Before we prohibited the hunting of birds on our place, we lost an average of 2.8 head of livestock annually through gunshot wounds. Now that we strictly prohibit hunting of any kind, we only lose slightly less than one a year.

The average hunter, when he comes out to the farm to hunt, parks his car fifty feet out in your grain field, gets out and tromp the grain in a ten foot circle around the car while getting loaded up and making plans with his com-

panions, then each one strikes out leaving a path through the grain that you can follow with your eyes from a distance of half a mile. He has no regard for the well-being or the property of his host, but rather steps on the stalks to keep them out of his face and away from him in case a bird jumps he will not become tangled and lose a shot. He does not know how to cross a fence, and usually leaves a major repair job to mark each crossing. He uses his gun on anything that moves with little or no regard for livestock or game limit laws. Livestock shot with a small caliber rifle or a shotgun do not die on the spot—they usually live for hours or even days and this allows the hunter, even the ones who know they shot the animal, to beat a hasty retreat and blame the "accident" on someone else. Of all the livestock we have lost to date, we have not collected a thin dime on a single head.

Who bears the expense then of conservation, or of supplying the nimrod and hunters with their sport. Sure, about one in five of them really go out and spend a buck for a duck stamp—and feel that entitles them to free run of the countryside. Yet on the other side of the ledger the farmer spends \$500 and feels bad when he has to refuse someone the privilege of hunting the game that he has raised. Who really needs the education—the farmer or the hunter?

It is my firm belief that any sound approach to supplying future generations with game to hunt and a place to hunt it must necessarily be founded in an economic stabilizing of the hunter-farmer relationship. The farmer must, of necessity, operate his business as efficiently as possible, and, with few expectations, he has never been able to live compatibly with the wild animal. One or the other is going to get hurt. And until hunters realize that there is an economic investment in wild game, as well as a value to it, the number will be decreased.

How to correct this situation equitably is, of course, quite a problem. The easiest part would be to secure the cooperation of the farmer—as I said before, he is a natural conservationist, he likes wildlife because he lives close to it and would be most happy to let it live and multiply if it didn't cause him such financial loss. He hates to kill the rabbits that eat his fruit trees but knows either the rabbits or the trees must go.—Robert E. Crozier, Route 7, Waco.

## Fines Show Increase

Number of game law violators fined in Texas during the month of June declined by 13 but the total fines assessed increased by about \$600. Game and fish law violators paid \$3,988 in fines during June.



# No Sport For a Lazy Man

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fishermen to be the hungriest and biggest.

Because Galveston is an island and because it is situated at the mouth of a day. That first trout run of the morn-large bay, fishing is good in spots all year round.

During the summer months, when there is a gentle southern breeze or a northern wind, the gulf lies flat and fish come in to knee deep water all along the 32 miles of sand beach forming Galveston's gulf front.

If there is a rough surf, fish feed in the great channel, Bolivar Roads, leading into the bay. Reds, mackerel and trout follow the incoming tide between the two long granite jetties right up the channel.

The mainland side of Galveston Island is jagged with coves and inlets, each an excellent feeding ground for fish of all types.

Largest of these inlets is Offats Bayou, located just at the city limits of Galveston. Depth of the inlet ranges up to 25 feet. Fishing in the summer is the best in this area, as it is a refuge and in the winter is best in some of the deeper holes. Boats and accommodations and bait are available along the shore of the inlet. Winter fishing at Offats is the best in this area, as it is a refuge for red fish and trout.

For the man who wants larger game fish, a trip to the famous Heald Bank, 40 miles out in the gulf, is in order.

Charter boats are available at pier 16. At the banks, ling, king, mackerel and reds are caught in large quantity. Tarpon are trolled for out and back.

A feature of Galveston fishing is the lower deck at the \$2,000,000 Pleasure Pier. Because the pier extends a half mile into the gulf, beyond sand bars and into deep water, the fisherman can go deep-sea fishing without going out to sea in a boat.

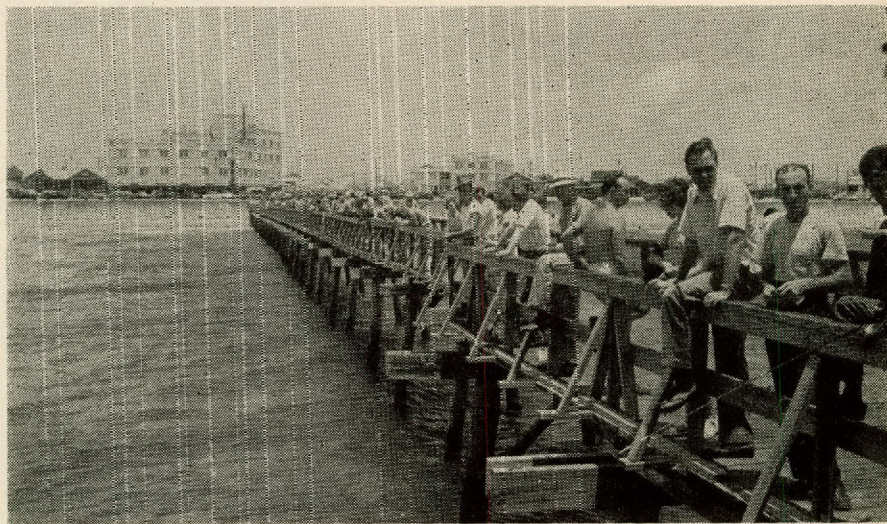
At time, five men at one time are playing tarpon from the pier. Bait and tackle are available on the pier.

A free fishing pier also extends into gulf from the seawall boulevard.

Besides such a plenty of salt water fishing, some fresh water activity is available in the Galveston area. Highland bayou, Chocolate bayou, Dickinson bayou and others drain into Galveston Bay. Bass and other fresh water fish can be taken.

Accommodations are available in Galveston throughout the year. During holidays, reservations are advisable. Boats and bait are plentiful.

Butterflies can tell differences in the sweetness of liquids that taste alike to human beings.



Offats Bayou is a favorite fishing spot the year 'round. Even in the winter the banks of the Bayou are crowded with fishermen and their efforts are usually well rewarded. The lower photo shows the free fishing pier which extends out into the Gulf from the Galveston seawall.

## Shun Friendly Wild Animals

If a skunk offers to get chummy, don't let it. But then, probably you don't need to be warned on that point.

Start over: If a little fox acts friendly and fearless, look out! That fox may be mad. Not mad at you, but just mad. Afflicted with rabies, hence very dangerous to play with.

The American Veterinary Medical Association warns that one possible symptom of rabies, in normally shy and elusive wild animals, is a boldness and easy approachability. Anyone taking advantage of this seeming friendliness runs a chance of being bitten, with exceedingly serious consequences.

An even greater danger from rabid wild animals is indirect; they may bite dogs, which then come home and de-

velop the disease, right where they are likeliest to have chances to bite members of the family or domestic animals.—Science News Letter.

## Fish Sounds

Several species of fish have the ability to produce a sound audible to the human ear. Among freshwater fish, the peculiar grunting sound made by the sheepshead or freshwater drum is the outstanding example.

## Few Bites Fatal

Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people are bitten by poisonous snakes in the United States each year but only about 10 percent of these people succumb to the poison. In fact, 85 percent of the victims recover without anti-venom treatment.

# Silvertips and Soft Points

.303 Savage .....	190	"
.30-06 Springfield .....	220	"
.375 H&H Magnum .....	270	"

In addition to the above listed cartridges, the growing demand for lighter and more efficient bullets in the .30-06 and the .300 Savage calibers for deer, antelope and similar game shooting brought about the development of outstanding cartridge and bullet combinations as listed below:

.30-06 Springfield 150-grain Silvertip
.300 Savage 150-grain Silvertip
.30-06 150-grain Soft Point
300 Savage 150-grain Soft Point

These cartridges and bullets give a combination of long range, light weight, high velocity and efficient killing power.

This extensive research project also proved one great advantage of the Silvertip over the Soft Point in certain calibers such as .30-06, .30-40 Krag, .300 Magnum and .270 Winchester. It was accurately recorded that the sharper profile of the Silvertip, allowing higher remaining velocities, extended the killing range by as much as 100 yards.

Colonel Siegmund particularly emphasized the point that the new improved Silvertip bullets assure thoroughly satisfactory mushrooming at all ranges within the effective limits of the combination of a given rifle and its companion cartridge.

With the skeet and trapshooting season in full swing, Clyde C. Mitchell, Remington Arms Company, who has probably won more professional clay target championship titles than any man alive, comes up with some sound and timely shooting advice of value to novice and experienced alike.

"In trapshooting, skeet or in the field," says Mitchell, "forgetting what you did wrong and remembering what you did right are the most important things to any shooter who wants to become an expert marksman. The targets you hit are the ones that make up the score. The ones you miss don't count. Many a man has lost a shooting championship simply because he kept thinking about one target he had missed.

"Remember how you hit 'em . . . and forget how you miss 'em' is not an original expression with me. Bill Crosby, one of the all-time greats with a shotgun, said it almost fifty years ago. It's still sound advice today.

"Many beginners in the shooting sports, who haven't had the benefit of good coaching, become 'recoil conscious' after the first few shots and instinctively move their shoulders back a trifle

• Continued from Page 12

in an endeavor to soften the slap. This doesn't solve the problem. Rather, it works in reverse, for it only intensifies the punch the shoulder may take. The 'business end' of a gun is the muzzle, not the butt!

"Practice gun handling WITHOUT shooting," continues Mitchell. "The gun should be 'mounted' or brought into position, on the shoulder, with one motion. With the left hand in a comfortable position on the fore-end, the weight of the gun will be supported by the left arm. Turn the elbow slightly to the left, which will allow the wrist to act as a fulcrum. Do not grip the gun tightly with the left hand nor, with that hand, jam the gun against your shoulder. Your left hand and arm act as the guide and support, and those are functions enough.

"With your right hand firmly grasping the grip, snuggle the gun against your shoulder. And be sure it's your shoulder, not your arm. This is a common mistake made by many beginners . . . and a lot of experienced shooters, too, who grow a bit careless. It exaggerates recoil and results in excessive and unnecessary punishment.

"Standing with feet widely apart and leaning slightly forward to take up the recoil and prevent unbalancing, head nearly erect, swing the gun on an imaginary target and press the trigger. Do this time and again . . . until you acquire comfort in the feel of your gun. Always swing a bit ahead of your target before pressing the trigger. When your gun feels comfortable to you every time you put it to your shoulder, when you are seeing that imaginary target and swinging ahead with ease, you are ready for the field or firing line and you don't need to worry much about recoil. Its force won't bother you to any appreciable extent.

"Recoil-consciousness' may be your difficulty. Take the recoil with your right hand and right shoulder. It won't be bad. Let your left hand and arm act as the guide and a support; adopt a position that makes your gun feel comfortable to you; make it a part of you; get it on your target as quickly as possible, swing a bit ahead . . . and 'touch 'er off.' You'll get results.

"If you miss one, don't think about that miss, blaming yourself for not doing something you know you should have done. Concentrate on the next target, determined to do the correct thing. Make every target an individual race, thinking neither about the one before nor the one coming up. The one you're looking at is the one you want to hit.

"I know HOW it should be done, but, confidentially, I've never yet been

able to find a gun from which all the misses had been removed at the factory.

The guns are all right . . . we put in the misses by our own errors. Instructing a shooter by remote control is difficult but there is one bit of advice that every shooter, beginner and experienced alike, should always bear in mind . . . Bill Crosby's 'forget how you miss 'em and remember how you hit 'em!'"

To the rescue of shooters of the economical nature comes O. F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., again—this time with a low-priced telescope sight with hard coated lenses. Young gunners, especially those who have to cut corners on a limited allowance, will appreciate the new development as they can have a 4-power, coated lens scope "just like pappy's" for less than \$10.00.

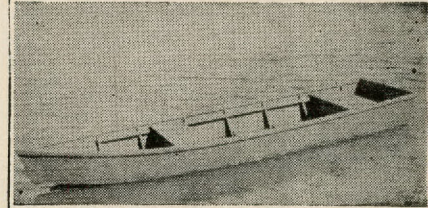
Internal adjustments on the little scope are made by external click screws, and it will fit practically any low-recoiling rifle up to .25-20 caliber.

—A. W. III.

## Origin of Carp

The carp is native to China and was introduced into Europe as early as 1227, and was first brought to England at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The first introduction of carp into the United States is said to have been in 1877.

## The Handiest Fishing Boat Afloat Today



Fishermen! Here's the boat you have been waiting for. A real man's boat right down to the last rivet. 11' 7" long, 43" beam, a 36" transom and 12" gunwales. Weighs 106 pounds. Made of aluminum and riveted for longer wear. Air tanks under each 1 x 12 pine seat. Gunwale and deck strips are of no-leak construction. Price \$99.50, FOB Palestine. Sold only by Manufacturer. Circular on request.—Write

**Palestine Sheet Metal Works**  
Palestine, Texas



With landing gear down and flaps down these three ducks are coming in for a landing on the Texas coast after their long hop from their far northern breeding grounds.

thus insuring many Texans an opportunity to go duck hunting who otherwise would be held to their jobs. A duck stamp must be attached to the state hunting license. The duck stamp may be obtained from any post-office. They will cost \$2 this year.

### Carp in Sausage

Herb Mosher, in a recent issue of Florida Wildlife, has an article about "Fish Sausage" in which he says the flavor of this type of sausage is not greatly different from the flavor of ham, and furthermore the product sells at about the same price. All kinds of rough fish, as carp, suckers and garfish can be used. They are cleaned, cooked under heavy pressure, then carefully ground—bones and all and stuffed into sausage casings and smoked. It makes a very fine, high class sausage that is finding a growing market in the larger metropolitan and suburban areas. If the demand grows big enough, our carp worries will be over.

The apes called chimpanzees are more like man in intelligence than any other animal.

## Split Season On Waterfowl

• Continued from Page 4

same as in previous year—90 days.

The season on woodcock will be open for the first time in many years in certain East Texas counties this year. The area in which woodcock may be hunted this year, from December 23 to January 21, includes the counties of Shelby, Nacogdoches, Angelina, Trinity, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, and all counties south and east thereof. There is no open season on woodcock in the rest of Texas. The daily bag limit is four and the possession limit is 8.

The bag limit for coots has been reduced from 15 to 10 birds a day in the Central flyway, which includes Texas. Possession limits are the same as the daily bag limits.

The daily bag limit on American and red-breasted mergansers is 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds. There is no possession limit after the opening day of the season.

The split season will give Texans two good periods in which to hunt waterfowl when they are most numerous in the State. The ducks and geese start their migration into northern and feet attached. This is for means of identification.

The post-season period for possession of migratory game birds remains the Texas from the mid-western grain fields along about the end of October. About the fifth of November they are in North Texas in good numbers. Two or three weeks later, they move southward to the coastal regions. The second half of the split season opens when the ducks and geese have been most numerous along the coast, the latter part of

December and the early part of January. Moreover, the second half of the split season, which opens on December 21 and ends on January 7, includes the Christmas and New Year holidays,

### For Hunters Only

By Stack

PLEASE DON'T SHOOT. THAT BIRD IS ON A TELEPHONE WIRE

OH-OH! A STRAY SHOT BROKE THE WIRE

OPERATOR OPERATOR

THAT'S WHY WE ASK HUNTERS NOT TO SHOOT AT BIRDS ON TELEPHONE WIRES OR POLES. THANK YOU

AND HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS A TELEPHONE CALL IS CUT OFF

# Conservation of Texas Wildlife

• Continued from Page 5

animal crops. Few of us lived when wild animals were abundant, so we must go back to those who wrote down the facts as they saw them. The story of those beginnings have been told and retold, written and rewritten, largely from the records preserved in the archives of institutions. But most of the rewrite stories are out of print; the archives are not easily accessible to those living afar; so, to aid the average reader who seeks to learn of the past, the historian must glean from the records a kind of review or balance brought forward.

Quotations from others will be duely credited, but in using what I have heretofore written, no quotation marks are to be used. At the risk of being repetitious history must be restated for each new generation which, inquisitive of the past, is constantly crowding itself upon our attention, asking to know what the elders have been doing about problems that are yet unsolved.

Some years ago this probing of the past was begun. Much material was assembled and published in the 1929 year book of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. Ten thousand copies were printed and sent out, and only those in libraries are now available. Much of this information will be restated herein, with such improvement as may be found necessary.

Texas historians did not go out of their way to write about the wild animals of the frontier. The abundance of game was too commonplace for comment. In the wilderness where everything was wild there was no novelty to excite wonder. There was as little occasion to marvel at the abundance of birds and beasts as to be astonished at the brightness of the sun.

It remained for an Englishman, William Kennedy, to make a visit to Texas in 1839, just one hundred and ten years ago, and witness through British eyes those novelties and tell the story to the outside world. He wrote a book of 1,000 pages called "TEXAS." It concerned all phases of Texas resources and gave much attention to the wildlife of that period, incomparably more than that of any other writer. To sum up early history, the writings of pioneers of the past and present century include the works produced by Kennedy in 1841; Captain R. B. Marcy in 1852; (He later became a general) Dr. E. A. Mearns in 1892; Vernon Bailey in 1905; Professor H. B. Attwater and John K. Strecker of the past half century.

## The Kennedy Report and the Exit of the Bison

It is always interesting to know how and why writers are prompted to write books. What was the inspiration? Why would Kennedy, an Englishman be so interested in the untamed wilderness of Texas? The question is easily answered. England was concerned in the economic and political future of Texas when it was pleading for annexation to the Union of States. When the American Congress refused the Texas plea, Texas diplomacy turned to England and France for trade agreements. All too often governments have to be scared into doing the right thing. The question of slavery and the threat of possible war with Mexico had stood in the way; but now with England reaching for the rich cotton market of Texas, and a probable foreign alliance, the U. S. Government had no choice but to admit the young republic to the sisterhood of states. Thus did Anson Jones play his annexation cards as a master of diplomacy, and Kennedy unwittingly helped Texas into the Union when he advertised its riches to the British people.

In the preface of Kennedy's book he said: "I could not understand how the settlers of Texas were enabled to repel the armies of Mexico and to found a republic of their own. Enjoying the leisure of those who can satisfy even a fleeting curiosity by traveling at once to the place where direct information may be obtained, . . . the year 1838 unexpectedly opened to me the prospect of visiting Texas."

So William Kennedy indulged in the luxury of satisfying his curiosity by coming to see what Texas is like. On

reaching the borders of the new republic he no doubt used the remark,— "So this is Texas." The book he wrote ran quickly through two editions in England, for the wise men of the East had beheld the radiance of that Lone Star of the West.

Among the wild animals of the Texas fauna, the American Bison claimed particular interest for the Britisher who portrayed not only the current trend of his time, but made use of information of earlier writers on the abundance of the bison which, in 1840, was already rapidly declining.

Said he, "All the wild animals common to the western states, and some peculiar to Mexico, are found in Texas. The bison or buffalo which deserted the prairies of the western country, as population encroached upon its range of pasturage, and which owing to the same cause, has retreated from many of its accustomed haunts in Texas, is still to be met with in the district between the Guadalupe Mountains and the Rio Grande."

It is thus evident that in 1840 the great southern herds of bison were being thinned out in remarkable contrast with the number found in the earlier days of Captain Bonneville, as quoted by Kennedy. Said he: "They now come to a region abounding in buffalo—that ever-journeying animal which moves in countless droves from point to point of the vast wilderness; traversing plains, pouring through the intricate defiles of mountains, swimming rivers—ever on the move; guided mysteriously in its boundless migrations by some traditionary knowledge like the finny tribes of the ocean, which, at their certain seasons, find their paths across the deep, and revisit the remotest shores.

"These great migratory herds of the buffalo have their hereditary paths and byways, worn deep through the country, making for the surest passes of the mountains, and the most practicable fords of the rivers. When once a great column is in full career, it goes straight forward, regardless of obstacles, those in front being impelled by the moving mass behind. At such times they will break through camp, trampling down everything in their course.

"It was the lot of the voyagers one night to encamp at one of these buffalo landing places, and exactly in the trail. They had not been long asleep when they were awakened by a great bellowing and trampling, and the rush and splash, and snorting of animals in the river . . . It was a singular spectacle, by the uncertain moonlight, to behold the countless throng making their way across the river, blowing, bellowing and splashing. Sometimes they pass in such dense and continuous column as to form a temporary dam across the river, the waters of which rise and rush over their backs or be-

## The Author



J. G. BURR

tween their squadrons. The roaring and rushing sounds of one of these vast herds crossing a river may sometimes, on a still night, be heard for miles away." (The Kennedy report on other species is concluded in the next chapter).

Continuing the history of the bison at the time when it had few enemies, Captain R. B. Marcy said: "Thus the monarch of the plains was allowed free range from one end of the continent to the other, but this happy state of things was not destined to continue . . . Thousands of these animals were annually slaughtered for their skins and often for their tongues alone . . . It is only eight years (1842) since the western borders of Texas abounded with buffaloes; but now they seldom go south of the Red River, and their range upon east and west has also very much contracted within the same time; so that they are at present confined to a narrow belt of country between the outer settlements and the base of the Rocky Mountains."

The late Colonel Charles Goodnight, served and nurtured into a domestic herd, was a witness of the passing of famous for the buffalo calves he pre-herded and the manner of it. He said: "They were slaughtered for meat by settlers, and by Indians in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska; by professional hunters employed to supply meat to military forts and railroad construction companies; by sportsmen who killed merely because they could kill. The performance of the sportsmen was to me one of the most distressing features of buffalo extermination. The majority killed with needless and ruthless abandon. I have seen passengers on a train which had been held up by a herd that was slowly crossing the track, shoot buffaloes for hours at a time. Hundreds were slaughtered in this way, while others wounded and left to a lingering death. For years the most conspicuous objects along western railroads were bleaching bones of these defenseless creatures that had furnished sport for passengers. Seasoned frontiersman though I was, I could never become inured to these scenes of brutal and wanton butchery. The buffalo had to go, of course, but there was no excuse for the hurry, waste and savagery that attended their extermination."

#### The Last Wild Buffaloes

Vernon Bailey quoted Cary in 1902 as follows: "Landlord Holman of the Monahan Hotel (Monahan, Texas) who is an old-timer here, informs me that the last buffalo in the sandhill region was killed in the winter of 1885 by a professional hunter, George Cansey, who is credited with having killed more buffalo than any other man in Texas. In the fall and summer of 1884 Cansey killed several near the southeast corner of New Mexico and finally, in Jan-

uary 1885, while riding to Midland, came up with the last two remaining animals, a cow and a calf, near the water holes. Cansey shot the cow and roped the calf which he finally turned over to Mr. C. C. Slaughter of Fort Worth who eventually had it killed for a large barbecue. From the same source I learned that the last bull buffalo in the San Angelo region was killed in the fall of 1883, in the southern part of Tom Green County by a Mr. Mertz of San Angelo."

Possibly the last of the wild buffalo was a small herd in 1889 in the northwest corner of the Panhandle estimated by W. T. Hornaday at twenty-five animals. Thus, for commercial and other reasons, was destroyed this remarkable animal which once ranged our prairies in numbers estimated as high as 60,000,000. But a remnant was saved; some of them on Texas ranches where they are domesticated; others on private preserves and in the National Parks where they rapidly increased.

The economic value of the buffalo was beyond computation. His range between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains made available a meat supply in the early days when civilization was spanning the continent. He helped the emigrant in his covered wagon across the waste places, as well as the builders of railroads; and when the roads were built and the hides could be hauled to market, the days of the buffalo were numbered.

This is the first of a series of articles on the History of Game and Fish Conservation in Texas. The second article will appear in the October Issue.

## Hints for Angler

• Continued from Page 13

the job of streamlining which Mother Nature performed on the Atlantic Bonito. Couple this feature with smashing power and surging runs and you have a first class game fish.

Unfortunately, because it is usually caught offshore while anglers are using heavy tackle for large fish, its fighting qualities are not always appreciated. However, on light tackle, the bonito will delight any angler.

The Bonito is known as the African Bonito, Oceanic Bonito, Little Tunny, False Albacore, Boston Mackerel, Frigate Mackerel, Blue Bonito, Bonejack, Skipjack, Bone-eater, Bloater and Tuna.

The Atlantic Bonito is a schooling fish and travels in groups in search of food. They can be seen churning the water as they search for a meal and when they locate a school of small herring or other fish, the slaughter is fast and furious.

A stroke of its crescent shaped tail will send the bonito forward as if jet propelled. Small strong teeth cover the upper jaw with several large ones

in the lower. The body is entirely scaled like the true albacore; the back is a grayish blue shading off to silvery white on the belly and silver on the sides. Dark narrow stripes mark the body, running obliquely forward from the dorsals.

The open sea is the home of the bonito, from Maine to Florida, in the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico. It inhabits European waters from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. During the summer, big schools range the Atlantic Coast from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras, occasionally coming inshore to feed.

Three species of bonito are found on the Pacific Coast and their range is from Chile to California, west to Japan. Nearly all bonito are taken trolling offshore and sometimes casting around reefs where schools are surfacing.

The average size is 2 to 4 pounds with no established world record. The largest reported are from 20 to 25 pounds.

The flavor is only fair, the flesh is extremely oily and comparatively unpalatable.

The bonito feeds on small fish such as mullet, menhaden, sardines, anchovies and smelt.

The favored baits are feathered jigs, strip bait and large plugs such as the Giant Vamp, Zig-Wag and Giant Flap-tail.

Because of the great preponderance taken, trolling is the most popular method for catching bonito.

Since many other species of larger fish will be taken while trolling in waters frequented by bonito, the best outfit is a "6/9." This means a rod made of split bamboo or tubular steel like the "Pal," the tip 5 feet in length weighing 6 ounces and the line to be 9 thread, or 27 pound test. With this should be used a 3/0 or 4/0 reel holding from 300 to 500 yards of 9 thread line.

Because of the bonito's strong teeth wire leaders made of No. 8 or No. 9 wire, 6 to 8 feet long, should be used.

The locating of bonito offshore is highly unpredictable. However, the fine sport to be had once these scrappers are located is predictable and desirable.

The sea otter habitually uses its chest or abdomen as a table and its sense of balance is so fine that no meal goes overboard, even when rocked by waves.

To restore the waterproofing of waders, thin rubber tire solution with a little gasoline and apply two coats. Waders should, of course, first be thoroughly cleaned of all grease, dirt, etc., which can be accomplished with gasoline on a clean rag.

# Big Bend Hunting

• Continued from Page 15

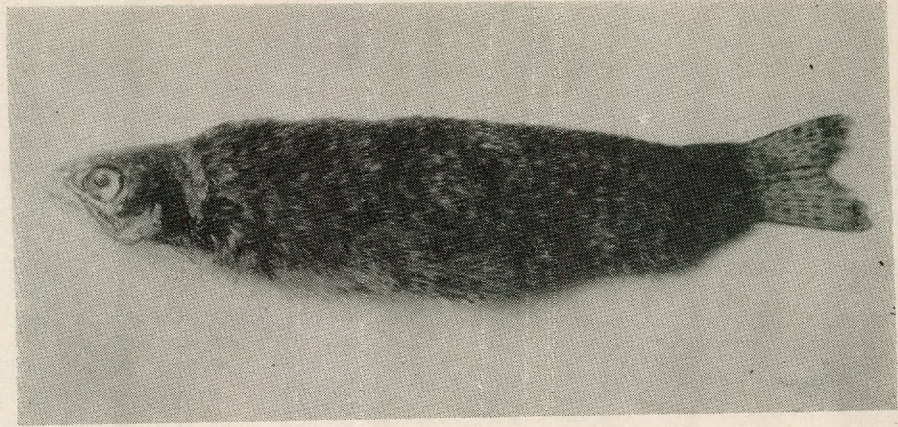
per is OK. It will help keep the flies off.

I've rambled on and on, and there's just a couple of more things I want to suggest. If you have no idea where you are going and no particular place to go, for goodness sakes get in touch with the Game Warden of that district and ask him to suggest several places to go. First of all, he'll know where there is more game. He'll know which ranches are leasing out to hunters and he probably can tell you what the price of the lease will be. And if you want a guide, the Game Warden can recommend a reliable fellow. The Game Warden will steer you right. Don't forget that.

Next, give the rancher the break that is coming to him and that he should demand of his hunters. I know you have paid him for his lease, but that does not give you the privilege to shoot the HELL out of every tin can, bottle, white spot on the side of the mountain to see if Jake's 20" barrel will shoot as far as your 21" barrel, or because you have hunted hard and haven't seen hair one and a Jack rabbit jumps, so you are mad and blast hell out of him. You won't have to look twice to see horns. If they are so small that you have to use an 'umteen power pair of binoculars to see them, you don't want him anyway, at least most fellows wouldn't, and when the big ones get up, Brother you will see horns, I'll guarantee that. In fact that is the first thing that I seem to see. Some of the things I have mentioned about happens consistently, and I want to tell you now, that kind of stuff is what makes it hard on us guys that try to do what is right and to respect the other fellows rights and feelings. For your own protection, go out and set your sights before you take off for your hunt and protect them. They count whether you miss or hit, and hit is what you want to do more than anything else. I know sights have been jarred off accidentally, and this can't be helped but use some common horse sense and don't shoot more than you have to around camp or the territory in which you intend to hunt.

A clean camp. Dig a hole, and put all your tin cans and bottles in that hole. Empty tin cans on the range are poison to cattle. They may cause the rancher to loose several head of cattle and they cost money. A cow or calf may step into tin can, and if the range rider just don't happen to find her pretty quick, it's just too bad. So bury your tin cans and empty bottles and burn your trash, and be darn sure that fire is completely out before you leave camp. A clean camp may mean the difference whether you get to go back next year or not. Don't ever think those ranchers don't ride by the camp you have left, be-

# Well, Well--!



Dear Editor: I am enclosing a photograph of a fur-bearing trout, or beazel, which had its origin in Colorado, in the Arkansas River, near Leadville.

In the winter of '77-'78 the miners in Leadville had their meat supplied them by professional hunters, and as a result the miners had such an abundance of venison and fried potatoes in their diet that the tallow stuck to the roof of their mouths and dulled their sense of taste.

The miners melted the tallow by burning bundles of pine splinters on their heads. This restored the sense of taste but rendered most of them bald. In these circumstances a certain hair tonic manufacturer from Kentucky did a flourishing

business. One day, on his way to town, he was obliged to cross on a footlog a trout stream that emptied into the Arkansas River. He was carrying four jugs of tonic. Suddenly he slipped on the slimy log. Before he recovered himself the four jugs had hurtled to the rocks below, and the tonic mingled with the stream. Next season it was a common sight to see fur-bearing and bearded trout in the stream. A fisherman needed only to approach the stream with a red, white and blue pole and a Police Gazette in one hand, and a pair of scissors in the other, and the obliging fish would flop onto the shore to be barbered. Yours for truth among fishermen.—Ted Johnston, Harlingen, Texas.

cause they do, and they will notice things. Some people believe in the old saying, "Out of sight out of mind;" "NUTS" those boys who ride the range have good memories.

Those of you who read this and are going out west to hunt I hope will find some of these tips helpful. It has taken me quite a while to learn them, and I'm passing them on to you, as I would have been more than thankful is someone had of passed a few on to me. These things are learned the hard way, by experience.

Adio's Amigos, Good Hunting and Good Luck.

## Operation Deer Trap

• Continued from Page 17

H. D. Dodgen, Executive Secretary of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, suggested that deer traps be constructed of the same material.

In May, 1949, the writer contacted the Aluminum Products Company relative to the construction of an aluminum deer trap patterned after the current wooden model. As a result, he and G. E.

Colbath hauled a wooden trap to Mineral Wells in June, and assisted in putting together the latest development in deer trapping equipment (Figure 6).

The trap is of airplane aluminum alloy throughout, except for a few bolts and a length of small pipe. Strips of sheet aluminum form the side slats and reinforcements for drop doors. The doors and top are one-piece sheets. Aluminum alloy angle members form slides for drop doors at each end and cross braces on top. Rivets replace bolts at every reasonable place.

The completed aluminum trap shown in Figure 6 weighs approximately 185 pounds, or just half as much as the wooden model in Figure 5. Properly primed and painted, it should last indefinitely. Barring unforeseen developments, Texas deer trapping has taken another step forward in the direction of "streamlined" efficiency.

## A Nesting Fish

When certain rivers in South Africa dry up in summer, a curious kind of fish, called mudfish, makes itself a nest in the mud and waits for the river to fill with water again.

# Most Misunderstood Fish Is The Carp

**C**arp, the hardy fishery specimen known to commercial fishermen throughout the Great Lakes area, is about the most misunderstood fresh water fish in history. This big amiable inhabitant of our lakes who has lived around the world during the last 2,000 years and minded his own business wherever he made his home, is an out-cast.

Any youngster who is brought up where fish are abundant in their natural home, rivers and lakes, soon learns that carp are to be looked upon as pests who have no food value, and are just a generally no good fish cluttering up the place. This misunderstanding continues through adulthood and as a result the carp is relegated to the back-ground in the eyes of the public.

Actually, the carp has attained a position of prominence in many countries and is gaining considerably in this country as a resource for canned fish. Even the life history of the carp is filled with interesting sidelights.

The beginning of the carp date back to some 2,000 years ago when China was their home. The ancient Chinese raised carp much the same as we would cattle, or pigs, or chickens, and it became a staple food in a country where starvation is always lurking around the corner.

As early as 600 A. D., carp had been transplanted to European waters and reached the dinner tables of countless thousands on the continent. By the 13th century, carp raising had become quite an industry in the Old World and soon England also had its "carp farms." German families raised carp in private pools for their own table use and considered it a delicacy.

It was natural that this species would find its way to the New World and it was introduced to the United States in 1876. Great Lakes fishermen took their first catch of carp in the 1880's and during the period of 1913-1915 the average take from the lakes was about 8 million pounds. This average had fallen off in later years but has held steady around 5 million pounds annually for the last 14 seasons.

Quickly adapting itself to its new surroundings in the lakes, the carp multiplied rapidly and is now widely distributed. The carp industry might have expanded to greater proportions during past years had it not been for a very limited demand due, in part at

least, to the misunderstanding that the carp was not a very tasty or desirable fish. Carp, as a resource, could have supported a larger fishery with little fear of over fishing but the lack of demand made such commercial fishing unprofitable.

Another reason for the apparent lack of popularity of carp has been the neglect to process this specie of fish in any manner. Even though the carp was fished and raised around the world for centuries, it was always sold as fresh fish in the open market and never canned or smoked. If the fish had to be transported, they were carried alive in tank cars and then sold to market on arrival.

It took the Second World War before the carp came into its own as a more useful fishery product. It was 1945 when the U. S. Army was searching for economical, easily processed, easily shipped products that the capabilities of carp were developed. This research discovered that carp was high in protein content and the process of canning carp came into being.

The first canning of carp, done in Minnesota, presented many problems. No fresh water fish had ever been canned before to any extent. The salt-water process of canning used on the carp proved to be unsuccessful and an entirely new method had to be formulated. But the final result was a flavor much like tuna or the white meat of chicken.

The ability of the carp to live despite hardship of extreme heat or cold has always come in handy when transportation troubles arise but this same ability has been the chief reason for the slowness of the fishing industry in turning it into a canned product. Carp have sometimes even been shipped while packed in just moist moss and arrived at their destination days later without losing weight.

Another amazing aspect of the carp is their length of life. It is thought not uncommon for the carp to live to an age of 150 to 200 years. Most logical reason for this long length of life is that the carp does everything at a low rate of speed and wastes no energy. He thrives in warm waters and if the temperature of the water gets below 50 degrees the carp very simply does nothing. He doesn't move, he doesn't eat and he doesn't lose weight. Once the temperature gets above 59

degrees the carp comes back to life but takes things easy.

As a result of this lack of movement and calm way of life most of what the carp eats goes for body growth and they may attain a weight of 100 pounds or more. This efficient method of putting on weight means that a high poundage can be raised per acre to make "carp farming" profitable.

Carp feed on plants and small animals such as shellfish, insect larvae and crustaceans. They spawn in May and June and the female often lays 24,000 eggs for every pound of her weight.

Carp are also taken in the Mississippi River and its tributaries amounting to about 10 to 12 million pounds a year.

The biggest yield of carp among the Great Lakes in 1944, latest year on which official statistics are available, came from Lake Erie where close to two million pounds were caught valued at \$71,797. The state of Ohio profited most from the Lake Erie carp yield as her fishermen's catch was worth \$53,076.

Second best among the lakes producing carp was Lake Michigan which netted 1,217,100 fish but their value was greater than that of Lake Erie as they sold for \$84,075. Here it was Wisconsin that laid claim to the chief production of carp among the Lake Michigan states involved as they accounted for \$81,352 of the total value.

Haul seines proved to be the most effective method of capturing carp, especially by Michigan fishermen who netted \$1,188,300 pounds in this manner. Trap nets were the next most useful in bringing in carp with fyke nets, pound nets, and trot lines used to a small extent.—The Commercial Fisherman.

## Medina Line

The thin line seen along the side of fish is called the medina line. It contains sensitive organs which determine the water pressure or depth in which the fish is swimming.

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# Mining Firm Restores Stripped Areas

Conservation in its truest sense is exemplified in the land-use program which has been in progress for many years on property owned by the Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Mining Company of Pittsburg, Kansas.

The company's program embraces all company-owned lands, which, pending mining operations, are sharecropped by tenant farmers under the guidance and supervision of the company's farm department, headed by Paul Phelps. Many local farmers owning adjacent lands extend their acreage by working smaller plots on company property. The total holdings, 17,065 acres or more, are divided into tracts of from 50 to 600 acres. An extensive fertilization program, with the company paying half the cost, was inaugurated to increase crop production. Close contact is maintained with county farm bureaus and state university agricultural departments. Crop yields, after the program was started, nearly doubled on these lands.

Nor does the company conservation program end with the removal of coal from the land. After strip-mining operations have ceased, reclamation work immediately begins. Forests, fruit orchards, pastures, vineyards, honey production units, and game refuges for wildlife have been developed since the reclamation program began in 1938. Multiflora rose has been planted experimentally in cooperation with the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, and wild rice, wild celery and other waterfowl food plants have been planted in ponds. Thousands of walnut, locust, pine, wild cherry, ash, burr-oak, sycamore, pecan, and Osage-orange seedlings have been set out over 1,000 acres of stripped land. Three grazing projects embracing 2,360 acres of reclaimed land. Three grazing projects embracing 2,360 acres of reclaimed land. Bulldozers are used to level the tops of banks and mechanical seeders are used to restore vegetation as soon as possible after mining operations are over.

Future plans call for the development of present projects with emphasis on grazing. Livestock on present grazing projects will be increased and, as mining operations are completed, stripped areas will be developed for pasture. Reforestation projects will be established on steep, rocky lands unsuitable for grazing. This program is typical of a new trend in the attitude of a growing segment of industry toward its public responsibilities in handling natural resources.

There are twenty thousand living species of fish in the world's waters.

# Trapping

By L. J. Kopp

When you buy traps, it is not so much a matter of which make of trap to buy, but rather you should select the traps best suited to your locality, with emphasis on trapping conditions. This is especially true when selecting fox traps.

**There are several different sizes to choose from, and while all of them will serve their purpose, a trapper generally likes to buy the traps which will pay him the most.**

As mentioned earlier, conditions should be the deciding element. If you are in a section where freezing sets in early, and remains frozen all during the season, then you would choose a large trap—a No. 3, or even the No. 4. In very cold weather your trap covering is apt to freeze even if you do use dry material, and this frozen dirt will hinder the effectiveness of traps smaller than a No. 3. On the other hand, a large trap will have more power to push up through the usual thickness of trap covering, and small pieces between jaws will be crushed.

**On the other side of the question we find that in sections where dogs roam about, the large trap is not so desirable. In most cases the stronger trap will break a dog's leg, should one step on your trap. Therefore the No. 21, No. 2, etcetera, would be preferred.**

A trapper always selects the traps he wants to have, and it is not a matter for one person to decide which is best. However it is always a good thing to point out the advantages and disadvantages of the various traps used in trapping different animals.

**In the case of the raccoon and the skunk there is the danger of having their trapped foot amputated. For that reason we should select a trap which has double jaws. One such trap is the No. 1½D, coil spring. In size, this trap is suitable for either animal.**

When properly set, ordinary traps will hold coon and skunks, however with a good double jaw trap available it is advisable to select such a trap. Consider, also, that this same trap may be used with equal success for other animals such as 'possum, mink, and weasel.

**When making sets in water for mink, an ordinary No. 1½ trap will work nicely. Due to the difference in weight it is sometimes preferred by the serious mink trapper.**

The common No. 1 trap is a very popular trap with every trapper. This applies to both the long spring, as well as the underspring, or jump type. It can be used with success for trapping anything from weasel to fox, though it is not advisable to use it for fox to any great extent.

**While the No. 1 trap is ideal for 'possum, and weasel, it is not what one might call the ideal trap for muskrats. Muskrats have the habit of twisting off their trapped foot, even if there exists only the slightest opportunity for them to accomplish the feat. A trap known as the "stop-Los" came into being a number of years ago, designed especially for muskrat trapping, and has proven itself quite popular. It is designed in such a way as to prevent muskrats from twisting off their trapped foot.—Ohio Conservation Bulletin.**

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The breech-loading gun was invented before the muzzle-loader. It was much easier to make a tube with a hole at each end. But the breech-loader was abandoned until modern forging methods could keep gas from escaping from the breech end.

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Scientists who have listened to white whales or porpoises by using a hydrophone, or underwater microphone, with an amplifier, have suggested the nickname, "sea canary." Apparently these sea mammals whistle, squeal, chirp, mew, and even trill.

---

The wolverine, a short, bow-legged Napoleon, is the strongest for its size of all North American mammals.

---

More than 3 million acres are included in the 196 refuges, or so-called "duck hotels," established primarily for the protection of migratory waterfowl. Sixteen big-game refuges embrace 10,652,248 acres.

---

The Columbian ground squirrel of northwest United States, Canada and Alaska does not require water and may never take a drink in its life.

---

Don't discard leftover bait minnows. Placed in vinegar, they'll stay limber and lifelike for a week.

---

The eggs of the gar are considered extremely poisonous to humans.



# You can increase Fish and Wildlife by the following practices

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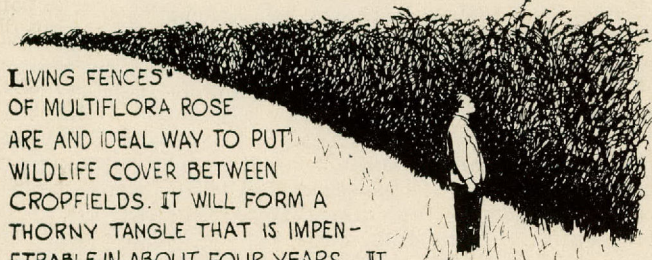
FREQUENTLY IT IS AMAZING HOW LITTLE EFFORT IS NEEDED TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF WILDLIFE, BOTH FISH AND GAME. SLIGHT CHANGES IN FARMING HABITS OR METHODS, ONES THAT MIGHT EVEN SIMPLIFY WORK-A-DAY JOBS OR INCREASE NET INCOME, OFTEN CREATE HOMES FOR WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS. HABITAT RESTORATION IS THE ONE SURE WAY TO GET RESULTS. ~ IRA M. GABRIELSON



OUR STREAMS CAN BE PERMANENTLY IMPROVED ONLY AS FAST AS THEIR WATERSHED IS IMPROVED. SODDED WATERWAYS DRAINING CULTIVATED FIELDS WILL INCREASE THE DESIREABLE AREAS WHERE FISH CAN THRIVE. STRIP CROPPING AND TERRACING ON STEEPER SLOPES WILL VASTLY IMPROVE THE VALUE AND RESULTS OF THIS BROAD SODDED DRAINAGE WAY. OVERGRAZING OF PASTURES HAS A HARMFUL EFFECT ON OUR STREAMS AS WELL AS ROBBING THE FARMER OF HIS MOST PRICELESS POSSESSION - SOIL



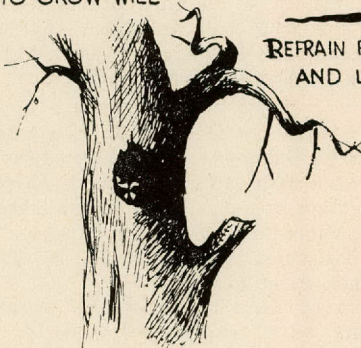
FIELD BORDER STRIPS ARE A NEW TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE FOOD AND COVER FOR WILDLIFE, CHECK EROSION, STOP WOODS FROM SPREADING ONTO CROPLAND AND ADD HUMUS AND NITROGEN TO THE SOIL. BICOLOR PLOTS ARE MOST ECONOMICALLY ESTABLISHED FROM SEEDLINGS. LONG NARROW STRIPS OR IRREGULAR PLOTS ARE EQUALLY BENEFICIAL TO QUAIL. AT LEAST ONE EIGHTH ACRE, REQUIRING ABOUT 1000 PLANTS, SHOULD BE PLANTED TO CARRY A COVEY OF QUAIL THROUGH THE WINTER



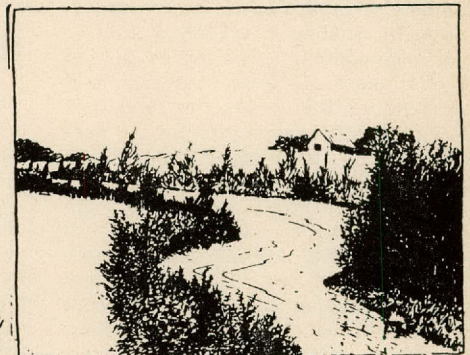
LIVING FENCES OF MULTIFLORA ROSE ARE AN IDEAL WAY TO PUT WILDLIFE COVER BETWEEN CROPFIELDS. IT WILL FORM A THORNY TANGLE THAT IS IMPENETRABLE IN ABOUT FOUR YEARS. IT DOES NOT SPREAD EXCESSIVELY OR REQUIRE MAINTENANCE AS DOES OSAGE ORANGE. IN MANY AREAS ON THE FARM ALLOWING NATURAL COVER TO GROW WILL BRING GOOD RESULTS



THE WISE LANDOWNER WILL NOT GRAZE HIS WOODLOT OR STREAMBANKS. FENCING OFF A WOODLOT FROM GRAZING GREATLY INCREASES ITS VALUE TO WILDLIFE AND ITS TIMBER PRODUCTION



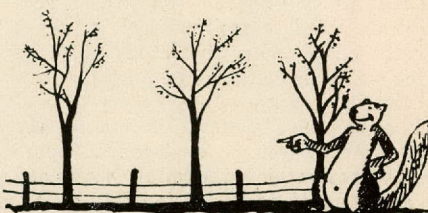
THE PRESERVATION OF HOLLOW TREES ENCOURAGES SQUIRRELS, RACCOONS, AND NESTING BIRDS. IT IS ONE OF THE EASIEST MEASURES OF ALL.



KEEP THE BANKS OF OUR SMALL STREAMS IN TREES AND SHRUBS. WHERE NATURAL COVER IS LACKING WILLOWS PLANTED ALONG THE STREAM BANKS WILL BENEFIT FISH PRODUCTION. WILLOW BRANCHES OR CUTTINGS 1/2" IN DIAMETER AND 12" TO 18" LONG STUCK DEEPLY IN THE GROUND WILL SOON DEVELOP ROOTS AND GROW.



AS A FURTHER IMPROVEMENT A SHRUB BORDER OF CEDAR OR PINE WILL PROTECT WOODS FROM DRYING OUT HOWEVER THE MERE EXCLUSION OF GRAZING IS USUALLY AMPLE.



WALNUTS PLANTED IN FENCEROWS HELPS US SQUIRRELS THEY'RE VALUABLE TIMBER TOO IF YOU KEEP METAL OUT OF THEM



# BOOKS



**BLAZED TRAILS FOR ANGLERS**, by Bert Claflin, 273 xvii pages. Illustrated with 17 half-tones. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 501 Madison Avenue, New York, 22, N. Y.; 1949. Price \$3.50.

Most serious fishermen are specialists. Some prefer trout fishing and spend the bulk of their angling time in trying to convince rainbows, browns, and brooks that a wisp of silk, feathers, and steel is highly edible. Another large group prefers to glide through calm, weedy waters while throwing gaudy bits of wood bedecked with ganghooks over suspected lairs of hulking bronzebacks. Still another legion eschews fresh water and prefers to fish where the air is heavy with salt over breaking surf. A smaller set hunts heavy big-game fishes far from the sight of land. Many of the members of each of these major cliques regard those of the others as slightly queer. Occasionally, however, an individualist is found who falls neatly into none of these categories. To him, fishing is fishing, regardless of what the quarry may be. He is willing to try for every species with every sporting method. Bert Claflin is one of these.

The author, a noted outdoor writer and editor, has spent a lifetime fishing in 40 of the states and in a number of the Canadian Provinces. Raised in Wisconsin's unparalleled lake country, he was, for a time, a traveling auditor for a large company. His duties carried him over most of North America, and after reading this book, the reader is left with the perhaps unfortunate suspicion that he spent more time fishing than he did on ledgers. His new volume is a double-barreled work. For the most part it is a series of personal-experience stories of angling in every part of the country, but between nearly every line and in individual chapters there are informative tips on fishing methods, equipment and techniques. Few authors have had better opportunities to test them in different waters than Claflin.

**HERE'S HOW IN FISHING**, by Morie Morrison, 128 pages. Completely illustrated with many line drawings by the author. Published by Doubleday and Company, 14 West 49th Street, New York 20, N. Y.; 1949. Price \$2.95.

Here is a book which wastes no

words. Except for a few succinct lines to point up the message carried by each cartoon, the author has used them sparingly. While it contains few facts that will be new to the true expert, it gives much information and many tips that will be new to most fishermen. Its clear, novel approach makes it ideal as a "first reader" for the out-and-out beginner, including the youngster. It will, as a matter of fact, appeal particularly to the young boy who seldom wishes to wade through a lot of words to get to the meat of a subject. Morrison's approach is direct. Beginning with the selection of tackle for all types of fishing, he sails through stream fishing, lake fishing, surf casting, and off-shore ocean fishing and into such miscellaneous but valuable items as the use of a thermometer in angling, fishing knots, handling "drag," and locating fish.

Using simple, cleverly drawn cartoons, the author has been able to cram a wealth of material between two covers, yet it is doubtful if the entire volume contains more than 2500 words. The material is completely authoritative and accurate in spite of its light approach.

If you have an unusual early-teenage son who fails to share your enthusiasm for fishing, try leaving this one around where he can find it.

**BIRDS** by Herbert S. Zim and Ira N. Gabrielson, 157 pages. Illustrated with 118 full-color paintings by James Gordon Irving. Published by Simon and Schuster, Rockefeller Center, New York 20, N. Y.; 1949. Price \$1.00.

Two of America's foremost ornithologists have teamed with one of its best bird artists to make this new beginner's bird guide the greatest one-dollar value to be found in nature literature today. Crammed with facts and containing 112 superlative color illustrations of common birds, this book gives brief but explicit instructions for identifying 250 species. There is a section on bird classification, a short concise chapter on bird study and attracting birds, and range maps of all species covered.

The compact volume is completely nontechnical, yet it contains all pertinent facts which the adult will need to get started in a fascinating hobby, in spite of the fact that it was designed

primarily for the youthful beginner. Its low price, easy-to-follow text, and accuracy make it ideal for use in bird study courses by Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, 4-H Club Boys and Girls, and members of other youth groups.

This new publication is the first of the Golden Nature Guides, which eventually will cover the entire field of nature study. Like the present book, they will be published by Simon and Schuster and be sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute.

**TEN YEARS OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION** by Robert M. Rutherford, 128 pages. Illustrated with 35 half-tones and with cover design by Walter A. Weber. Published by the Wildlife Management Institute, 824 Investment Building, Washington, 5, D. C.; 1949. Single copies available free upon individual request. Paper cover.

During its 11 years of existence the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) Act of 1938 undoubtedly has accomplished more for the restoration, preservation, and improved management of wildlife resources in this nation than any other single piece of legislation. Unlike most game laws, it is not limited to specific groups of species, but covers the entire broad field of wildlife from cottontails to caribou. It provides that the 11 per cent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, which formerly was paid into the general treasury, shall be allocated to the states for use in restoring wildlife populations. The new report covers the first 10 years of achievement under this law.

Written by Robert M. Rutherford, chief of the Branch of Federal Aid of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the book describes the standards and procedures of the program, its aim and objectives, and the work done by the various states on all major game species. As a reference for outdoor writers it will prove particularly valuable. The last 62 pages are devoted to tables giving such material as hunting license sales by states, number of birds and mammals live-trapped and transplanted, wildlife species investigated by states, and other useful reference material. Sportsmen interested in what happens to their tax dollars, too, will be interested in this factual and informative booklet.

## DEER and TURKEY HUNTING

Nov. 16 to Dec. 31  
Large flagtail Deer, Turkey, Javelinas.  
FISHING — 8400 ACRES  
Lodge Open Year Round  
NUMBER OF HUNTERS LIMITED  
\$100.00 for hunting rights, with \$8.00 per  
day room and board for each hunter.  
O. R. DAVIS, Owner  
Box 126 Brackettville, Texas

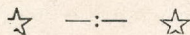
*Here's the*

# INSIDE STORY

*of the*

## Texas Game and Fish Market

Inside this great State, studded with streams, rivers, lakes, forests, and 1100 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline . . . abounding in game and fish . . . is a dependable, responsive market. The far flung limits of this well-defined market and the vastness of its hunting and fishing wealth combine to provide a land of opportunity for advertisers. This market can be reached effectively and completely only from the inside—through TEXAS GAME and FISH, a monthly hunting and fishing magazine which already has a paid circulation of more than four times the combined circulation and newsstand sale of all the other hunting and fishing magazines in Texas, and which is adding new subscribers at the rate of better than 500 a month without the use of premiums . . . high pressure solicitors . . . or a club rate.



# TEXAS GAME and FISH

WALTON BLDG.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

# 1949 - 1950

## Migratory Waterfowl Regulations

	Season	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
<b>Duck</b>	Nov. 4 - Nov. 21 Dec. 21 - Jan. 7	4—includes not more than 1 wood duck.	8—includes not more than 1 wood duck.
<b>Geese</b>	Nov. 4 - Nov. 21 Dec. 21 - Jan. 7	5—may all be snows, or 2 may be Canada geese, or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 each of Canada and white-fronted geese.	5—may all be snows, or 2 may be Canada geese, or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 each of Canada and white-fronted geese.
<b>Coot</b>	Nov. 4 - Nov. 21 Dec. 21 - Jan. 7	10	10
<b>Shooting Hours</b>	Waterfowl and coot may not be hunted before 12 noon on the OPENING DAY—to one hour before sunset. Daily shooting hours after the first day will be one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset.		
<b>Means For Taking Birds</b>	Automatic loading or repeating shotguns capable of holding more than THREE shells must be fitted with a plug that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun. Waterfowl or migratory birds may not be lured, enticed (baited) with grain or feed. Live ducks or geese decoys are PROHIBITED.		