

# TEXAS *Game AND Fish*

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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—

Photo by J. B. Crowe, Austin, Texas.

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**ROGER M. BUSFIELD**  
Editor

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# Science Tackles a Mystery

ON June 27, 1935, ten years ago, the Texas coast was rocked by the most sensational event in its history, when millions of pounds of fish were destroyed in the Gulf of Mexico by some unknown cause. This destruction of fish continued for a period of five weeks or more as evidenced by dead fish which lined the shores for 150 miles, beginning along the shore of Padre Island, and extending nearly to the area of Freeport.

Scientific investigations were made, but no satisfactory conclusions were reached. A more careful examination of the data disproves some of the contentions and greatly strengthens other probabilities. There was one point on which all observers agreed and that was that the fish were killed by a certain kind of gas. Where the gas came from was the mystifying problem. In the study of such a complex situation it is necessary to bring in all the possible factors. Chief among them was the fact that for two months prior to the fish tragedy rainfall had been unprecedented, and the four major rivers from the Brazos to the Nueces River, in the months of May and June, had dumped 10,000,000-acre feet of water into the Gulf. The weight of this vast volume of water was fourteen billions of tons. This is six times the usual heavy run-offs for any two months. (For the ten million-odd acre feet, see record of the U. S. Geological Survey). Whether this added weight was merely coincidental with what was about to happen, or whether it contributed to a buckling of the sea bottom, is unknown, but it could have been the last straw that broke the camel's back.

This vast amount of fresh water had, as usual, the effect of driving the edible salt water fishes far into the Gulf. Rainwater, being lighter than salt water, became stratified on the surface. Evidently the *edible* fishes took refuge in the deeper, saltier water and their estimated loss was five per cent of the total, while the surface feeders, menhaden and mullet, constituted 95 per cent of the loss. Right here one is easily trapped into the conclusion that the fish mortality was the result of fresh water. Such was not the case as we shall abundantly prove; nevertheless, the harm that it did is not to be ignored. As the blending of fresh and salt water had been going on for two months along the shores from the Brazos outlet to the shores of Mustang Island, the fine balance of the plankton environ-

ment was necessarily upset, resulting in decomposition and the production of carbon dioxide and possibly other gases. Where, as in the case of the Gulf, there is an abundance of dissolved oxygen, fish can tolerate a great amount of carbon dioxide. Laboratory tests show that it requires 100 parts per million of carbon dioxide to make a fish lose his equilibrium. On a wind-swept sea the waves are constantly throwing out the carbon dioxide or carbonic acid so that great concentrations of the gas on the surface would not be possible. And finally, carbon dioxide has no taste or odor, but a small portion will dissolve in water.

The irritating gas noted in the presence of decaying fish along the shore at Port Aransas was an effect rather than a cause. The characteristic odor of ammonia is often observed in the decomposing of animal or vegetable life, and this may have driven bathers from the beaches of Port Aransas who complained of a "smarting of the eyes."

## **A tale of the sea commended only to those who have the proverbial patience of a dyed-in-the-wool angler**

If anything more is needed to discredit the plankton and fresh water theory, here it is: The first dead fish were not found where the water was freshest around Port Aransas, but far down the Padre Island shore where there was no fresh water. The first appearance of dead fish, of which we have any record, was on June 29, when Bob Crossman and his crew on the Schooner "Vagabond," saw dead fish floating some miles off shore from Padre Island not far from the "Nicaragua." From here on there is a succession of occurrences.

On June 30 an airplane reconnaissance near the "Nicaragua," and for a distance of twenty-five miles below this point on Padre Island showed dead fish on the beach.

On July 1, dead fish appeared floating out in the Gulf opposite Port Aransas.

On July 2, Bob Farley was instructed by the director of coastal operations to visit Padre Island beach and report conditions. Many dead fish had been washed upon the beach.

On July 3-4 Captain Teller of the U. S. Coast Guard reported that dead fish were observed fifty miles south of Port Aransas.

On July 13, Mr. C. W. Armstrong,

pilot at Port Aransas, made an inspection trip by auto down the coast from Port Aransas over a distance of 84 miles. No dead fish and no gas odor occurred until he reached a point about twenty-four miles below Port Aransas. From this point on for fifty miles (speedometer reading) clean bones from small fish occurred in rows of various lengths along the Padre Beach.

On July 16 Marine Biologist Albert Collier saw dead fish off the beaches of St. Joseph Island.

On July 20, Mr. Armstrong observed dead fish on the beach of Mustang Island for a distance of fourteen miles.

On July 22, Captain Teller first observed dead fish and gas off Mustang Island opposite Port Aransas. On August 6, he again observed a new lot of fish having floated in on the beach along Mustang Island between Port Aransas and Corpus Christi Pass.

From that point northeastward, and beyond Pass Cavallo to points near Freeport, up until August 13, floating

dead fish were observed by Collier, Dr. Federighi and Warden H. A. Craig.

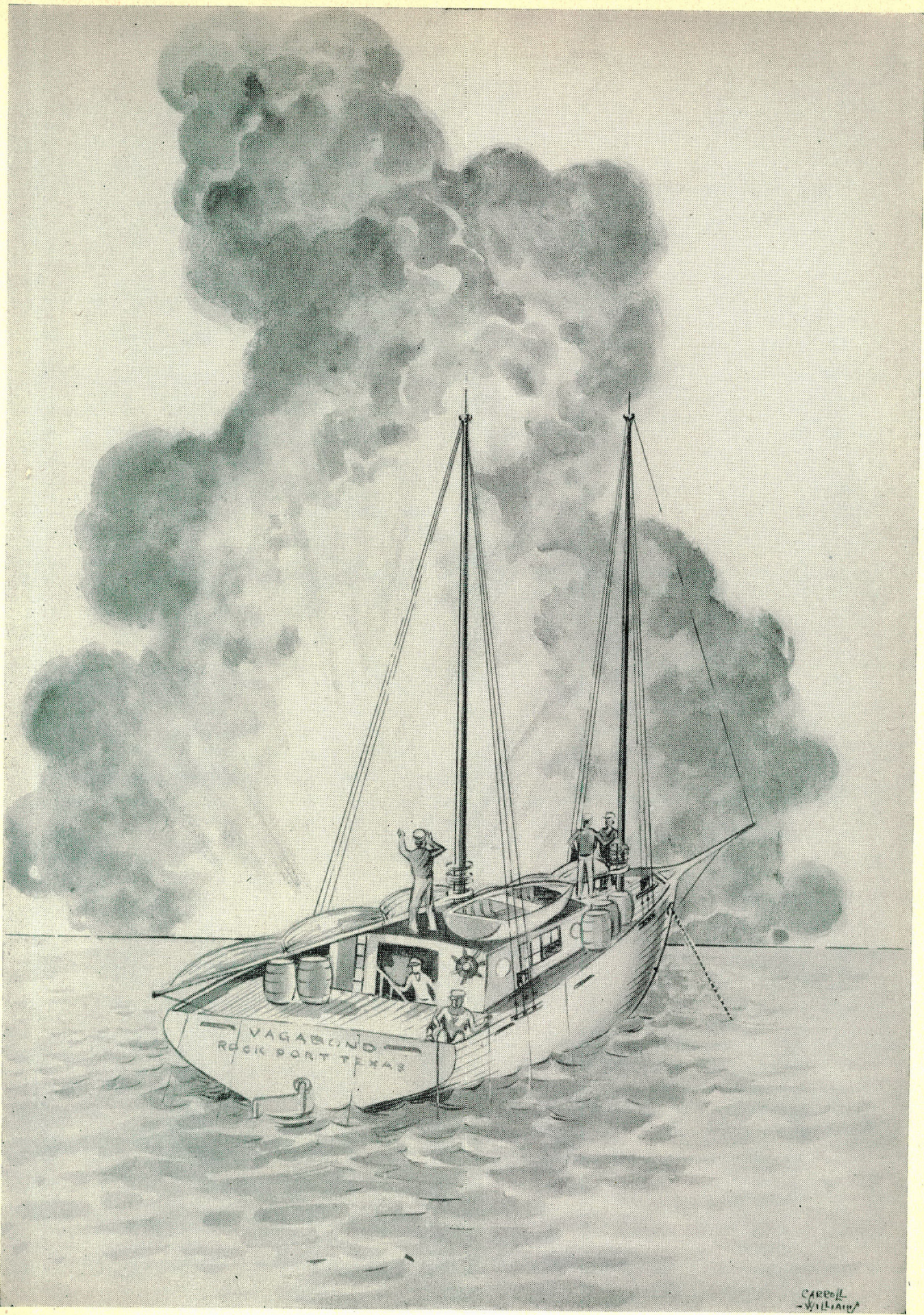
Collier on August 7 and 8 saw menhaden six miles out in the Gulf from Pass Cavallo in the act of dying. This happened when the flow of the four big rivers had been down to normal for more than a month, the U. S. Geological Survey record showed.

What greater evidence is needed to prove that floods and plankton decay had no *direct* bearing on the tragedy in question? Thus with these surface indications swept aside we must look elsewhere for an acceptable explanation of the catastrophe.

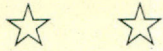
Fishermen generally were of the opinion that a deadly gas arose from the sea bottom, killing the fish. Some detected the odor of sulphuric acid. U. S. Engineer Ridenour said it was a sulphurous odor, possibly of volcanic origin. Bob Farley insisted that the odor

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**"SUDDENLY there was a gigantic explosion. I thought a large steamer had blown up. Great billows of grayish-black smoke, tinged with streaks of vivid crimson, shot skyward. It was as if the entire floor of the Gulf of Mexico had suddenly blown up . . ."**



# MISSISSIPPI *K*ITE



By **A. S. JACKSON**

*Wildlife Biologist*

**A**BOUT the first of May the pale green and blue distances of the Lower Plains and Panhandle grazing ranges welcome the Mississippi kite back to its summer home. About that time the traveler along the highways in that region is likely to wonder at the identity of the curious "gull-like hawk" soaring with effortless ease above the mesquite thickets or shinnery motts. Locally, the cowman notes that the "blue darters" are back, but seldom attaches to his identification the ill-repute given the true blue darter hawks. As a matter of fact, within its range the Mississippi kite occurs in numbers which nature has wisely denied the destructive ac-



ciper hawks; only a few bird lovers and ornithologists know that the Mississippi kites are anywhere as abundant as they are in that region of vast mesquite and shinnery ranges from about Throckmorton County west to the cap-rock, and north to the Canadian River.

Throughout that region the writer has found few people who knew the Mississippi kite by any name save "blue darter." Sometimes it is called grasshopper hawk. Of course it is known by the bird lovers and conservationists. The late Robert More, manager of the Waggoner Ranch, and able bird man, regarded the Mississippi kite as his favorite. To the ornithologist the bird is technically *Ictinia mississippiensis*. (Surplus s's are dropped in spelling the scientific name.)

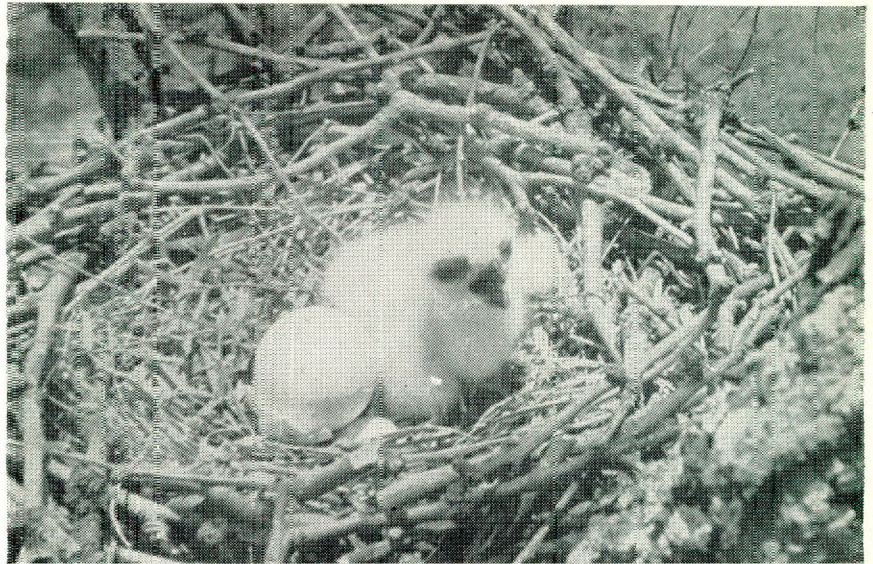
The adult Mississippi kite has a body about the size and shape of that of the domestic pigeon. His wings are long and narrow. The conspicuous color pattern is one of ash white on head, shading to light grey on under parts. Back and tail are dark slate color, appearing black as viewed in flight. In soaring flight the bird makes banking turns which expose a light stripe on each upper wing. This, the ash white head, and a matchless grace in soaring is sufficient to identify the Mississippi kite, and distinguish it from the blue darter hawks it is so often mistaken for. Also, when it perches the kite selects exposed dead branches, a habit not characteristic of the secretive blue darters. Viewed close the kite loses none of its beauty. A rich shade of chestnut color borders the white stripe along the upper surface of the wing. Eyes of the adult are glowing ruby red, and the plumage is immaculate. A musky odor, indescribable, but as sweet as lavender, pervades the plumage.

Nesting of the Mississippi kite is well under way by the last of May. They are shy and elusive in nest building, preferring to soar leisurely above the earth so long as an observer is in the vicinity. Old nests are frequently used again, but among the 42 nest histories in my files,



**A BANDED Mississippi Kite fledgling**

## The Mississippi kite with a body about the size and shape of a domestic pigeon will put a Coopers Hawk to flight



**A NEWLY hatched Mississippi Kite**

none show nests used more than two years in succession. The first evidence that the last year's nest is to be occupied again is a lining of fresh green leaves, which is replaced each morning. In all nests, the daily lining of green leaves is characteristic. I believe it represents a kind of air conditioning in a habitat where June and July temperatures become torrid, and in the case of mesquite brush, little shade exists.

Almost any type of tree may be chosen for the nest. Along such water courses as the Washita, Pease, and Canadian rivers, tall groves of cottonwoods are common. Here the kite nest may be very far from the ground and out at the ends of flimsy limbs where access for study is difficult and dangerous. In other habitats, nesting occurs in shinoaks, chittam, hackberry, and mesquite trees. In these, nests have been found where it was possible to stand on the ground and look into the nest. Numerically, more nests are made in mesquite trees than any other kind because of the predominantly greater acreage of mesquite brush in the region. Mississippi kite nesting occurs in greatest density in the deep mesquite stands of Throckmorton, Archer, and Wichita counties. In the spring of 1940 a study was made of all kite nests in a 480-acre pasture near the limits of the town of Throckmorton. Thirteen nests were found, a nesting ratio of one nest to about forty acres. Many thousands of acres of range in the county was apparently as thickly populated by nesting kites. It will be seen from this that, in its somewhat restricted range, the Mississippi kite is by no means a rare bird.

The writer has never seen more than two eggs in the nest of a Mississippi kite. Mr. More has been quoted as having said that he had personally examined more than a thousand nests in

an unsuccessful search for one with a clutch of three eggs. The eggs are white with the faintest of a bluish tinge. Large for the bird, they will average about one and a half inches in length and almost as thick.

A day may be skipped between the laying of the first and second egg. The incubation period is long, 29 to 31 days, and from 28 to 33 days are required for the young to fledge. The long period of incubation and nestlings means that the young are exposed to the hottest weather of the summer: as often as not the nest is exposed to direct rays of the sun.

The newly hatched Mississippi kite is an appealing and beautiful bird as one will see. Covered with soft snowy down, relieved by black eyes and beak, the little kite on its bed of green leaves is a picture not to be forgotten. Nests of few birds are as sanitary. No droppings are deposited in or on the nest. These are expelled from above the rim of the nest with force enough to carry them well away. After the nest is vacated, a circle of droppings around the nest as a center testifies to the species which occupied the nest.

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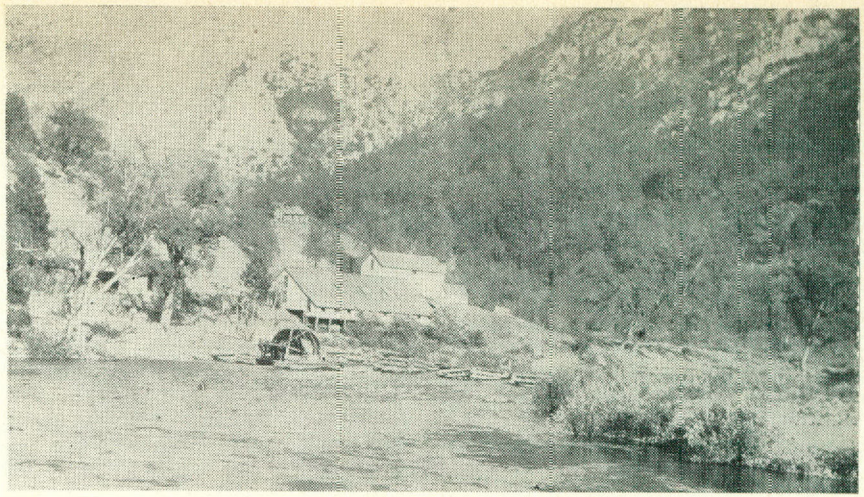


**YOUNG Mississippi Kites on nest**

**A**BOUT seventy years ago, when fish commissions were first established by the federal and various state governments in response to the growing alarm over the reduction of important food fishes, it seemed to many that the best way to remedy the threatened shortage of fish was to replace the disappearing species by those from other regions. For this reason the carp was planted all over the United States, shad and herring were transferred from the East Coast to Texas and the Pacific Coast, and the California or chinook salmon was planted in almost every state in the union.

Only a few of these plantings were successful. The carp, unfortunately, seems to have thrived everywhere it was introduced, and in Texas roused such opposition that the fish commission was obliged to resign in 1885. Perhaps the most remarkable success was the introduction of the Atlantic striped bass in California waters, an introduction accomplished through the release of a stock of 150 fish from New Jersey in 1879. But the fish in which the greatest hopes had been placed, the California salmon, did not take anywhere else in the United States, although by 1882 a quarter of a million salmon fry had been released in Texas rivers alone. In fact, the only notably successful transplanting of California salmon occurred in New Zealand, where the fish is now considered a thoroughly naturalized citizen.

Looking back at this experiment in transplanting the salmon from our present knowledge of the life history of the fish, it is easy to understand why the salmon failed to become established in other rivers. Indeed, it is hard to understand why it was believed, even 70 years ago, that salmon could thrive in such a



**THE BOND HATCHERY on the McCloud River, California, about 1880. The average summer temperature of the McCloud River is about 54 degrees F.**

## Salmon in Texas

place as Texas, where cold, swift running streams with gravel bottoms are rare, and which is far from the cold deep waters of the north Pacific in which the salmon were used to spending most of their lives.

It was in 1872 that the first salmon hatchery was opened in California, at a place near the headwaters of the Sacramento River which is now nearly three hundred feet beneath the waters of Shasta Reservoir. At this hatchery, long known as Baird, in honor of the first United States Commissioner of Fisheries, Spencer Fullerton Baird, millions of eggs were gathered during its first years, and shipped all over the world for hatching and planting in foreign streams. It was not until the hatchery

had been in operation for ten or fifteen years that it was discovered that the Pacific salmon spawns but once and then dies, and it is only recently that we have begun to learn much about the salmon's three or four year stay in the ocean.

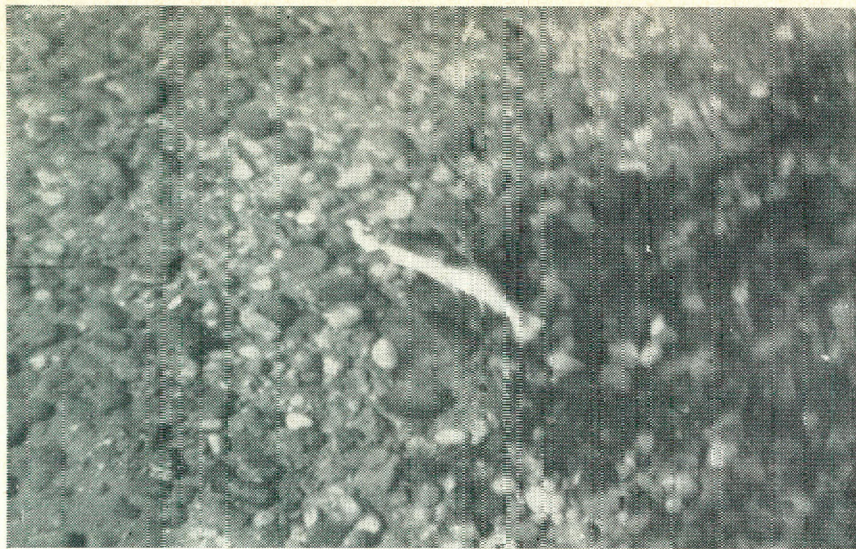
Perhaps the early fish culturists had some misgivings about the chances of the salmon to "take" wherever they were introduced, for it was stated more than once that even if the fish did not become established wherever they were planted, one success would repay them for all the other failures. True enough, but a great deal of expense and hope could have been saved had they first sought to understand the salmon's life before attempting to transplant the fish.

As we know today, the salmon is really an ocean fish, for it spends most of its life in the ocean, and ascends the swift flowing rivers of the Pacific Coast, from San Francisco to the Arctic Circle, when sexually mature. Once it leaves the ocean, it does not eat, and its survival on its spawning run seems to be dependent, to a certain extent, on the temperature of the water. It has been discovered that it is impossible to keep salmon alive in a river whose summer temperature is more than 70°, although the fish can move through such temperatures to cooler waters. But they must reach the cooler water because it is sometimes a month or more after the salmon reaches its spawning beds before it is ready to spawn. For this reason alone, the salmon did not become established in Texas, but more important still are the widely differing conditions between the Gulf of Mexico and the North Pacific. Not only is the Gulf more salty and warmer than the Pacific where the salmon spend most of their lives, it

**IDEAL SALMON spawning water in the California Sierra**







A SALMON working over nest

has a basically different type of food supply. Inasmuch as it is the food which the salmon eats that makes it such a desirable food fish, it is possible that the salmon would not have amounted to much in Texas even if it had been able to change its diet, for certain essential ingredients may have been missing.

It is probable, however, that few of the quarter million salmon planted in Texas rivers ever reached the Gulf of Mexico. The streams of the Pacific slope have nothing like the predatory fish and turtles which infest Texas streams, and are rich in the type of cover and food which Texas streams lack most conspicuously. Young salmon are accustomed to drifting downstream close to the banks, reaching the ocean within a few months after birth. They seek shelter among the rocks and live on such things as stonefly nymphs, caddis fly larvae and other insect life which thrives only in streams with rocky bottoms.

Inasmuch as the salmon requires this combination of stream and oceanic conditions to survive and flourish, it is not surprising that attempts to transplant did not succeed, and this is especially true of Texas. The despised carp, which is not very particular about what it eats or where it lives, can be planted almost anywhere and unfortunately has been, and the striped bass, although much more particular than the carp, is not so finely adjusted to its environment, and has succeeded on the Pacific Coast.

Today, in the light of this past experience with fish transfer, we realize that increasing the fish population of any region is at best a game of chance. While the case of the salmon is perhaps an extreme one insofar as the number of conditions required by this fish to survive are concerned, it has its counterpart even in the efforts to restock waters with fish native to the region involved. In lakes and streams where conditions are good, fishermen may catch more fish than natural reproduction can replace, and in some newly made artificial

lakes the conditions for a permanent population of large fish simply do not exist, and it is necessary to stock such waters regularly in order to ensure good fishing. Of man's many proposals to interfere with the lives of fish, nature has seen fit to accept but few of them, and the choicer the fish, the harder it is to manage its life to man's satisfaction.

### Minnie Is a Big Girl Now

Minnie Methuselah, so the New York State Department of Conservation tells us, has been eluding the lures of thousands of Cautauqua Lake fishermen for at least twenty years. For fifteen of those years she's been bearing a Department tag—and few motor cars have carried a tag *that* long.

Minnie is the matriarch of 1,951 muskies netted and liberated this year on Chautauqua Lake in a spawn and information gathering effort conducted by the Department. She is 49¾ inches long—just 6¾ inches less than the 63 pound world's record rod and reel musky.

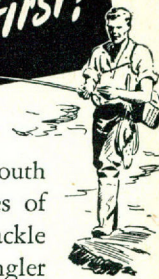
She was first netted and stripped of spawn in 1931. As a female musky requires four or five years to mature sexually, she is believed to hold the championship, not only for tag-bearing, but for known age of a fresh-water fish as well.

Commissioner Duryea is seeking a suitable trophy for the first angler to "get Minnie's number"—number 230, to be exact.

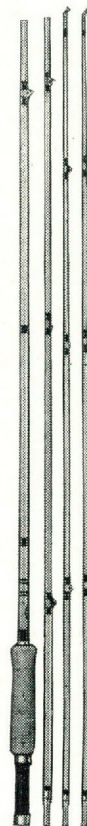
### Sez Uncle Billy:

A sportsman ain't necessarily some feller with a lot of money an' a fancy outfit. He may wear patched clothes an' shoot a single barr'l gun. His dawg mout be a half breed. Main thing 'bout a sportsman is, he ain't no hawg. He's just a fair minded feller that respec's other folks' rights.

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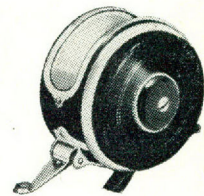


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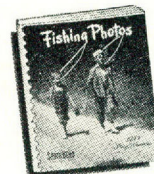


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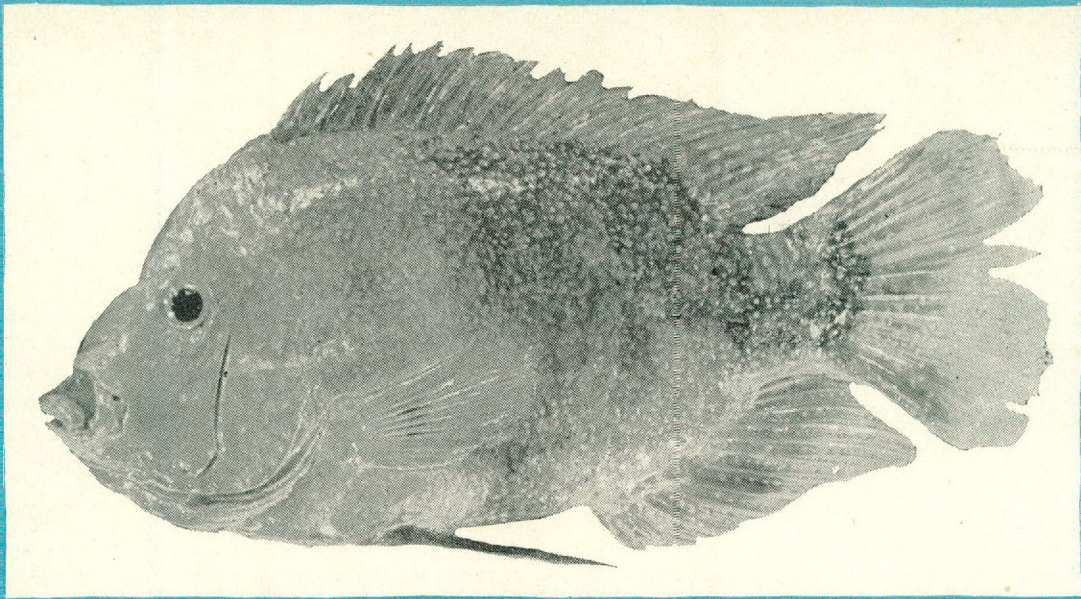
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# The Touch of Simon Peter

By Thomas K. Chamberlain

“NOTHING but doggone Rio Grande perch,” exclaimed the game warden in disgust to his friend the “fishery bug hunter.” At the request of an absentee owner, the two men were examining a little south Texas “tank” or stock watering pond, and had completed a seine haul to check on the fish population. “And here I was all set for a nice mess of bream or white perch. I mean bluegills or crappie,” he added hastily with a broad grin, as he saw a familiar argumentative twinkle come into his friend’s eye when certain local terminology was used. “No wonder the owner said we could keep all the fish we wanted to! Who wants those things! And to think that ‘tank’ was full of sunfish and bass a few years ago. Now look at it. Oh well. Let’s take what we can get and be thankful, I suppose. I’ve heard that others have eaten these perch and liked ‘em.”

There was silence for a while, as the two men picked out a dozen fish of proper pan size, released the rest, washed and packed away the seine, made pertinent notes for a report to the owner, and started the car back toward town. “Yes,” said the “bug hunter” slowly. “You are quite right about others having eaten this fish, and other closely related forms. They liked ‘em and they were very thankful to get ‘em. Incidentally, though, this particular fish is not a perch. It’s —.” “Yes, Yes, I

know exactly what you are going to say. The fish is neither a perch nor a sunfish, though it looks like both. It’s a cichlid (pronounced sich-lid). Whatever that is. You’ve made me that speech six times already. And it is the only cichlid in the United States. Let’s go on from there. To me the fish is nothing but a perch with a black spot. By the way, does having that black spot make the fish a cichlid?”

“No, a cichlid is a fish belonging to the family *Cichlidae*, with a number of common characteristics that are more staple than body markings usually are. It does happen though that all the cichlids I have seen do have a distinctive black marking of one shape or another, much like the one this Rio Grande perch has. But I have seen only a few and there are over 150 species. Most are located in the Amazon country of South America. Parts of Africa abound with them, including the salt ditches of the Sahara. When Cleopatra and Anthony went fishing they caught them in the Nile. In western Asia they are found, among other places, in Jordan River and in Lake Galilee. Closer to home, every larger river of Mexico and Central America has one or more species of its own.

“By the way, there is quite a story back of that black marking on the different species of *cichlidae*. They say all cichlids have the mark now, although

you can’t prove it by me, but they also say that less than 2,000 years ago not a single cichlid in all the world was so marked.”

“Hold everything,” interrupted the warden. “Something tells me this is another of your tall yarns. Didn’t I hear somewhere about a certain Arkansas game warden claiming that of all the damnyankees the North had ever inflicted on the South, you had the honor of being the biggest liar of them all?”

“Well, I guess some such statement was made. I suppose that must represent some kind of honor, as you say, for I was picked from a pretty big field. I’ve had no mean competition, you know. But in this one instance, at least, I told the truth. I simply stated some facts regarding electric fish in general and the electric eel in particular, and he wouldn’t believe a word of it. On top of that he had the nerve to tell me he had seen a hoop snake roll down a hill and get stuck in a tree!”

“Just the old story that the first liar hasn’t got a chance! But of course hoop snakes do roll over the ground and get stuck in trees. My uncle told me how one time . . . . But don’t try to dodge the question. What I want to know right now is: Why should the Rio Grande perch, which isn’t a perch, have a black mark now and not 2,000 years ago? Come on, why?”

“It’s an old legend. I like it, myself,

because it forms a sort of strange and special fishery tie between our own lower Texas country and far away Palestine during the most interesting period of its history. You recall the old Bible story of how the disciples fished for hours from one side of the boat, all night wasn't it, without success. Then the Master called to them to try the other side and their luck changed."

"The miraculous draught of fishes," murmured the warden.

"Quite so. They cast their net as directed and really got a seineful. The net was so full of fish it seemed on the point of bursting. According to the legend the fish were all one species. Part of a dense school. The species looked like a sunfish, but there was not a sunfish in all Asia. It was a species of cichlid that is still common in Lake Galilee and Jordan River, as I mentioned before. It now has the scientific name of *Tilapia galilea*. But there is supposed to have been a difference in the appearance of this fish before and after this famous fishing trip.

"Simon Peter was one of the disciples that handled the seine. He was a good fisherman, which also means that he was a good conservationist. He realized at once that they had caught more fish than they could use. Glancing over the net foaming with struggling fish, he almost automatically began releasing the surplus, even as he breathed a prayer of appreciation for the catch. With rapid, skillful motions, he grasped one individual fish after another between thumb and index finger, with just the right pressure to hold but not to hurt the fish, then tossed each in turn clear of the seine floats. Then the second miracle!

"The legend has it that each fish that Simon Peter grasped retained permanently the imprint of his thumb and index finger. The mark spread to the rest of the species, and then to related species wherever found, until it became a recognizable characteristic of the whole family of fishes, the cichlida, in Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Mexico, and our one United States species, the Rio Grande perch, *Herichthys cyanoguttatus*. In some species this family mark is an extended fingerlike black bar. In others it is like a black thumb print. There is no question but that the mark is less conspicuous in some cases than in others. There are many small species. I have no idea at all as to whether the mark is recognizable in these cases, or readily so at least, or not. Maybe I like to dream a little, but I have the feeling that if I were shown any cichlid at all I would be able to recognize the touch of Simon Peter."

"Maybe so. Maybe so. In fact, in your case I am sure of it," agreed the warden with good humored sarcasm. "At any rate I'll always consider the Rio Grande perch a bit more seriously than I have before. Also, you have got me interested in the family. Let me see. I believe you said there were over 150 species in all and that these species occur in Asia, Africa, South and Central America and in Mexico. A big family of fishes like

★ Continued on page 27



REDDISH EGRETS—a gorgeously plumed Texas bird

## GREEN ISLAND

### The Home of Plumage Birds

By CHAS. G. JONES

A SMALL island in Laguna Madre some 25 miles north of Port Isabel is of national importance for it is the nesting place of some of the rarest plumage birds to be found in North America.

Some 25 years ago, a naturalist by the name of Mr. Camp living in Brownsville discovered five pairs of (the then sup-

posed extinct) reddish egrets on Green Island, a tiny spot covered with semi-tropical verdure. A number of telegrams between Mr. Camp and Dr. Pierson, who at the time was president of the National Audubon Society for the Protection of Birds, resulted in Dr. Pierson coming from his home in New York down to Brownsville where he and Mr. Camp took passage on a sail boat landing on Green Island just before dark. Up at daylight the following morning, an intense search was made, Dr. Pierson being somewhat dubious about Mr. Camp's finding so rare a bird. After some two hours of investigation, the Doctor with the aid of field glasses found the birds on the opposite shoreline. An appeal was made to the Legislature resulting in the State leasing Green Island and a group of nearby islands to the National Audubon Society for a period of fifty years in order to try and save this vanishing bird. The original five pairs of reddish egrets has now de-

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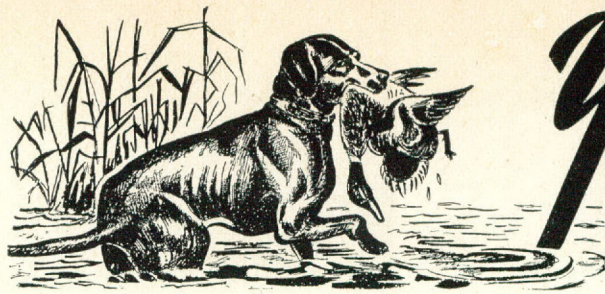
WHAT IS CUTER than a young snowy egret on a nest that looks to be anything but comfortable

By R. D. Turk, D.V.M.

**L**AST month the cause and prevention of Black-tongue was discussed. It is the purpose of this article to consider some of the other common nutritional deficiencies that may occur in dogs.

Rickets is of rather frequent occurrence in young rapidly growing dogs. Rickets is generally considered as any disturbance in the mineral metabolism that results in defective or abnormal calcification of growing bones. Young animals, as a rule, begin to show clinical symptoms about weaning time. It is more common in dogs of larger breeds, perhaps due to their rapid growth during early life. The clinical symptoms include listlessness, sleepiness, disinclination to move, knobby and deformed joints, bow legs, and flabby muscles. In more advanced cases entire bones become soft and may be easily deformed or broken. The development of teeth is also retarded.

It is now known that rickets may result from a deficiency of calcium, phosphorus, or vitamin D, or an imbalance of phosphorus and calcium. Rickets may be prevented, or cured if not too advanced, by furnishing adequate amounts of calcium and phosphorus in the proper proportions and enough vitamin D to allow the animal to utilize the minerals. The dog's requirements for calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D has been extensively studied by several capable investigators. It has been shown that bone deformities develop in puppies fed diets deficient in either calcium or phosphorus. Vitamin D deficiency diets will also produce rickets. That the dog requires vitamin D in adequate amounts is beyond question but just how much vitamin D is necessary to prevent rickets is rather difficult to determine. The requirements vary with the age of the animal, the breed, the amount of sunlight the animal receives, and the ratio of calcium to phosphorus as well as the amount of calcium and phosphorus actually present in the ration. Probably



**Your  
DOG**

## Some Nutritional Deficiencies of Dogs

100 units of vitamin D per pound per day will be adequate in most instances although many factors influence the minimum daily requirements. Extremely large fast growing dogs may require slightly more. This is especially true if the calcium and phosphorus are out of proportion. It should also be emphasized that an animal may receive an excess of vitamin D. Toxic symptoms have been produced with 4,000-5,000 units per pound administered daily for several weeks.

The first consideration in treatment is the diet. The diet should contain an adequate amount of calcium and phosphorus and vitamin D. Bonemeal, 1% or 2% of the ration will usually supply enough calcium and phosphorus. Puppies of the larger breeds should also be given bones and milk. The vitamin D may be furnished from fish-liver oils, irradiated ergosterol, irradiated foods or sunlight. In puppies, particularly where they are kept in the house, fish-liver oils of the type given to human babies furnish a convenient and adequate source of vitamin D.

### VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

Dogs sometimes suffer from vitamin A deficiency. Many conditions have been

reported as associated with a deficiency of vitamin A but sore eyes, loss of weight, rough coat, and scaly skin are the most constant ones. The eyes first appear watery, then become congested, later become infected and the cornea may ulcerate. If vitamin A in sufficient quantities is not supplied permanent blindness may result. Deafness has been reported in young dogs.

Fish-liver oils, pure carotene in oil, and vegetables rich in carotene may be given the dog. The suggested minimum requirements vary but probably 50-100 units of vitamin A per pound per day will be adequate in most instances.

Since both rickets and vitamin A occur most frequently in young, fast growing animals it is essential that such animals be given adequate proportions of calcium and phosphorus in the proper ratio and vitamins A and D supplied. In especially valuable puppies fish-liver oil of good quality may be used to supply both the A and D. Calcium and phosphorus may be supplied in the proper proportions and amounts by giving bonemeal, 1% or 2% of the ration, or more. Puppies of larger breeds should receive particular care since, due to their rapid growth both their mineral and vitamin requirements are greater.

## Turkeys on Decline

By DANIEL W. LAY

**T**RAPPING turkeys in the wild and transplanting them is one of the methods used to restore turkeys to suitable range from which they have disappeared. Wild-trapped birds range widely and rarely accept a new location without comparing it with the adjacent country. Enough birds must be released in an area to compensate for this loss. Also, it has been found desirable to repeat plantings. This takes, we think, 50 to 80 birds to a planting. Smaller plantings of 5 to 15 were made in former years and none out of 20 such small plantings in eastern Texas succeeded in establishing a pop-

ulation of turkeys. The larger plantings are proving successful; but naturally only a limited number of plants can be made. During the past two years only three locations have been stocked. Areas stocked must be suitable range in the eyes of the biologist who inspects them; must be in a large block (preferably 20,000 acres or more), and must be under lease from the landowner to the game department for five years or more.

Since 1938 the restoration division has trapped and transplanted 2165 wild turkeys. Most of them came from South Texas. In the past three years

only 435 were trapped, as ranches with surplus birds available for trapping were difficult to find. Plans are being made for trapping in three different localities this year, provided the crop of young turkeys is large enough to justify trapping.

In spite of restocking work with turkeys, the species is not in a very strong position today. Reports indicate the annual kill is now less than 3,500 turkeys in Texas; (which is not good compared with estimated kills of 15,000 less than 20 years ago). The ill-effects of over-grazing over the State as a whole make the planting of two thousand turkeys a very minor factor in the state-wide turkey picture. Yet the transplanting is an essential part of our restoration efforts. (Pictures on pages 14 and 15.)

# What Has the War Done to Texas Wildlife?

By DANIEL W. LAY  
Director, Division of Wildlife Restoration

AFTER three and a half years of war-time conditions, we can better judge the effects of war on wildlife than we could at first. There was considerable reason to be optimistic when everyone was gearing their personal programs to the war. It seemed apparent that there would be less hunting and fishing done during the war due to people being too busy and not having enough gasoline and tires and shells and tackle. We were mistaken in predicting wildlife would get a rest during the war.

There is certainly no reduction in hunting and fishing pressure in store for the post-war period. All signs point to an increase in the number of sportsmen afield. Those who are looking forward to the post-war period when they can get back to the fields and streams of Texas should be prepared to find them improved little if any by the war. We can point to numerous local projects that are increasing the game supply; but these can hardly offset the general factors working for its depletion.

License sales have increased instead of decreasing as expected. There may not actually be more hunters afield than before the war because more people are moving around and thus hunting out of their county where a license is required. Also licensees may not hunt as often now as in normal times. However, observers agree there has been little if any reduction in the actual hunting pressure. This takes care of our financial worries, when we thought it would be difficult to sell enough licenses to hold the department together.

Funds have been the least limiting of all the limitations on the conservation program. No places have been cut from the budget for lack of funds. Most of the time there have been vacancies in the personnel because many of our younger men were called to the Services and because salaries authorized by the legislature were not enough to attract and hold a full staff. Living costs increased out of proportion to any possible raises. So the program was weakened by loss of personnel, and lack of a satisfactory financial set-up for many of the employees who remained. But this is a minor factor compared to some of the following:

Grazing pressure on the range has in-

creased tremendously, often disastrously to wildlife. The war program required the production of all the wool, mohair, and meat possible. The high prices paid for these items made this profitable as well as necessary. Texas ranges carry more animal units today than ever before. (We have been fortunate in not having any serious droughts over the State as a whole.) As an emergency measure this was inevitable; but it must be recognized that we have been mining the range resource. Carrying ca-

**Don't expect better hunting and fishing after the war just because you think game and fish are getting a rest now**

capacity on many ranches will never recover from the effects of this war. The introduction of sheep on the semi-arid Trans-Pecos range has been the direct cause for the decline of antelope on several specific ranches. Our biologists can point to many examples in the Hill Country where increased stockings of sheep and goats have caused die-offs of deer and reduced carrying capacity for deer as well as other game. All of this means that in the future we will have less to work with in producing game for the increasing number of sportsmen.

In the farm sections the picture is much the same. Land is being used more intensively. New equipment is being developed to further mechanize farm operation. There are fewer weedy fence rows and less brush cover in the farm pasture and fewer waste patches used only by wildlife. There is no reason to expect less efficient farming after the war. At least four types of portable power saws are on the market for the use of farmers who wish to clean up brush and timber in the pasture. This means a reduction in the remaining strips of woody cover in the creek bottoms of the eastern half of the State. There is little hope of combating this form of progress. The average small farmer will make more money out of his improved pastures than he would from the squirrels and quail.

Industrialization in Texas has gotten a great impetus from the war. As soon as priorities permit many more indus-

tries are going to be established in the State, including perhaps four new paper mills in eastern Texas. Industrialization is inevitable and there's no use going beyond the fact that it will result in fewer wilderness spots for a wild animal to live and reproduce in. The waters of the streams will be less productive of fish due to some degree of increased pollution. Without a concerted effort this increase in pollution might completely ruin many of our fishing streams.

New oil fields are being developed daily. Each new operation increases the pressure on wildlife. Only under the most favorable conditions can our enforcement division protect the wildlife in the vicinity of an oil field. The many transient works, the great profits to the landowners, the lack of enough game wardens make the problem almost hopeless.

The landowners of the State generally are enjoying prosperity. All commercial crops are finding a ready and profitable market. This works in opposite ways so far as wildlife is concerned. There are few if any ranches where wildlife leases are a major source of income, as there were a few years ago. The ranches are less interested in wildlife leases, which means accommodations for the average

hunter are more difficult to find, and they are less friendly to the deer which eats as much as a goat, when mohair brings forty cents a pound.

But on the other hand landowners are less in need of returns from the land than ever before. A few years ago many ranchers were tempted to permit excessive hunting pressure by hunting leases because they needed every cent they could get from the land. Now, when many landowners are in very high income tax brackets, there is an opportunity for them to give wildlife some new consideration. More and more acreage is going into "hobby ranches," where the owner is fixing a place to retire or is investing in land some of his profits from other enterprises. Such operators could improve the quality of their range, reduce erosion and other forms of deterioration, and help wildlife all at the same time, merely by reducing livestock grazing pressure. There is really no justification for mistreating the range by over-grazing, income tax will take most of the profits anyway and the net result is a reduction in the range carrying capacity.

In spite of the above, we doubt that much wildlife benefits are accruing from reduced grazing pressures anywhere in the State. So the net result of landowner prosperity is negative so far as wildlife is concerned. Of course in eastern Texas timber lands, prosperity means few if any people are attempting to live off the

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# REMEMBER?

**D**O YOU remember when Dad monopolized the whole dining room floor and most of the table with cleaning rods, dirty rags, and a kit of tools that would put the mechanic of a B-29 to shame?

Loving hands caressed the old dark walnut woodwork and massaged it with sweet smelling oils. The brown curly grain rivaled the gems of a Pharaoh for luster and brilliance. The spotless bore gleamed under critical inspection, and a light film of oil guarded the noble metal. Watchful eyes saw to it that this was ever replenished, lest a speck of rust might lodge itself someplace within the workings of this most cherished possession. It was unthinkable that neglect might jeopardize the purity of this weapon—as unthinkable as for Mother to let cooking fats accumulate on the bright and gleaming pots and pans that hung in orderly fashion in the kitchen pantry.

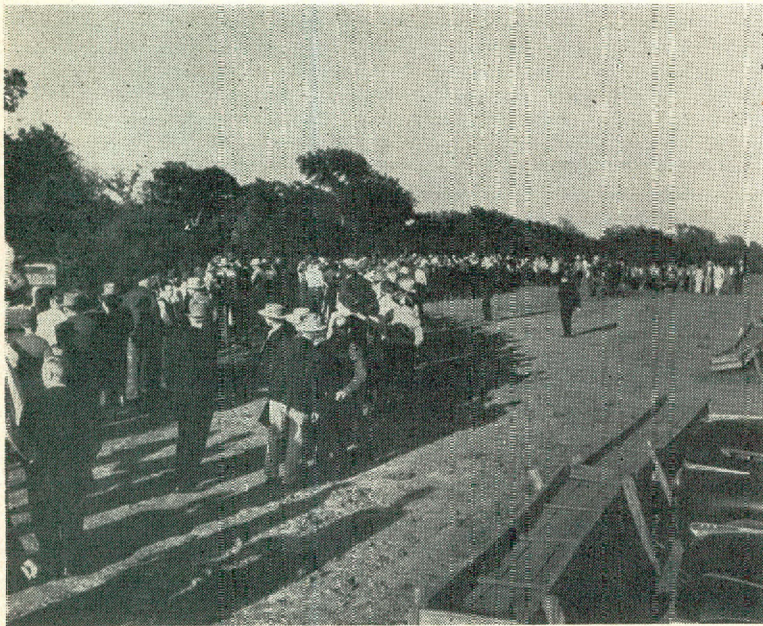
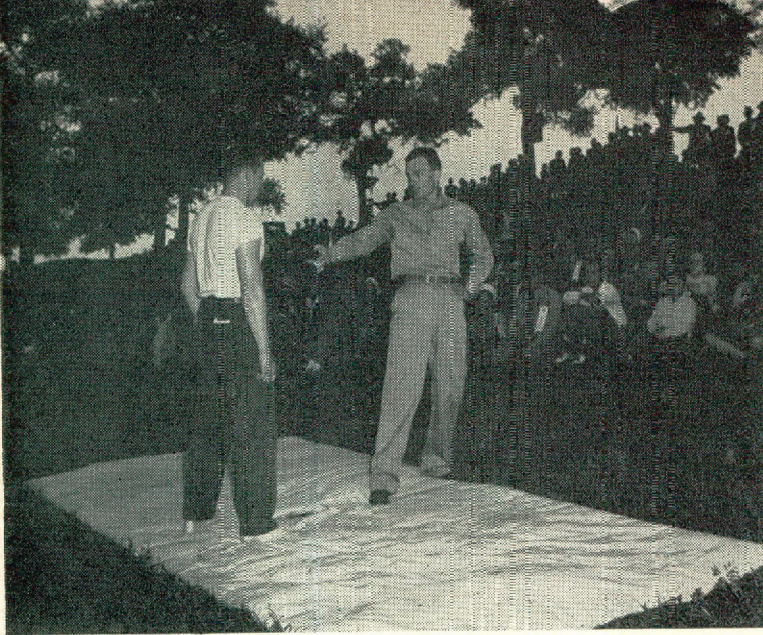
Times have changed. Though firearms have been improved, they are taken as a matter of course, having little more importance in the average American family than a washing machine or an electric refrigerator. The first auto we had required half our spare time to polish the brass, wash the spokes of the wheels, and dust the leather seat cushions. We treated our firearms with the same respect in days gone by.

This neglect of the old shooting iron cannot be attributed to the development of ammunition that does not cause corrosion within the bore. Granted such is true and that one might never feel the need to clean a gun's interior, still rust may attack the outside—scratches might mar the woodwork—and that thrill of oiling and wiping a fine piece should never become a lost art with the sportsman.

Possibly the fact that firearms once meant much more than sport and recreation to Americans had something to do with the indifference with which they are regarded today. In frontier times "Old Bess" frequently decided whether the family was to continue eating, or for that matter whether their scalps would remain intact in the places that scalps like to grow. Even the fate of our country was dependent upon individual firearms hanging over the mantle—rather than muskets in the Government Arsenal.

Maybe the romance of firearms is dead. Bloody mechanized wars that we are experiencing remove much of their glamour. However, we still believe that grimy rags on the dining-room table and a Dad affectionately polishing "Old Bess" is part of a normal home life. We still can recall the thrill of witnessing this ritual—and with glistering eyes peering into the unknown future but seeing clearly the day when we, too, could own a gun and tread the marshes and the woodlands—and be, we hoped, like Dad.

**THE DENTON COUNTY Pointer & Setter Club put on another of its famous barbecues recently and as usual about everybody in that part of the state, including their dogs, turned out for the event. In the upper left picture the Sherman Chief of Police is getting a few pointers on jujitsu and self defense tactics from a soldier. In the center picture is just a part of the crowd that streamed through three chow lines and in the lower picture are the men responsible for the successful club barbecue. Left to right they are J. P. Harrison, President; R. J. "Bob" Edwards, Rags Thompson, Col. Tom Cole (co-chairman); Dr. B. B. Harris, (co-chairman of barbecue) and kneeling in front with that happy smile is C. H. Greef, secretary and treasurer of the club.**



# SCHOOL for Hunters

By "THE OLD TIMER"

WE ALWAYS suspected that the cartoon "born thirty years too soon," was applicable to us. The latest from Colorado State College at Greeley establishes this for a certainty. Prof. G. E. Damon of that institution has a full-time high school course in guns and their uses, and the kids are given scholastic credit for such pleasure—along with the joys of algebra and Roman history.

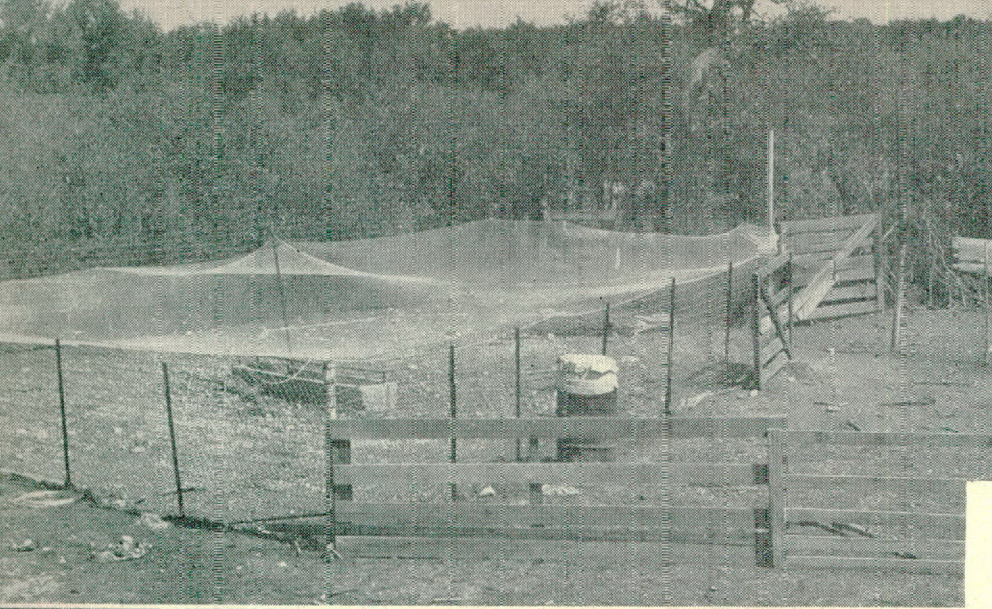
Imagine doing your home work on a bunch of targets, or your laboratory exercises when the first flight of mallards comes down. All foolin' aside though, this course is my idea of a way to convince Junior of the advantages in higher learning and that school isn't such a bad place.

Were all our youth so grounded, during a state of war the saving in time and money to train them would be tremendous, and the apoplexy rate of range sergeants would go down to almost zero. In peace eras such training would pay big dividends on the shooting ranges and in the field. Safety,

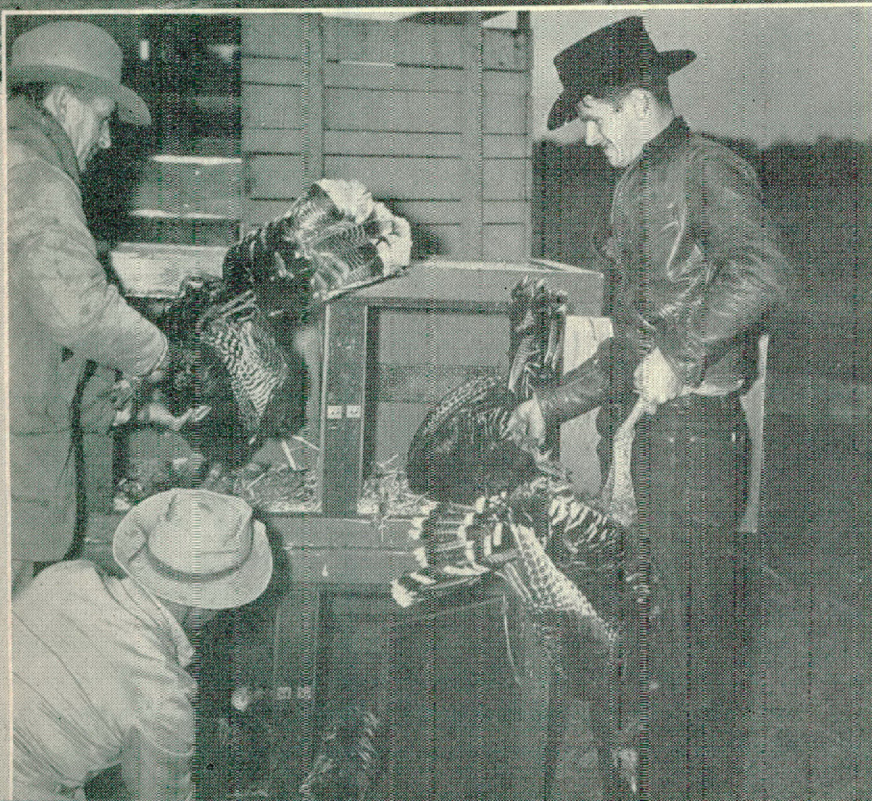
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**BEFORE SINKING their teeth into that mouth watering barbecue the TSCW rifle team took on a picked team of club members and believe it or not the girls won by a narrow margin. Judging by the gallery the rifle match drew considerable attention.**





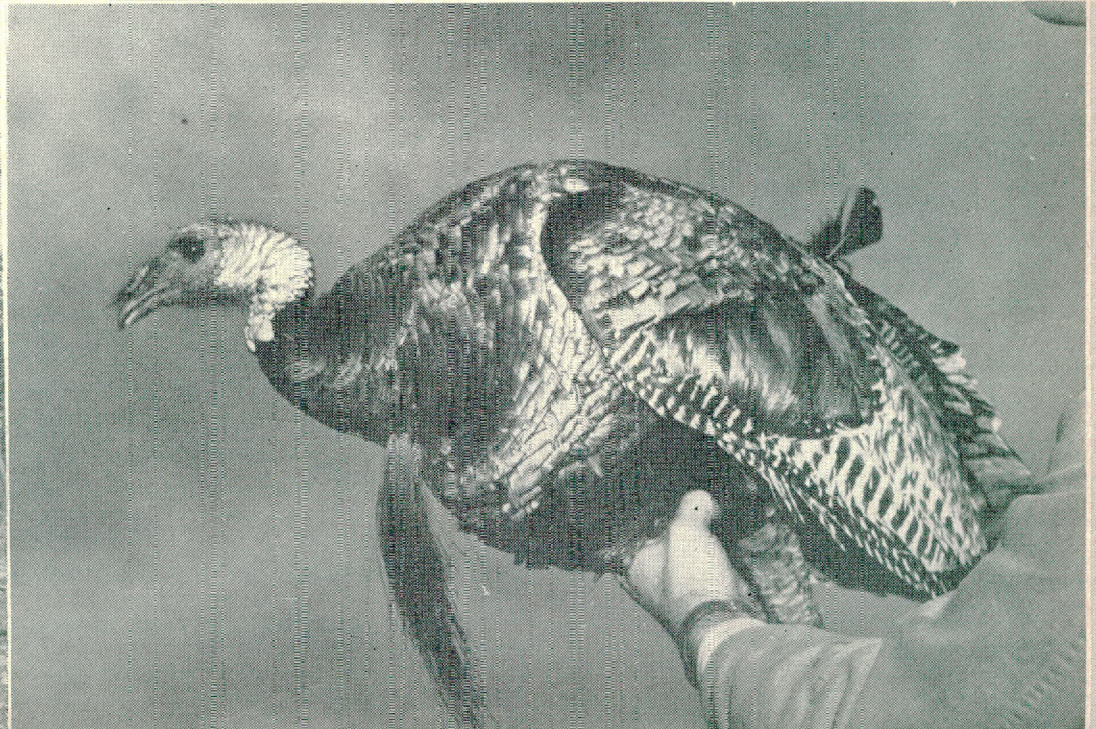
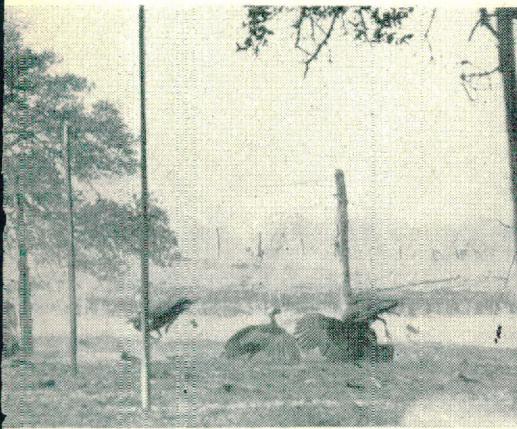
Every year the Game Department traps turkeys on ranches and game preserves where they have not been hunted out. After a trap is set in an area suitable for them, but from which they have been hunted out, a trapper runs a wire from the gate and inside with corn and other food. When a large number of turkeys have gathered in the trap, the wire is pulled and the gate drops and the turkeys are shipped to a new area and released. The right photo shows.

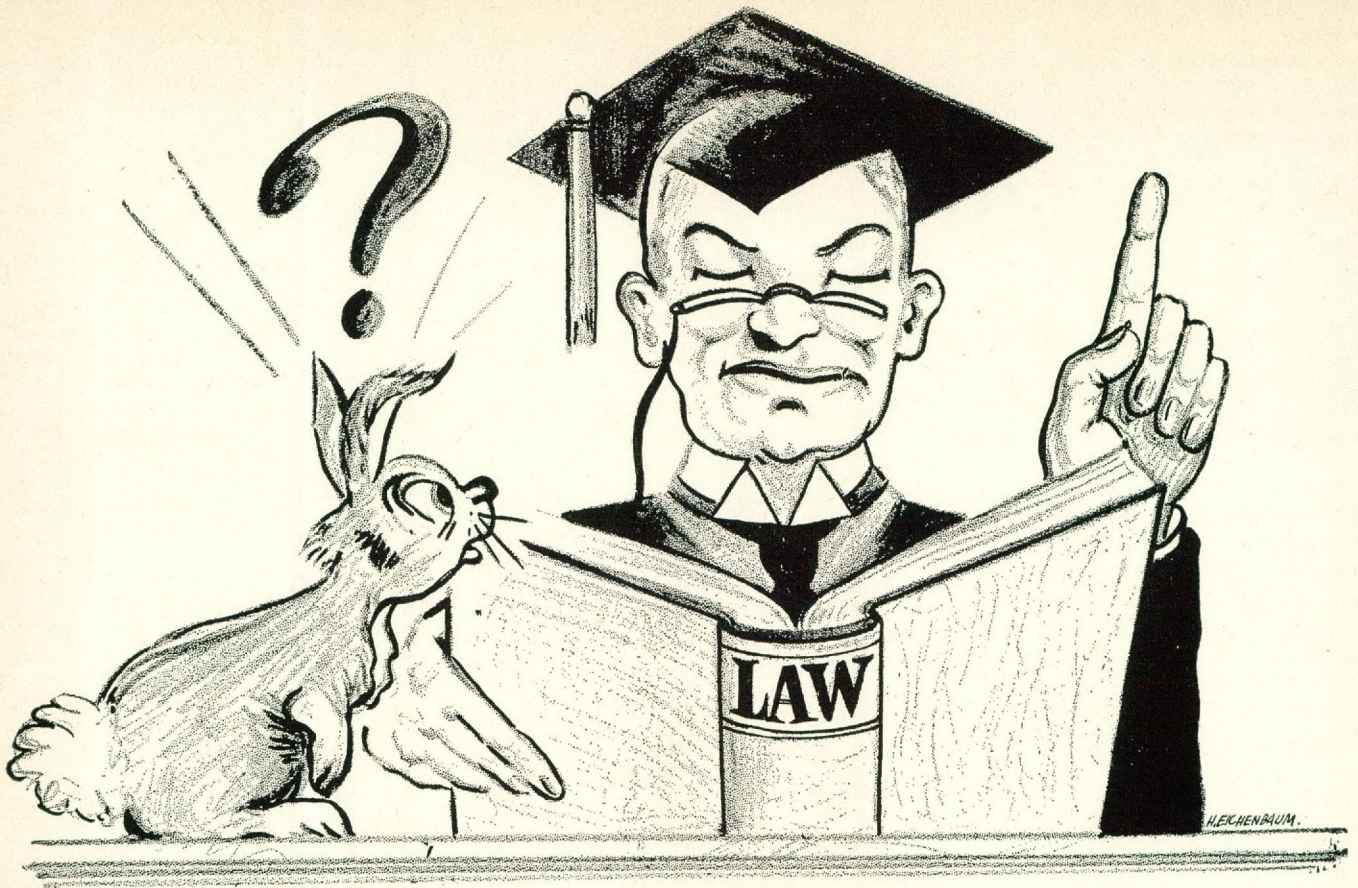






wild turkey gobblers and hens on  
e is a big supply and transplants them  
ch this much sought after game bird  
ted, the trapper baits the ground  
grain. A net gate is rolled up. The  
hiding place about 75 feet away.  
made their way into the trap, he cuts  
are ready to be caught, banded,  
e specimens are trapped as the lower





# New Game and Fish Laws

## HUNTING

**H.B. 537.** Permits the use of dogs for the purpose of trailing deer in Orange County. Chapter 2 of this Act repeals Chapters 88 and 304 of the Regular Session of the 48th Legislature and all laws or special laws insofar as they fix or attempt to fix a closed season in Liberty County. The open season for taking deer in Liberty County shall be governed by the general laws. Effective date of this Act is May 7, 1945.

**H.B. 780.** Repeals Chapter 202 Senate Bill 507 special law regular session of the 42nd Legislature and provides that wild turkeys may be taken in Robertson County during the open season provided by general law. Also provides the bag limit shall be the same as provided by general law.

**H.B. 842.** Makes it unlawful to kill take or hunt mule deer, commonly called black tail deer, for a period of five years from June 4, 1945, in Brown and Coleman counties. The penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$100.00.

**H.B. 234.** This Act provides for an open season on wild buck deer during the period November 16 to November 30 of any year in Marion County, both

days inclusive. Bag limit one buck deer per season.

**H.B. 611** Provides for a closed season on wild deer and wild turkeys in the counties of Red River and Lamar for a period of three years and provides a penalty of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for a violation of the Act. This law was approved April 30, 1945.

**H.B. 252.** Provides for an open season in Schleicher County on wild turkeys and wild deer.

**H.B. 427.** Puts a closed season on deer in San Augustine and Sabine counties for a period of five years after passage of this Act. Penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$50.00.

**H.B. 821.** Provides that it shall be unlawful to shoot, take, trap, snare or in any manner kill quail in Camp County, at any other time except on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week during the open season.

**H.B. 232.** Provides that it shall be lawful to take, capture, shoot or kill Collared Peccary or Javelina in the counties of Webb, Starr, Zapata and Dimmitt at any time. This law further

provides that it shall not be lawful in such counties to have or take any Collared Peccary or Javelina for the purpose of barter or sale or to sell or offer to sell any part of same. The penalty is not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$50.00.

**S.B. 170.** Provides that it shall be unlawful to kill or attempt to take, hunt, shoot or kill any quail in Garza County for a period of five years from the effective date of this Act. The penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$20.00 nor more than \$200.00.

**H.B. 230.** Fixes a closed season on quail and prairie chicken in Terry County for a period of five years. This law became effective April 19. A penalty of not less than \$20.00 nor more than \$200.00 is provided for a violation of this Act.

**H.B. 342.** Provides for an open season on wild buck deer, wild turkey gobblers, collared peccary and javelina in Precincts One and Two in Kenedy County. The bag limit fixed by this Act is not more than two buck deer, 3 turkey gobblers and two collared peccary or javelina. Penalty provided for violation of this Act is not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$200.00.

**H.B. 343.** Repeals all local or special laws with reference to hunting deer in Panola County. Hereafter the general laws reference to deer shall apply in Panola County.

**H.B. 378.** Provides a closed season on deer in Erath County for a period of five years. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession any deer killed or caught in Erath County.

**H.B. 790.** Makes it unlawful to kill deer in Bastrop County for a period of five years. A penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$200.00.

**H.B. 803.** Provides it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, snare, kill or attempt to kill by any means whatsoever any wild deer, buck, doe, fawn or wild turkey in Montgomery County for a period of five years and to kill any wild turkeys in Grimes County for a period of five years.

## FISHING

**H.B. 93.** Provides that there shall be no closed season when it shall be unlawful to take or catch fresh water fish by ordinary hook or line or artificial lures. Other devices permitted by law may be used for taking the fresh water fish at any time of the year but only in compliance with such other restrictions as are placed on their use by the laws of this State. The size limit as provided by this act shall be not less than 7 in. in length on large mouth black bass, small mouth black bass, spotted bass or any sub species of the same. The bag limit as provided by this Act shall be, large mouth black bass, small mouth black bass, spotted bass or any other sub species of the same singularly or in the aggregate 15 of which not more than 10 shall be of greater length than 11 inches. White bass 25, blue catfish, channel catfish and yellow catfish singularly or in the aggregate 25. Crappie or white perch 25.

**H.B. 602.** Repeals all local fishing laws on Lake Waco, its tributaries and all public waters in McLennan County and provides that it shall be lawful for any person to catch fish in any manner whatsoever from Lake Waco and all public waters of the county of McLennan as limited by the general laws enacted by the 49th Legislature.

**H.B. 462.** This Act applies to Tom Green County only. Means and methods for taking fish from any of the public fresh waters of Tom Green County shall be ordinary hook and line, rod, reel, artificial bait or natural bait, trot line or set line provided that such trot line or set line is not equipped with more than 30 hooks. When a group of persons are fishing jointly, such group of persons may not operate more than two trot lines or set lines. The joining together of two or more trot lines shall be a violation of this Act. Possession of any tackle

not permitted by this Act shall be a violation and such tackle or gear hereby declared to be unlawful and the game and fish wardens or other officers may destroy such prohibited tackle or gear and no suit shall be maintained against him. Nothing in this Article shall prohibit the use of a minnow seine not more than 20 ft. in length used only for the purpose of taking minnows, carp, buffalo, suckers and gar fish. Any other minnows or fish taken with such device shall be immediately returned to the water. It is a violation of this Act to sell, attempt to sell, purchase or attempt to purchase any fresh water fish except buffalo, carp, suckers and gar fish that are removed from the public fresh waters of Tom Green County. It shall be unlawful, at any time, to use crappie, catfish or bass for bait or for the purpose of attempting to catch fish. It shall be unlawful to transport any minnows taken from the public fresh waters of Tom Green County beyond the borders of said county for the purpose of sale and it shall be unlawful to

suckers, carp, shad or gar during any months of the year with a net or seine, the meshes of which shall not be less than two inches square. All bass, trout, crappie, white perch, bream or other perch or channel catfish measuring less than 12 inches in length caught with a net or seine or trap in any of the fresh waters of Kaufman County shall be released immediately into the waters from which they were taken. Failure to do this would be a violation of this Act. It is unlawful to sell or to have in possession for the purpose of sale any bass, trout, crappie, white perch bream or other perch or channel catfish measuring less than 12 inches in length from any of the fresh waters of Kaufman County. Nothing in this Act shall be construed in any manner as licensing or permitting any person to go upon the lands of another for the purpose of catching fish either by ordinary hook and line, seine or trap without the landowners consent. The penalty for a violation of this Act is from \$10.00 to \$100.00. In prosecutions under this Act, burden of proof of such consent from the landowners shall be upon the defendant.

**H.B. 381.** Makes it unlawful to take from the public fresh waters of the district composed of Jack, Young, Stephens and Palo Pinto counties any minnows for the purpose of barter or sale outside of said district. The law further provides that the transporting of minnows outside of said district by any commercial bait dealer or his agent shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this Act.

**S.B. 139.** From and after the passage of this Act, it shall be lawful to troll from a boat for the purpose of taking fish on Lake Waco. All laws in conflict are hereby repealed.

**H.B. 815.** For the purpose of controlling the minnow supply in Grayson and Cooke counties, a minnow conservation district is hereby created in Grayson and Cooke counties. It is unlawful for any person to take minnows from any of the public waters of said district for the purpose of transporting them outside of the district for the purpose of sale or to sell outside of said district any minnows removed from said district. Transporting outside of said district more than 200 minnows at any one time by a commercial minnow dealer or his agent, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this Act.

**S.B. 225.** Provides that Daingerfield Lake in Morris County is declared to be a part of the public fresh waters of the State of Texas suited and adapted to the preservation, protection and propagation of game and fish. This Act is to be construed as aiding in such preservation, protection and propagation of game and fish. Section 2 of the Act provides that it shall be unlawful for any person except peace officers, game wardens or representatives of the Game, Fish and

### Folly to Be Wise

*My Ranger is the smartest hound  
That ever loved a man;  
And he can howl more dolefully  
Than any other can.*

*"What makes you sing so sad a  
song?"  
I asked my Ranger once;  
And he replied, with sunken head,  
"I am such a dunce*

*"I let this question get me down:  
Which is the greater span,  
That between the flea and me,  
Or between myself and man?"  
Julia Beazley*

transport more than 200 minnows beyond the borders of said county for any purpose in any one day. The penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$10.00 nor more than \$50.00.

**H.B. 418.** Is applicable only to Kaufman County and provides that it shall be lawful to take from any of the fresh waters of that county by ordinary hook and line, set line, throw line or ordinary cord line, seines the meshes of which shall be not less than 2 inches square or trap. Any bass or trout less than 8 inches in length taken shall be returned to the water immediately and any white perch or crappie weighing less than ½ lb. shall be returned to the water. It shall be lawful to take any fish from the fresh waters of Kaufman County including the tributaries of the Trinity and Sabine rivers within Kaufman County at any time of year for the purpose of sale except bass, trout, crappie, white perch, bream or other perch or channel catfish measuring less than 12 inches in length. It shall be lawful in Kaufman County to take catfish measuring 12 inches nor more in length buffalo,

Oyster Commission in the lawful discharge of their duties to shoot, fire or discharge any pistol or rifle in on or along or across said Daingerfield Lake in Morris County. The law does not intend to prevent a person hunting with a shotgun during open season when it is lawful to hunt in or upon said Daingerfield Lake. Section 5 makes it the duty of all game wardens and all peace officers to enforce the provisions of this Act. No warrant is required for the arrest of any person who violates the provision of this Act done in the presence of such officers or wardens.

**H.B. 259.** Provides that it shall hereafter be lawful in Comanche County for any person to fish with hook, line or seine in any pond, tank, lake or river not owned by the State of Texas and owned or controlled by such person. Provides that seines used in any pond, tank, lake or river herein designated do not have a mesh of less than one inch square.

**H.B. 639.** From and after the effective date of this Act, it shall be unlawful in Caddo Lake in Harrison County to use a gig or spear for taking fish at any time of the year. Section 2 of the Act provides that it shall be unlawful in Caddo Lake in Harrison County for any person in any one day catch or retain or to place in any container more than 35 bream and goggle-eye. Section 3 provides that there shall be no bag limit or size limit on blue catfish, channel catfish and yellow catfish taken from the waters of Caddo Lake in Harrison County.

**H.B. 407.** Repeals all laws of this State insofar as they prohibit the sale of fish in Coleman County or fish that are taken from any of the waters of Coleman County. Nothing in this law in any way repeals the general law which prohibits the sale or offering for sale of any bass or crappie commonly called white perch. The effective date of this Act is June 4, 1945.

**H.B. 545.** Repeals Section 7 of Chapter 353, Senate Bill 445, Acts of the 47th Legislature, and provides that it shall hereafter be lawful to sell, offer for sale or to have in possession for the purpose of sale or to buy any catfish taken from any of the waters of Hamilton County.

## FOX

**H.B. 405.** Repeals all local and special laws governing the taking and trapping of wild fox in Fannin County. The general law shall regulate the taking, trapping and sale of furs in Fannin County.

**H.B. 579.** Provides that from and after a period of two years after passage of this Act it shall be unlawful for any person to trap or hunt with guns or have in their possession for barter or for sale any wild fox or the pelts thereof in the county of Upshur. This Act became effective April 30, 1945.

# The TRIGGER SQUEEZE

A good marksman usually doesn't know the precise instant that he fires his gun at the target. This is not because there is anything hit or miss about his ability. To the contrary, it is because he "Equeezes" the trigger of his gun so smoothly and steadily, according to Charles E. Gillham, noted hunter and outdoor writer.

Experienced shooters never "pull" a trigger, says Gillham, because a pull frequently can produce enough jerk to move a gun's sights off the target and thus miss the bull's-eye.

After you have properly sighted in on the target the bullet should go dead-center IF you release the trigger by a gradual squeeze. If you yank the trigger you immediately change your point of aim and the direction taken by the bullet.

Squeezing a trigger is as important in big game shooting, particularly on long shots, as it is on the rifle range. "Educate that all-important trigger finger to crook and squeeze slowly and steadily in coordination with your aim and you'll have game for your table in these meatless days," says Gillham who has shot game from the Arctic to the Tropics.

**H.B. 466.** Repeals all local and special laws regulating and governing the taking or trapping of wild fox and the sale of pelts thereof in McLennan County. The general law governing the taking and trapping of wild fox and the sale of pelts in McLennan County shall hereafter govern.

**H.B. 185.** This Act provides that it shall be lawful for any person to kill, take, hunt, catch or destroy wild fox at any time in Leon and Madison counties, and sell the pelt thereof.

**H.B. 976.** Repeals all local or special laws so far as they govern the taking or trapping of wild fox in Lamar County. General laws governing the taking, trapping and sale of wild fox shall apply to Lamar County.

**S.B. 301.** Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to kill or have in his possession for barter or sale until 1946 any wild fox or the pelts thereof in the counties of Bastrop, Burleson and Washington. It shall not be unlawful to kill wild fox in these counties in the act of destroying domestic fowls or other domestic stock.

**H.B. 186.** Provides that it shall be lawful to take, kill, hunt or destroy wild fox at any time in Freestone, Kaufman and Milam counties and that the pelts of wild fox taken in Freestone, Kaufman and Milam counties may be sold.

**H.B. 759.** Makes it lawful to take or kill any number of fox in Denton County at any time of the year.

## SQUIRRELS

**H.B. 820.** This Act provides that it shall be unlawful for anyone to hunt, take or kill squirrels except during the months of April, May, June, October, November and December in Cherokee County each year.

**H.B. 351.** Provides that it shall be unlawful for anyone to hunt or take or kill squirrels in Polk County except from the 15th day of October to the 15th day of January of each year.

**H.B. 401.** Provides that it shall be unlawful for anyone to hunt, take or kill

squirrels in the counties of Angelina, Cherokee, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Nacogdoches, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler except between the 15th day of October and the 15th day of January of each year, both days inclusive.

**H.B. 757.** Under this law, it is lawful to take or kill any number of squirrels at any time in Denton County.

## TRAPPING

**H.B. 231.** Provides that beaver may be taken in Maverick County during the open season for taking same.

**H.B. 349.** At the end of one year from the effective date of this Act, the open season on raccoon, mink and fox in Harrison County shall be closed and then it shall be unlawful for a person one year from the date of the beginning of the closed season to take or kill any raccoon, mink or fox in Harrison County and it shall be unlawful during the closed season for any person or persons to have in their possession the pelts of such animals. It shall be unlawful during the life of this Act to take or hunt by the use of steel trap, snare or deadfall any raccoon, mink or fox. Provided that it shall not be unlawful to take any of these animals in Harrison County when they are in the act of destroying or about to destroy personal property. Providing that any persons or association of persons controlling as much as 1,280 acres of land who are trying to protect or propagate game birds may trap raccoon, mink and fox upon their premises and when such animals are taken, the pelts may be marketed as though taken in the open season. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt squirrels in Harrison County by the use of dogs or gun except during the months of November and December and the first 15 days of January for a period of two years from the effective date of this Act. Effective date of this Act is April 30, 1945.

**H.B. 756.** Repeals Chapter 34, H.B. 301, Acts of the 46th Legislature of the Regular Session. This Act makes it lawful to use, or set a steel trap in Shelby

★ Continued on page 28

# HINTS FOR THE ANGLER

Surf casting is a year 'round sport on the Texas Gulf coast. You can catch just about everything that swims in the ocean, that is, if you have the proper equipment and technique.

The experienced surf caster fishes near breaks, eddies and pools of sand-bars, around pilings, rocky and sandy jetties, in slues and gullies. They watch for circling and dipping seagulls and excited schools of small fish.

To thoroughly enjoy surf casting, and to assure a good catch, your outfit should include a 6½ to 9 ft. split bamboo or hollow steel surf rod, with 30" butt and screw type reel seat; 200 yd. capacity, free-spooling surf reel with star drag; 100 to 200 yds. of 9 to 18 thread linen line; butt rest; sand spike; a coil of piano wire leader; a knitted thumb stall; ½ doz. swivels ½ doz. egg-shaped and pyramid sinkers and a good assortment of the hooks and lures needed for local fish.

In your bait box should be artificial baits and lures, live and dead small fish, pieces of larger fish, squid, crab, shrimp, worms, porkrind and clams.

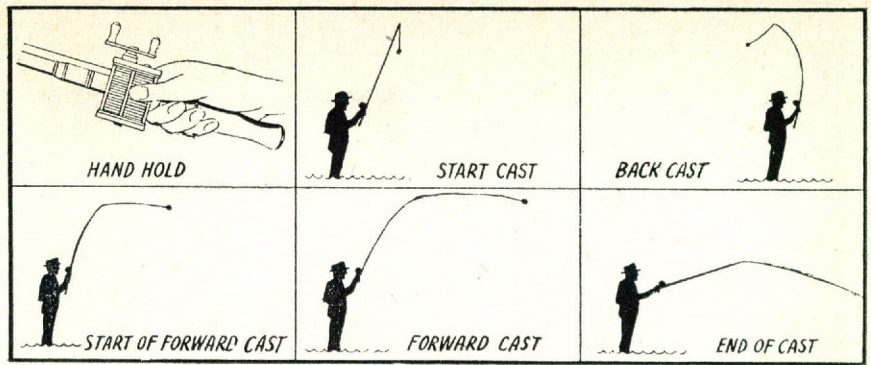
In casting, don't press too hard. Strive for accuracy and smoothness. Wet your line thoroughly with water and put reel in "free spool" position before you start cast. Pull sinker out about 20 inches from rod tip. Then take natural stance, with left hand at butt end of rod and right hand behind reel, with thumb pressing on the side of the reel-spool. Place rod directly behind you. Then start slowly but increase speed as you raise your right arm upward and forward. Apply most force as the rod reaches and passes perpendicular position. As rod passes perpendicular, release most of thumb pressure on reel-spool so that line may flow out easily but keep slight pressure to prevent backlash.

As sinker hits water apply full thumb pressure to stop line from unwinding. Put rod butt in rod rest and with left hand put reel in gear. Hold rod at 45 degree angle and wait for fish to take the bait.

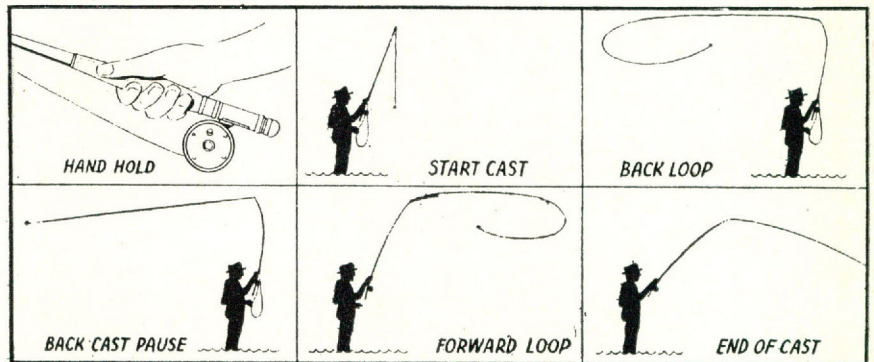
If fishing with artificial bait begin to reel in as soon as lure hits the water and repeat until you get a strike.

To retrieve bait, dip tip until rod is

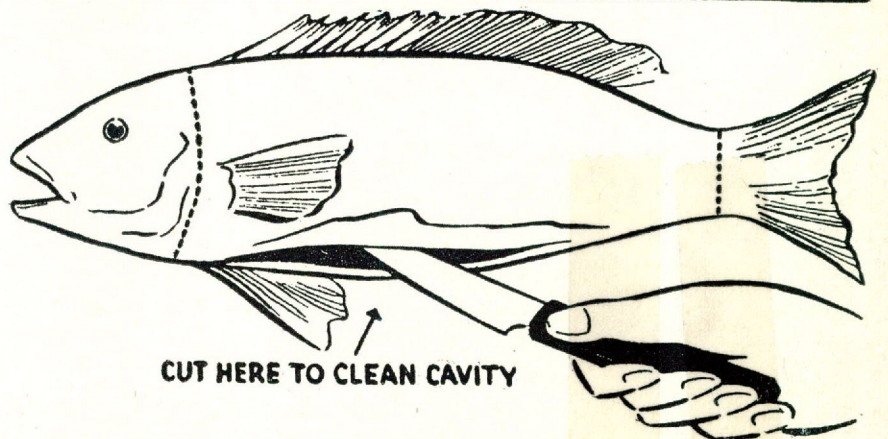
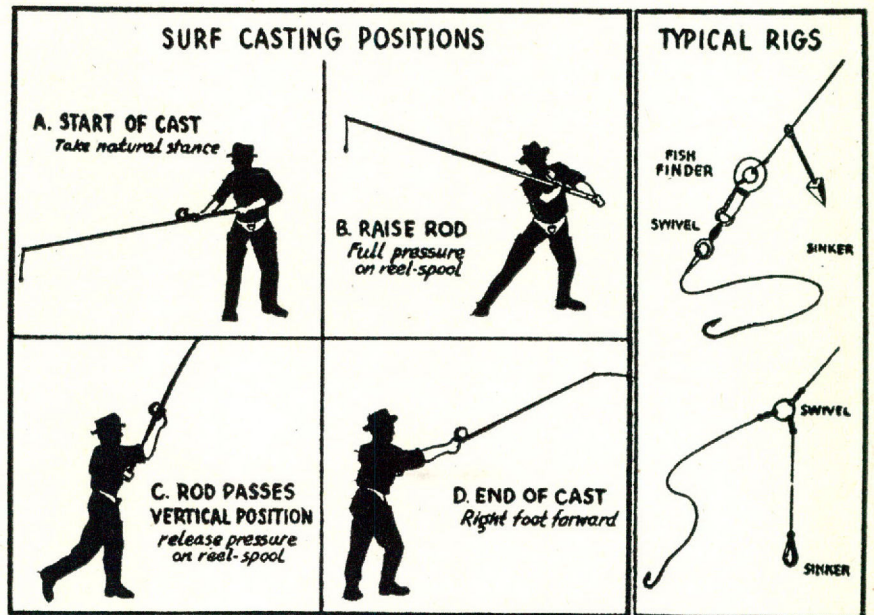
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Bait Casting Positions



Fly Casting Positions





# ARMS AND AMMUNITION

Edited by ADAM WILSON III

## RIM-FIRES

LET'S say that this morning is between 1850 and 1870, and a cool norther has brought the first reminder of fall over the country. A number of rifle shots can be heard near and far, echoing from one canyon to the other. Probable results: fresh venison on the table.

There is no "Bam! Bam! Bam!" sounding like retarded machine gun fire—no such bombardment like that which is heard on a Twentieth Century November 16th morning. It isn't impossible to spray the hillsides, for some of these early repeating rifles had a magazine capacity of 34 cartridges—the Standard Old Model .44 Evans, for example—and the Henry rifle with its 15 shot magazine also had ample reserve fire power. The hunter in this day just doesn't believe in waste. If a little more time and patience will fill the stew pot from one shot, why fill the atmosphere full of holes at out-of-range targets? And if wild uncontrolled hits are scored, a lot of good meat will probably be ruined. As a rule, camps and settlements are located in out-of-the-way places and ammunition is scarce—a cartridge is as precious as a gold nugget. One shot has to mean meat for food, and a hide for operating money.

The secret of their repeated first shot kills is that they know the exact ability

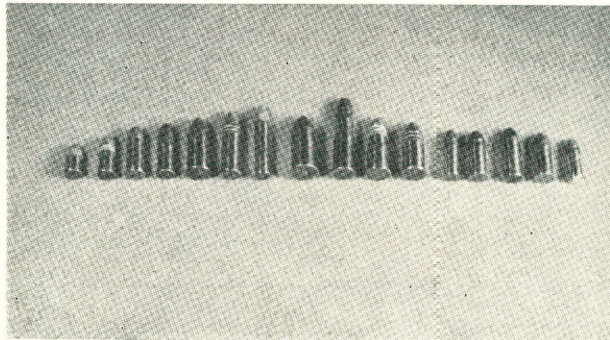
of their arms. From 50 yards up to the 500 yard mark, they know just where to hold—a little item modern day, once-a-year, weekend hunters should learn a lot more about even though they have the advantage of shooting rifles that require only slight sight adjustments from 100 yards to 500 yards. One of the greatest problems in making the slow heavy slugs reach their destination is accurate range estimation.

are shoved back where the kids can't reach them; in the country stores and trading posts these types of ammunition are placed under the counter or upstairs in a storeroom. (A person would be surprised at the amounts of these very old numbers that still remain in the same places they were shoved or thrown 50 to 100 years ago. Dusty and corroded, but nevertheless very valuable to collectors and experimenters. I have been

fortunate in finding several rare numbers in just such places. When the owner is asked "What do I owe you?" he will invariably say "Nothin' a-tall—glad to get 'em out of my way." Old cartridge dealers are getting \$5.00 to \$15.00 per single specimen of that stuff; and a purchaser feels lucky in getting his hands on some of those ancient loads.)

A great step is being taken. Progress through experiment and research has brought the hunter and other gun bearers the primer, powder charge, and bullet all into one unit. If he isn't carrying a repeater, a couple twists of the wrist will reload his weapon. There is no fumbling around with powder horns or flasks, bullet pouches, primers, and ram rods, usually between each shot. To accelerate loading, the gunner sometimes held two or three extra rounds between his front

★ Continued on page 29



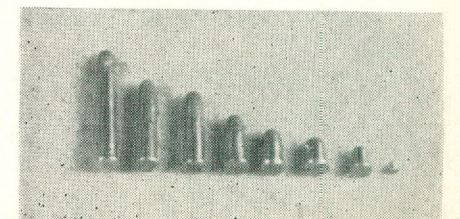
Among the rim-fires of the past (left to right): .41 Short, .41 Long, .44 Flat, .42 Forehand & Wadsworth, .50 Spencer, .46 Long, .38 Extra-Long, .58 Musket, .41 Swiss, .56-46 Spencer, .56-56 Spencer, .38 Long, .44 Evans, .45, .46 Short, .38 Short. Photo by Roger Adkins.

Usually a lone shot rings out followed by a dull thud—a sound that means a bullet has made connection. A pioneer's wife will always pause immediately after a shot is heard to see if she can catch that welcoming little sound that comes a split moment after a rifle report. If so, she throws another stick of wood on the fire, and greases the skillet.

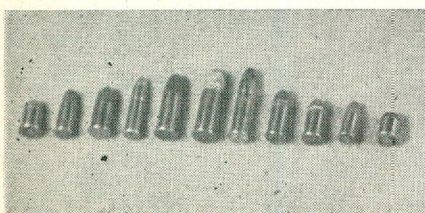
Now chances are good that some of these shots that ring out were fired from a Winchester Model 1866.\* If that be true, we will be taking no chances at all in stating that the ammunition used was .44 rim-fire.

Rim-fires! Yes, this is the time when many various calibers of rim-fire began to take their places on ammunition dealer's shelves, on the pioneer's mantle-piece, and in the market hunter's saddle pocket. In the homes, the Burnside's, Maynards, linen and paper cartridges,

among the "young" ones (reading left to right): 6m/m Longue Portee, .22 Extra Long, .22 Long Rifle, .22 Short, .22 CB, .22 BB, 4m/m Rheinisch Westfalische Sprengstoff, 2m/m Kolibri—appr. .08 Cal., Photo by Roger Adkins.



A few small caliber rim-fires (left to right): .32 Extra Short, .22 Short, .32 Short, .22 W.R.A., .32 Long, .35 No. 64 Allen, .25 Long, .30 Long, 30 Short, .25 Short Bliss Rev., .32 BB. Photo by Roger Adkins.

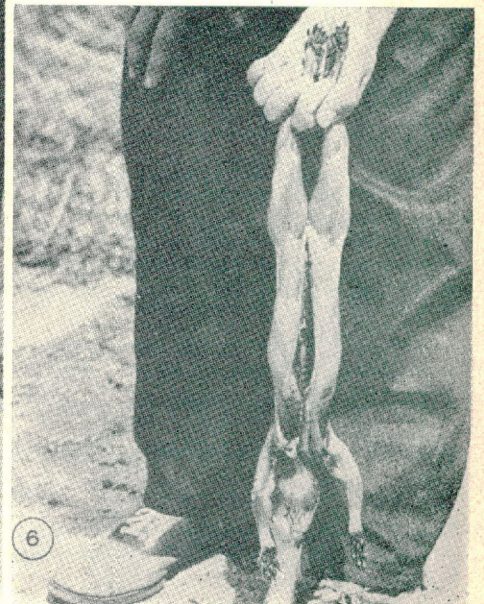
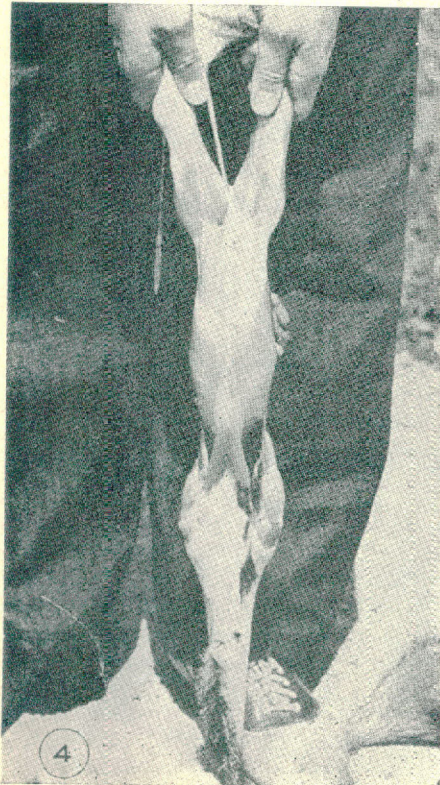
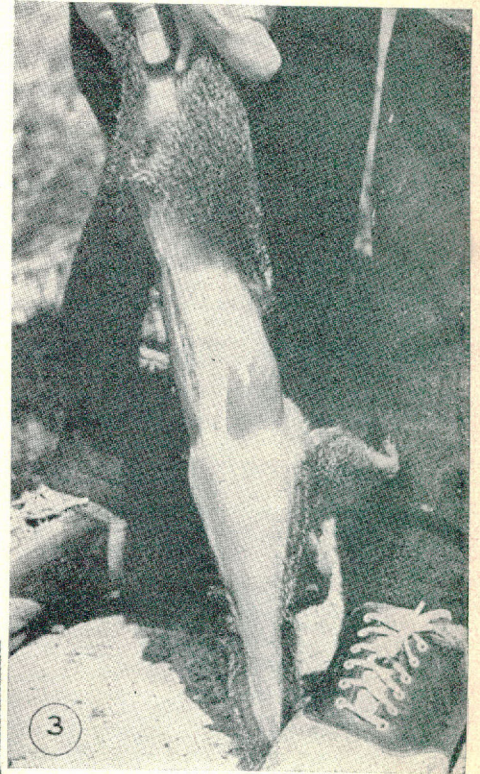


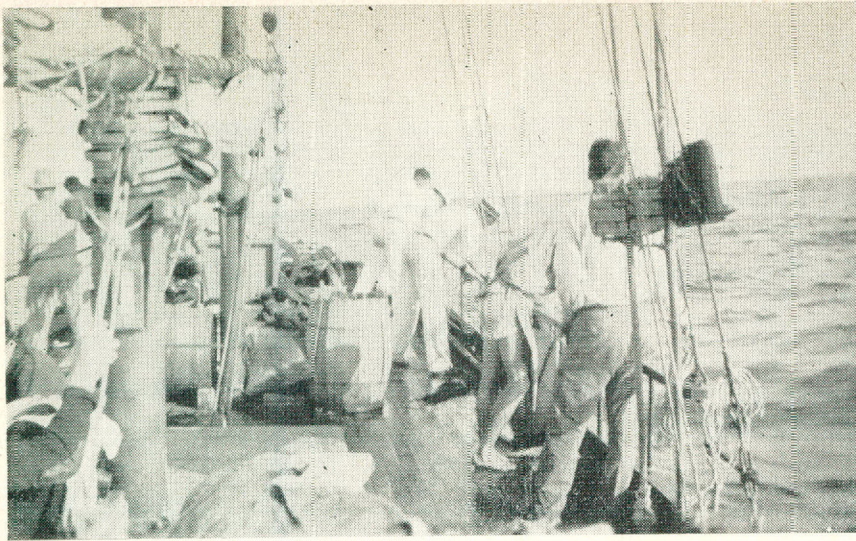


Photos by Chas. W. Schwartz  
Missouri Conservationist

## How to Skin a Squirrel

1. Grasping the hind legs, cut through tail from the under side through bone and flesh to the skin on the back. Extend cut over hips 1 inch to either side of tail.
2. Step on tail close to the body; take a hind leg in each hand.
3. Pressing firmly on the tail, pull up on the legs, peeling skin over body and head.
4. Pull belly skin over hind legs as shown. Work skin over forelegs.
5. To remove viscera slit the belly wall from between hind legs to throat. Flip viscera out with tip of knife blade.
6. Cut off the head, and the feet at the joints.





**A FEW of the fishermen aboard the Vagabond just before a terrific blast shook the floor of the Gulf.**

## Science Tackles

★ Continued from page 4

was that of sulphuric acid.

It is noteworthy that great deposits of sulphur are being mined along the Texas coast and that the Gulf bottom may conceal rich deposits of that mineral. In volcanic eruptions sulphur dioxide is one of the destructive gases given off, and its blasting and suffocating effects are well known. Sulphur dioxide in water has an acid reaction, forming sulfites which, with certain compounds, produces sulphuric acid, when exposed to the air. How many volcanic eruptions take place in the sea and go unnoticed none can guess. We know that many islands of the sea are of volcanic origin, and A. Agassiz asserts that the West Indies are underlain by volcanic rocks. On these uplifts grow tiny sea animals until within 30 fathoms of the surface, then coral reefs begin to grow.

So now we are in need of a small volcano as a solution of the gas mystery and we are ready to submit proof that some kind of marine upheaval or earthquake did actually take place about 60 miles off Padre Island in the edge of the Gulf Stream. That this information was not slipped to the reader earlier in this story was due to the importance of first disproving all other possible explanations of the disaster. Thus, with the probabilities all in his favor the integrity of our witness should not be challenged and will not be challenged by any impartial observer.

Here is the tipoff. While on the coast early in June, Bob Farley told me he could take me to the man who witnessed a most amazing spectacle in the Gulf, off Padre Island in the year 1935.

"Who is he and where is he," I asked.

"Bob Crossman, in charge of the machine shop of the Bass Boat Works at Fulton, Rockport."

We were on our way immediately.

By way of introducing Bob Farley it should be said that he is a man of character and strong convictions on matters of truth. He would not steal a postage stamp and I would trust him with my pocketbook, regardless of the amount of money in it. But he has spent about forty years in close association with fishermen and much of the time as boat captain for the State Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. And as regards a fishing environment I have known good men who lost track of that fine dividing line between fact and fancy. Thus, the atmosphere of the "whoppers that got away" should not be inhaled without some reservation, and naturally, as I was to listen to another of the wonders of the sea, my own habit of incredulity began to assert itself.

Soon we were at the boat works and in the presence of Bob Crossman. Crossman is a man of chunky build and of quiet demeanor, more disposed to listen than to talk, but he did talk. As he worked at something that resembled a

generator or selfstarter, he scrupulously divided his time between the machine and myself.

"Yes," he said, "What Farley told you is right. It was beautiful and its bigness was thrilling."

I made notes of all he said and later wrote him for additional details. Here is his story.

He and his crew of four men were fishing for red snapper on one of the banks about twenty miles from Padre Island. At 1 p.m., June 27 or 28, 1935, he glanced to the east and saw great clouds of dark gray smoke such as one might see at a distance of twenty miles if the City of Corpus Christi were burning down. The smoke of a hundred ocean steamers would not have created such a sight, and he added that the bigness of the spectacle could not be exaggerated.

To scan the horizon more effectively he climbed a tall mast. His only possible surmise was that a great steamer had blown up about twenty miles away but what he saw was really forty miles away. As the smoke began to clear the boatmen started toward the scene expecting to do some rescue work in case it proved to be a ship disaster. With full sails and a heavy-duty Diesel engine the schooner made approximately ten miles an hour for four hours in the direction of the smoke.

Arriving at the edge of the Gulf Stream about sixty miles from Padre Island they found no sign of a sea tragedy except that instead of the blue water of the Gulf Stream the water was found to be of a milky color with many gas bubbles floating on the surface. Also there was noted the odor of iodoform. (Iodine from sea weed growing on the bottom could have dominated all other odors at the time.)

There was no disposition on the part of Crossman to adorn the story for the benefit of the reporter. If it was an explosion of some kind he heard no noise and saw no flames, just the great volume

**SHAKEN by their experience these fishermen nevertheless take considerable pride in showing their fine catches.**





of dark gray smoke or gases which quickly faded out. Name it what you will, take it or leave it.

It looked like a wild goose chase and they returned to snapper banks, to find that the snappers were no longer biting. Within the next 24 or 36 hours, dead snappers, and others, *the very first to be discovered*, were seen floating on the surface. From there on for nearly a year there was no snapper fishing of importance in that area.

The prolonged appearances of dead fish floating in the Gulf off shore, and along the beaches for more than five weeks, suggests that a continued spill of the gas or gases through the openings of the sea bottom was taking place. Also there was talk of other eruptions a month later along the Mexican coast, and the death of fishes.

Reference has been made to sulfites which, with certain compounds, change into sulphuric acid in the presence of air. Thus the gas reached full strength at the surface where mortality of surface feeders was heaviest. On the sea bottom where the snappers feed on coral, the sulphur dioxide could have worked a temporary ruin of the fishing banks where Crossman and his men had been fishing.

At the onset of the fish mortality Dr. H. A. Wiebe of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission and Dr. E. J. Lund of the University of Texas, made observations of the occurrences of dead fish and it was estimated that more than 2,000,000 pounds were found along the beaches. These occurrences are rather fully listed in an article by Dr. Lund in the annual report of 1934-35 of the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. He concludes his report with a reference to a "Miocene Catastrophe" as related by David Starr Jordan, and adds that, "It may well be that what happened on the Texas coast in 1935 was merely a repetition of a similar event which happened some two million years ago on the coast of California."

There was of course no seismograph record to tell the story but the fossil remains kept the record. Today every tremor of the earth can be tracked down by these instruments. Professor Arnold Romberg, who was in charge of the seismograph work at the University of Texas in 1935, will undertake to locate some record of the historic event, either at the University or some other institution. When and if he is successful we will be happy to pass out the information.

Meanwhile the fourteen billion tons of water poured into the Gulf in a two months period should not be overlooked as a factor. The prevailing southeast winds tend to hold the tides at a maximum and prevented the dispersion of flood waters, thus piling up an unprecedented pressure against the sea bottom. An earth squeeze at one point is apt to find an outlet at some other place where conditions favor an eruption.

If there is a missing link in the chain of circumstances here submitted, let

# - Rare Birds of the Rio Grande -



## The Pigmy Owl

By CHAS. G. JONES

Seldom heard and less often seen, the Pigmy Owl of fluffy feathers is as rare as radium. The limited number found in the confines of Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties hardly permits sight of one in a lifetime. Its range is in deep woodlands subject to overflow from the Rio Grande, a dead tree being its nesting place. The little fellow in the picture is one of four I have seen during the past twenty years. Most owls are nocturnal, but this little ball of dynamite often makes a round of investigation during daylight, seeking insects, grasshoppers, mice, and sometimes for sheer daredevil sport, hurls its body against a bird several times its size, continuing to maul them until they are at this little

fellow's mercy, the Pigmy being about five and one-half inches long, about the size of an English Sparrow. The body color is brown, wings marked with white spot, head large, tail barred, eyes wide apart with two black spots behind each eye. The Mexicans call it "Four Eyes" in the belief that it can see before and behind. This little "fluffy ruffles" uses a woodpecker hole as a nesting place, making no difference as to whether it is occupied or deserted. If occupied, it does not take long for the woodpecker to leave in a hurry. A few passes from the little owl convinces the woodpecker that he is in the wrong place. From March to June, four white eggs are laid, hatching within a two-week period.

someone else bring in the link.

The two masted schooner of our story was built by Bob Crossman at Rockport and named "The Vagabond." It was 52 feet long, had a fifteen foot deck and drew five feet of water. It was famous as a fishing boat, and just before the fish tragedy off Padre Island, it had been leased by ten doctors who made a fishing trip to the snapper banks near the scene of the great catastrophic earth disturbance. It was also famous in the fishing rodeos at Port Isabel and elsewhere.

It was a well built boat and stayed afloat thirty-five miles from shore during the disastrous Brownsville storm of 1934. Its spectacular career came to an end a few years ago when it caught fire and went up in flames.

Dear Editor:

*This is a letter that I won second prize from the Globe Newspaper, on "Why I Would Like to Have a Dog Like Lassie."*

*Here is the letter:*

*"I would like to have a dog like Lassie because a collie makes the best pal a boy ever had and my collie was poisoned. I like collies better than all other pets put together. They are the best fighters and they stick with you through thick and thin. They are also the best for show dogs. I would like to own a collie because they are good watch dogs.*

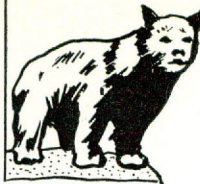
*"Everyone that knew him, loved my collie which we had for seven years before he was poisoned. I would like to have another collie to take his place as I have missed him very much."*

J. L. Gober, Jr.,  
1704 Hayden St.,  
Amarillo, Texas.

P.S.—I am eleven years old.



# BOOKS



**BASS TACKLE & TACTICS**—by Harold C. Hollis. 147 + x pages, 17 halftone illustrations and one color plate. Published by A. S. Barnes and Company, 67 West 44th Street, New York 18, N. Y. Price \$3.00.

This book is dedicated to more successful and enjoyable fishing for both largemouth and smallmouth black bass, through the use of lighter lures and tackle. The author is peculiarly equipped to write on the subject, by virtue of having been an enthusiastic student of bass fishing since boyhood. He handles the assignment well, conveying a wealth of practical suggestions in easily assimilable form, and illustrating his recommendations with interesting episodes from his own experience.

The book contains chapters dealing with the basses, the different types of water in which they are found, and various types of tackle and technique with recommendations for the use of each; also much additional information of value to beginner and experienced angler alike. The photographs serve to illustrate important points in a very effective manner.

**FLY PATTERNS AND THEIR ORIGINS**—by Harold Hinsdill Smedley. 138 + xvi pages. Contains 1 color plate of six patterns and 12 cuts in black and white. Published by Westshore Publications, Muskegon, Michigan. Second Edition—Price \$2.50.

This book was written for the enlightenment of anglers who wish to know who designed the various flies, how they obtained their names, and various other bits of interesting information surrounding them. It covers 197 patterns, with reference to 110 additional patterns. The material is alphabetically arranged according to patterns for ready reference.

Mr. Smedley, a recognized authority on fly fishing and a holder of four National Fly Casting Championships, is also the author of several books on trout and angling, including "Trout of Michigan," and "Who's Who and What's What in Fly and Bait Casting in the United States."

## Mississippi Kite

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The juvenile Mississippi kite is striped with dark brown and grey, has black eyes, and black barred tail. This is the juvenile plumage the young of the year wear when they leave the nesting range in August and September.

In Throckmorton County studies, grasshoppers were found to be the principal food of the young Mississippi kite. Two specimens had fed entirely on long-horned grasshoppers, of the family Tettigonidae.

Adults feed chiefly on grasshoppers and cicadas. These are for the most part taken while in flight, and a great deal of the beauty and interest attached to these birds comes from their novel means of taking prey. Feeding is usually done in early morning and late evenings, although kites will feed at almost any time when some disturbance puts their prey awing. A vehicle passing through the range, a moving herd of cattle, or anything tending to flush grasshoppers and cicadas will attract soaring kites. Their talons are needle sharp for certain contact with the chitinous enamel-smooth bodies of such insects, and they seldom miss. As the insect makes its

brief arc upward, the nearest kite folds its wings close and dives. A sharp snap like a breaking string is reflected downward from the taut wings as the talons hit and close. The kite then feeds while sailing by extending a long leg forward to its beak.

One morning three deer were jumped in the sandhills of Hemphill County close to the Canadian River bottoms. They were over the nearest hill in a few quick bounds, but their course could be followed for some time after by the kites which followed above, diving for the cicadas flushed from the sage.

A grassfire in the summertime will attract the Mississippi kites from long distances. They soar above and just to windward of the smoke, making beautifully clean dives at the insects fleeing the flames.

The only natural enemy of the kite known to the writer is the great horned owl, which have caught young from nests under observation, and in one case, caught the parent bird. Kites seem to instinctively recognize the owl as an enemy, and an owl flushed by day while kites are aloft will be quickly overhauled and driven to cover.

A master at slow gliding flight, the Mississippi kite may rank as one of the

fastest birds. On an area of shinnery range in Wheeler County, Game Department Biologists were making a nesting study of the lesser prairie chicken. A broad flushing bar attached to an automobile bumper was being used to flush the prairie chickens. Kites followed in numbers, confident, I expect, that the contraption was rigged for their benefit. Suddenly an adult Cooper's hawk flew from a mott of trees. A speedster ranking high among the birds himself, the hawk was overtaken in short order by a kite whose flight fairly sizzled. The normally bold Cooper's hawk was obviously afraid of the kite and exercising all the speed it was capable of. Once in cover in another mott, the hawk refused to be put up for another race, merely changing sides of the mott as the truck was driven around it.

The Mississippi kite molests no game or song birds. Aside from their very great aesthetic value in the eyes of the nature lover, their economic value must be considerable in a region where grasshopper damage is an almost annual occurrence. Yet more Mississippi kites are killed by ignorant holiday or Sunday afternoon plinkers with .22 rifles than by all other agencies. A number of nests I have studied were terminated by irresponsible parties who killed the incubating kite and tore up the nest.

The kites are gone to their winter home in South America before the hunting season opens, which is fortunate, considering the average sportsman's inability to distinguish between hawks.

The adult Mississippi kite pictured with this article was found injured on the State highway between Canadian, Texas, and Wheeler, Texas. Ultimately the bird recovered, at which time the photograph was made. Showing somewhat ragged plumage from confinement, the picture fails to do justice to the bird's beauty in the wild state.

This sketch is written in the hope that more outdoorsmen will come to know and appreciate the Mississippi kite for what it is—a unique and beautiful bird which belongs with the matchless cloud effects and the free far vistas of the Lower Plains and Panhandle country.

## Green Island

★ Continued from page 11

veloped into the largest rookery on the North American Continent, an estimated 8,000 being in the colony.

This rendezvous off the Cameron County coast is the home of some 20,000 plumage birds, including reddish, snowy and American egrets, Black-crown night herons, Ward's and Louisiana herons, all with beautiful plumage that at one time was sought as adornment for ladies' hats. This practice is now illegal. That outstanding oddity of nature's creations known as the Roseatte Spoonbill with peach blush pink above and below its wings and a bill the shape of a spoon, has recently put in an appearance on the island and may possibly at

some future time use it as a nesting place.

Some 200 of these rare birds can be seen wading and feeding in the shallow water along the shore, seemingly very satisfied but still in doubt as to the safety of rearing their young in the midst of so many other birds. Winding paths have been cut through the dense brush affording a close up view of eggs, young in all stages of development, and the adult birds wearing their gorgeous plumage and beautiful egrets extending in willowy wisps over the back and beyond the tail. An average of 50 of these lovely plume-like feathers is a compliment for a single bird. Graceful in poise, beautiful in color and adept at displaying their finery, creates in the minds of those who see them, a pleasing memory that will never be forgotten. Of many young that have been banded in the nest, the greater returns show most of egrets winter in Brazil. Near the first of March, flocks of these birds rise in the air and wing their way to a little twenty-acre spot of land known as Green Island, where under the care of a federal warden in charge, another brood of young is raised, adding to the beauty of the surroundings wherever they may be.

## Simon Peter

★ Continued from page 11

that deserves respect for its size alone. The cichlid family is much like the sunfish and the perch families is it not?"

"Yes, the cichlids are spiny-rayed fishes similar to the perch-like forms in most regards, and are characterized by the presence of three to ten spines in the anal fin. In size, color, appearance, habits and food value they have a striking resemblance to the sunfishes, the *Centrarchidae*, of the United States. In South America they may be said to take the place of the sunfishes and the black bass. The species of one genus, *Cichla*, of certain rivers and lakes of South America, are elongate and large mouthed, and bear a strong analogy to the black bass of further north. The cichlids do not build nests like the sunfishes, but the eggs are adhesive and are attached to a smooth rock or other smooth surface, where they are protected by the parents. One species, the West African mouthbreeder, has an interesting variation. Much as is done, I believe, by one of our Texas salt water catfishes, the male holds the eggs in its mouth until they hatch, abstaining from food until incubation is completed."

"You mentioned that many of the species are small. Some of our sunfishes are small, too, like the pigmy sunfish, the pumpkinseed, and the orange spotted sunfish. I think they are extra bright colored. Is that true with the cichlids?"

"Yes, possibly because the family is located for the most part in the tropics many of the smaller members are very bright colored and make attractive aquarium specimens. An example is the Jewel fish from Africa. It is one of sev-

eral contenders for the title 'handsomest of the tropical fishes.'"

"Since the cichlids are mainly warm country fishes, isn't the Rio Grande perch a sort of rolling stone, so to speak?"

"It is a sort of pioneer for the family, for it is right on the edge of its range. But you will notice that it has not worked up into very cool regions yet, though it may be on its way. I am not sure though, whether it is a case of the cichlids invading sunfish territory, or of sunfish invading cichlid territory. The territory of each is fairly distinct, though they do cross each other's line in southern Texas and in eastern Mexico. I believe the Rio Grande perch as well as other cichlids are considered important food fish in parts of Mexico.

"In some respects the Rio Grande perch seems to be a natural farm pond fish for its territory. It eats about anything organic and it will live in water with little oxygen under adverse conditions. More importantly, it apparently produces impressive weights of food fish per unit of pond area. I hope to check on this with some farm pond experiments, using this fish, some day. But as you have indicated yourself, there is a strong prejudice against the fish. Rightly or wrongly, such prejudices have to be considered.

"One justifiable criticism is that it is not an especially gamey fish. They can be caught with bait, fishing on the bottom with a small hook. But if raised in ponds it probably would be necessary to seine or trap them when they were wanted. I suspect that we may be spoiled in this country because of our better known sunfish and black bass, that are both gamey and excellent tasting."

Later, at the table, the warden carefully placed the cleaned back bone of his fifth Rio Grande perch on his plate, wiped his fingers on a paper napkin and started to sigh contentedly. Then he caught the eye of his companion and stopped short. "Oh, not bad. Not too bad, anyway. But give me the good old goujon. I'll take the yellow catfish every time."

"You, my friend, are certainly spoiled."

## Texas Wildlife

★ Continued from page 13

country as they did several years ago, which is well.

There is some discussion about the "vermin" getting out of hand since the war has limited the supply of shells. We doubt that predatory animal control will do much to improve general wildlife conditions in the future, or that any lack of it in this period has had serious effects on game. (But we aren't opposed to predator control under certain local conditions.) Man's predator control is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the normal predation that operates to keep nature in balance. Removing the

large forms such as lions, coyotes, and eagles is possible. But this merely shifts the problem to small furbearers, rodents or other lesser forms. One blessing wildlife men recognize today is that during this war some sections of the State had high coyote populations. These are the sections of the western half of the state where sheep haven't been numerous enough to destroy much wildlife range. Removing the coyotes from certain ranges would make them safe for sheep which would do more damage than the coyotes, so far as game is concerned. It cannot be said that predator control has suffered seriously from the war, anyway. More fur trappers licenses were sold; fur prices reached record highs; and the so-called predators suffered from much the same ill-influence as did other forms of wildlife.

But the war effects on wildlife haven't all been unfavorable. Restoration work has continued on selected areas and increases have resulted. The 1500 deer trapped and transplanted in Texas last winter in 76 days surpassed all previous records in the country. We've had a slack period in which to look at our program and cull out the weaknesses. We've had an opportunity to plan a new start on the basis of past experience. The post-war program promises much. Fish men have recognized the danger of under-fishing and this is a long step forward which should result in more fish in the bag for fishermen of the future. Plans have been made for a comprehensive game-warden school at A. and M. College which will make possible the selection of trained personnel.

There is much opportunity for profitable investment of license receipts in wildlife management and restoration in Texas. It is just going to be more difficult than before. A bag limit of deer or quail is going to cost more to produce than in the past. Among the hunters there are 120,000 who buy licenses and perhaps 240,000 who don't. Some estimate a 30 per cent increase after the war or a total of 468,000 hunters. If the figures on the carrying capacity of the range were available they might show a similar decline in the ability of the state-range to grow deer and turkey and other game. So don't expect better hunting and fishing after the war just because you think game is getting a rest now. As is always the case there will be some local examples to the contrary. If you can find the right places there will be some A-1 hunting and fishing. This gives us individual hope for a full bag in spite of the over-all picture.

## School

★ Continued from page 17

and keener enjoyment of the sport through the better understanding of firearms and their workings would result.

Professor Damon teaches safety in a unique way. After a few days of instruction in the mechanics of firearms, he loads several of the pieces with dummy

ammunition before the class assemblies. The boy that picks up a gun and snaps it, and then finds out there is a cartridge in the barrel has a very red face. Even though it is but a replica of the real thing, he has it most forcibly brought home to him, that it might have been real. Similarly, the wily Prof. inserts dummy cartridges down in the magazines of the firearms. The student may open the action, see nothing there, then in closing the piece insert the cartridge and again be caught with one that he thought "wasn't loaded."

Anything from flintlocks to M1 Carbines comes in for complete disassembling, and examination of the working parts. To quote the Professor "we studied the history of cartridges and firearms, and it was far from dry . . . We took actions apart and put them together again, and got greasy to the elbows . . . Try filling the flashpan of an old flintlock and firing it in the classroom—at least once for each student . . . The people upstairs get worried—the smoke hangs five feet from the ceiling . . . They did everything I asked them to do, asked 7,000,000 questions, and hated to quit every day we met."

Rifle range work following the classroom study was limited due to a shortage of ammunition and arms. At that some of the students scored 90 or better in their first attempts on the targets and the class averaged 82. The local Junior Chamber of Commerce wants to take on this project, and the Civil Air Patrol Wing is arranging for guns and ammunition and a range next fall. Parents stop Professor Damon on the street and inquire as to how their sons can get into this course, so it is obvious that there is much interest attached to this form of education.

As interesting as the classes themselves, is the instructor. His title in the school is Asst. Prof. of Business Education. While we think shooting is "good business" we hardly expected this type of instruction to come from that field. To quote Prof. Damon again we see an explanation: "I'm starting my five year old out, as my father did me, which accounts for this interest in the first place."

When the study of American wildlife is universally adopted as a part of the program in our schools, I hope a part of the curriculum will be patterned after the one of Prof. Damon, and that the proper use of arms and ammunition is taught to our youth.

## Game Laws

★ *Continued from page 20*

County for the purpose of taking any of the fur bearing animals in this State.

**H.B. 380.** Repeals all local or special laws governing trapping or sale of all fur bearing animals in Nacogdoches and Denton counties. Hereafter trapping or taking of fur bearing animals in Nacogdoches and Denton counties will be

regulated by the general laws relating thereto.

**H.B. 743.** From and after the effective date of this Act and for a period of one year, it shall be unlawful to take or kill any raccoon or mink in that portion of Red River County lying East of the McCullough Ferry Road running Northwest from Clarksville through Vandalia, Vessey and Ackworth to McCullough Ferry on Red River and lying North of the old State Highway No. 5 running East from Clarksville through English and Avery to the Bowie County line.

## SALT WATER FISHING

**H.B. 211.** Provides that a non-resident commercial fisherman (being any person who is a citizen of any other State or who has not continually been a bona fide inhabitant of this State for more than twelve months, and who takes or assists in taking or catching any edible aquatic life from the tidal salt waters of this State for pay or exchange) shall buy a non-resident commercial fisherman's license costing \$200 before he shall be permitted to operate. Also, a license costing \$2500 must be bought before a non-resident commercial fishing boat may be operated. A non-resident commercial fishing boat is any boat registered in any other State or which has not been continually registered in this State for more than twelve months, or which is not owned by a person who has had a bona fide place of business in this State for more than twelve months, which boat is used for taking or assisting in taking or catching any edible aquatic life from the tidal salt waters of this State for the purpose of sale or exchange. The Commission may refuse to sell either of these licenses to the residents of any State which refuses to sell or grant equal privileges to citizens of this State. This Act sets out the coastal water where commercial fishing may be done. The penalty for violation of this Act is \$100 to \$1000 or jail imprisonment, not less than 1 month nor more than 1 year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

**H.B. 678.** Repeals Chapter 334 of the Acts of the 48th Legislature. Section 2 of the Act provides that it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation or their agent or agents to use a seine, strike net, shrimp troll, gill net or trammel net in the waters of Copano Bay at any place on the main highway Northeast of Rockport. It shall be lawful to fish in these waters with a pole and line, rod and reel, trot line or to seine for bait with a minnow seine not over 20 ft. in length. It shall also be lawful to use a bait shrimp troll of not over 10 ft. in length equipped with troll boards of not more than 18 in. in width or 36 inches in length. The penalty for violation of this Act is not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$250.00.

**H.B. 677.** Being an amendment to Sec. 3 of Art. 934a, P.C. 1925, clarifies

the definition of "place of business" by excluding public cold storage vaults, temporary receiving stations or vehicles from which no orders are taken or from which no shipments or deliveries are made other than to the place of business of the licensee in the State; fixes maximum and minimum lengths on certain salt water fish when caught for commercial purposes; provides that there shall be no possession limit on catfish caught or possessed by licensed commercial fishermen, wholesale or retail fish dealers, or wholesale truck dealers in those counties where the sale of catfish is not prohibited; permits the filleting of fish; removes size limit on cork or lead lines attached to set, strike or trammel nets in tidal waters; removes size limit on shrimp; and repeals Art. 978m, P.C. 1925.

## LAKE TEXOMA

**H.B. 355.** Provides that no person (except persons under seventeen years of age) may fish or hunt with a gun on or over Lake Texoma or its connecting lands owned by the United States government, without having the currently valid license required under this Act as follows:

Residents of Texas are required to have a resident hunting license as now provided by general law, before hunting on or over Lake Texoma, and a Lake Texoma Resident Fishing License costing \$1.10, in order to fish in said lake. Any person holding a non-resident hunting license or a non-resident fishing license issued by this State may hunt and fish in the Texas portion of Lake Texoma and surrounding, federally owned lands, without any additional license. Otherwise, residents of Oklahoma, who are licensed to fish under laws of that State, may fish in the Texas portion of Lake Texoma by purchasing a Lake Texoma Special Fishing License, costing \$1.10. Residents of any other State may fish in Lake Texoma by purchasing a Lake Texoma Non-resident Fishing License costing \$2.50. Residents of Oklahoma, who are licensed to hunt in that State may hunt only migratory waterfowl on Lake Texoma and its federally owned area in this State by purchasing a Special Lake Texoma Non-resident Hunting License costing \$2. Residents of other States may hunt only migratory waterfowl on Lake Texoma and its federally owned lands by purchasing a Lake Texoma Non-resident Hunting License, costing \$2.50. Any person hunting or fishing must have his license in possession at the time of hunting or fishing. The penalty for violation of this Act is \$10.00 to \$50.00.

## STORAGE OF GAME

**S.B. 6.** Provides that it shall hereafter be lawful for any person at any time to have in his possession or have in a public or private storage plant, refrigerator or locker any game birds (migratory or other) game animals, water fowl or

migratory water fowl lawfully taken and killed.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**H.B. 278.** Amends Section 5 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of the 48th Legislature. This is the Anti-Pollution Statute and these words are added to Section 5 "or representative of any person, firm, corporation, association, town or city" which were omitted from the original law. This law became effective on May 24th.

**H.B. 453.** Authorizes the Commission to acquire not more than 12 sections of privately owned land in Culberson and Hudspeth counties, either by gift, purchase or condemnation, and not more than 8 sections of public school lands in said counties by purchase from the school land board of Texas at \$1.00 per acre. This land is to be used for the operation of a game management unit primarily for the protection of Bighorn Mountain Sheep, and three-fourths of the expenditures under this Act are to be reimbursed to the Special Game Fund out of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

**H.B. 191.** Authorizes the Commissioners Courts through the State to pay a bounty not to exceed \$5.00 out of the general revenue of the county for killing Jaguar, Cougar, Ocelot, Jaguarondi, Bob Cat, Gray Wolf, Red Wolf, Florida Wolf, Coyote, Javelina and Rattlesnake. This Act permits the Commissioners Courts to determine what animals are predatory in their respective counties and may also determine the eligibility of persons to whom bounty may be paid.

## Hints

★ *Continued from page 27*

horizontal, reeling in as you lower tip to keep slack out of line. Then apply thumb pressure again and raise tip until almost vertical, making the rod do the job of pulling in sinker and line. Repeat until retrieve is completed.

When you hook a fish play him and land him with the same pumping motions you use to retrieve, keeping the rod tip high enough so the fish does not get a direct pull against the reel.

Follow these few simple tips and you'll not only catch more fish but you'll have more fun.

## How to Catch a Bear

We pass along to you, without recommendation, the following directions for catching a bear, received from a New Hampshire woodsman, via Conservation Officer George Proctor.

"First find the bear and the route he travels. Mix a quart of rum with a gallon of molasses and leave it on his trail. When the bear has had his fill, just go in and tie him up."

## Rim-Fires

★ *Continued from page 22*

teeth—just in case he happened to miss the first shot and wanted to follow it with a quick second or third.

We are really a bit ahead of our story, as large calibers were not brought out in the rim-fire immediately after its development. This type of load starts with the .22 BB in France by Flobert. The stubby little cartridge was used in short-ranged rifles and salon pistols in the year 1850 and furnished excellent indoor sport for the gentlemen of leisure during that period. BB caps, as they were sometimes called, contained no powder charge—just an overdose of priming compound forced the round 20 grain bullet down the barrel and a short distance beyond the muzzle. It isn't even an effective sparrow load. The .22 CB has a 29 grain conical bullet loaded in a case the same length as the BB, but it has a bit more killing power than the round bullet number. As a rat exterminator, it works very well.

In a small town in south central Texas, a group of boys armed with rifles firing this load used to invade an old barn infested with wood rats. Toppling those rascals off rafters as they tried to take cover furnished many hours of sport during the summer months. I'm glad I was a member of that group of young sharp-shooters on several occasions.

About ten years later, Smith & Wesson came out with the .22 Short in this country. It is interesting to note that when you place one of these early specimens alongside one of those manufactured 90 years later, there is very little difference in their appearance, as only slight change has taken place in this type of ammunition in the many years of its existence. You and I, along with many others, started our lead-slinging careers with these cartridges in a single shot rifle. How easy and pleasant it is to remember the first hunt in a "far-away" rabbit patch with your first real "shootin' gun" loaded with a .22 Short.

As time dodges along, the cases lengthen and powder charges increase. The .22 Long appears which has a longer case loaded with a .22 Short bullet. It seems this combination would produce the best .22 caliber performance, but it does far from that. I have fired thousands of these and I can see little use of their continued manufacture since the general adoption of that grand small bore cartridge—the .22 Long Rifle. Yes, the .22 Long Rifle is one of the most remarkable cartridges ever to be chambered in a .22 rifle or handgun. It enjoys more popularity than all other rim-fires combined and furnishes more sport and usefulness per shot than any cartridge. Machine guns have been chambered for it which permits economy as well as efficiency in training our service men.

Some folks who just don't know, think of the .22 Long Rifle as being a

toy—treat it so and somebody is sure to get hurt. These words, "Dangerous Within One Mile" printed on every .22 cartridge box should not be taken lightly. The Long Rifle's fastest bullet leaves the muzzle at 1400 F.S. and any slug of lead traveling at this speed will open up a mighty ugly wound, to say the least. Two inch groups at 100 yards are common and, in some instances, the group has been cut in half at that distance; therefore, it can be seen that this little number is no slouch when it comes to accuracy. I think the man who hasn't fired a few thousand rounds through a .22 rifle certainly has missed a lot of living.

One rim-fire that will always occupy a soft spot in my heart, is the .22 Winchester Automatic, even though I'm afraid it will become obsolete after the war. The rifle for this special cartridge was discontinued in 1936 and when these remaining rifles have seen their best days, the cartridge will cease being manufactured. But, even when these cartridges become rare collector items and the rifles become souvenirs, I shall still have memories of many happy hours spent with this little automatic resting in the crook of my arm.

Among other notable small rim-fire numbers that are falling into discard, or have already done so, are the .22 W.R.F., .22 Extra Long, .25 Long and Short, .30 Long and Short, .32 Long, Short, and Extra Long.

Rim-fire types of ammunition are knocking up dust, peeling bark from trees, punching holes in targets, and plowing into flesh across the "pond." One of the foreign number's popularity spread, not only in Europe, but reached many other countries, including the U. S. It's the old .41 Swiss. Before World War II, large quantities of these were sold throughout America; and why this was true, I do not know. There is nothing extraordinary about its 300 grain lead bullet at 1325 f.s. Long before Switzerland adopted the excellent Schmidt-Rubin, the .41 Vetterli was their military rifle, and I've been told that a Swiss soldier armed with this weapon and a piece of ventilated cheese was a dangerous customer.

As this type of ammunition becomes more common, the caliber begins to increase. During the Civil War, .38 caliber up to .58 caliber bullets began to whine and buzz through the air. Through the effort of Oliver Winchester and his engineering genius, Tyler Henry, the first successful large caliber rim-fire came in the form of the .44 Flat—the answer to metallic cartridge arms. Of course, many different companies turned out rifles for the cartridge, but Winchester and Henry received the credit for making it one of the most popular numbers ever to be produced. Winchester alone manufactured over 170,000 model 1866 rifles for it, and even though that model rifle was discontinued in 1873, many of them are still in excellent working order, and handle very nicely.

Incidentally, I know many shooters

of .22's have wondered sometime or other what in the samhill that "H" stands for on the base of all Winchester rim-fires. Tyler Henry not only contributed greatly to the success of the Winchester, but he also became a personal friend. As a tribute to him, Oliver Winchester let it be known by adopting the trade-mark "H." The name "Henry" has been perpetuated in that manner ever since the first .44 rim-fire.

Today you can't talk very long to many of the colorful old-timers about their adventurous youth until statements such as these will be made: "Me 'n Sam crawled up to the top of a little knoll, a-scootin' our Winchesters along on the ground ahead of us. Yep, we knew then that we had caught up with that old she-bar and her lit'l'ns. I wormed up a little closer, parted the high weeds and grass with my gun barrel. There in a shinoak thicket I seen the old b--- and cubs a-tearin' into a side of me and the old woman's meat supply.

"By gol,' I whispered to Sam, 'Let's clean out the whole bunch.'

"He rested his gun across an ol' post-oak stump and eased the hammer back. I dug my elbows in the dirt to steady my gun—reckon I could a-been a little shaky. We opened up on 'em. I was shootin' at the old 'n, and Sam at the cubs."

The story ends something like this: "Well, me 'n Sam got all three of 'em and never emptied our guns either."

Now if we could have returned to the scene of this bear slaughter and looked around in the grass, we would have found several empty rim-fire cases measuring approximately 44/100 of an inch in diameter. Yes, a trifle light for bear, but it comes to me from men who killed bears with that cartridge.

Or, I have heard this, originating in the vicinity of the Texas-Mexico border area.

"I jerked my ol' Spencer (another famous rim-fire) out of the scabbard and emptied three saddles before they (cattle rustlers) could get out of range." The rifle in action here probably was a .56-60 or a .56-56 rim-fire.

Shortly before my grandfather passed away—a man not inclined to strain the truth—he told me of having Indians chase him for nine miles, and having Spencer bullets whiz by his head. Occasionally, one of the huge slugs would rip bark off of a tree as he whipped and weaved through heavy timber. Various types of rim-fire cases could be found around Indian camps in this part of the country (Kerr, Real, and Bandera Counties)—particularly near the historic Frio Waterhole where Indians used to camp before my grandfather built his first log house there. It seems that the redskins during his day were armed mostly with carbines and rifles instead of the customary bow and arrow. I don't mean to say that the latter were entirely absent, as I have in possession an arrow which killed an old grey mare "that ain't what she used to be" in the horse lot located now on my father's ranch.

One of my grandfathers still lives and among his big moments are those spent telling of his active hunting days—the days when rim-fires were doing their job. Of course, when he corners one of "them city fellers" he might have a tendency to "put a little fur" on some of those stories; but, I have gotten information from him and other old timers that is much in its original form—in information that can be taken without "grains of salt."

Having been rather closely associated with many of these grand old hunters of yesterday, I can usually tell where a tale starts getting "tall" by a "give-away" grin—an expression I am sure appears without their consent. Much of this material has come to me at different times covering a long period of years. I have gotten more good stuff by just happening by and sitting down among these interesting characters; or maybe I found an individual comfortably propped up on his porch reminiscing of days gone by, smoking his pipe, or enjoying a "cud" of his favorite "eatin'" tobacco. A couple of puffs on his cob, or a squirt of amber liquid half way to the front gate usually sets the mood for a story about a thrilling experience "back in them good old days."

As readers will note, I have not attempted a review of all the hundreds of rim-fires of the past. I have only tried to touch on those that I have had occasion to be familiar with and at the same time hold some interest for persons who have not had the opportunity to "play" with guns. I have verified many statements made concerning accuracy and effectiveness on game with these old rim-fire loads by experiments of my own. True enough, they are not a power-house, but the weight of those slugs "paid their way in."

With the development of the precision performing center-fire, which opens a field of endless experimentation, discussion and writing, the rim-fire fades into the background. Their popularity fell, but I, for one, am glad it didn't break. It still exists very prominently in the small bore shooter's world.

\*The Winchester Model 1866, introduced in 1865 and discontinued in 1876, was chambered for the .44 rim-fire only.

## Twenty Million Fewer Ducks

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, estimates the 1945 U. S. waterfowl population at 105,000,000 as a result of the latest annual inventory, based on tabulations of personnel of many Federal and State wildlife agencies. This is approximately 20,000,000 less than the 1944 figure.

The apparent decrease may not be exact, Dr. Gabrielson points out, as the population may have been over-estimated in 1944; also many ducks which normally winter in the United States may, due to freakish weather conditions,

have wintered this year in Mexico, Cuba, Hispanolo or even South America.

Losses in population are reported greatest in the Atlantic and Mississippi regions, while increases are recorded for both the Central and Pacific flyways.

"In the flyways there is evidence that we must watch the status of some species such as the Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck and Canada Goose," Dr. Gabrielson declared. "A few species, among them the Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal and the Snow and White-fronted Geese, registered gains throughout the country."

## Duck Increase Noted

More ducks nested this spring in northern Iowa than for many years past, according to the Iowa State Conservation Commission, which credits the increase to the augmented continental duck supply and ideal water conditions. Blue winged teal are said to be the most numerous of the nesting ducks, with mallard nests also abundant. Other nesting species are given as redhead, ruddy, pintail, shoveller, black and wood ducks.

## No Justice

This story comes from Conservation Officer George Proctor of Wilton, New Hampshire. A hunter in his area last fall trailed a big buck 12 miles. Just as he came within range of his quarry, a man stepped out of his home and shot the buck, which staggered right into the homeowner's back yard and dropped. The hunter shook his head sadly and called it a day.

## Recognition for Bass

Maryland House Bill 835 sponsored by the League of Maryland Sportsmen, designed to take the black bass permanently off the list of commercial fishes, has passed both houses of the State legislature, according to the Rally Sheet, the League's official publication. This brings the total of states in which the black bass is protected against commercialism to 46. Only Georgia and Tennessee now permit the sale of black bass for food.

## Fawns Not Lonesome

It's dollars to doughnuts that the lonesome-looking little fawn found beside the path or roadway is NOT an orphan. Its mother probably is nearby, waiting for you to clear out so she can care for her offspring.

All does leave their young alone much of the time, returning unerringly to the spot later on. Every year hundreds of fawns are picked up by kind-hearted, but misguided persons, usually with fatal results to the objects of their solicitude.

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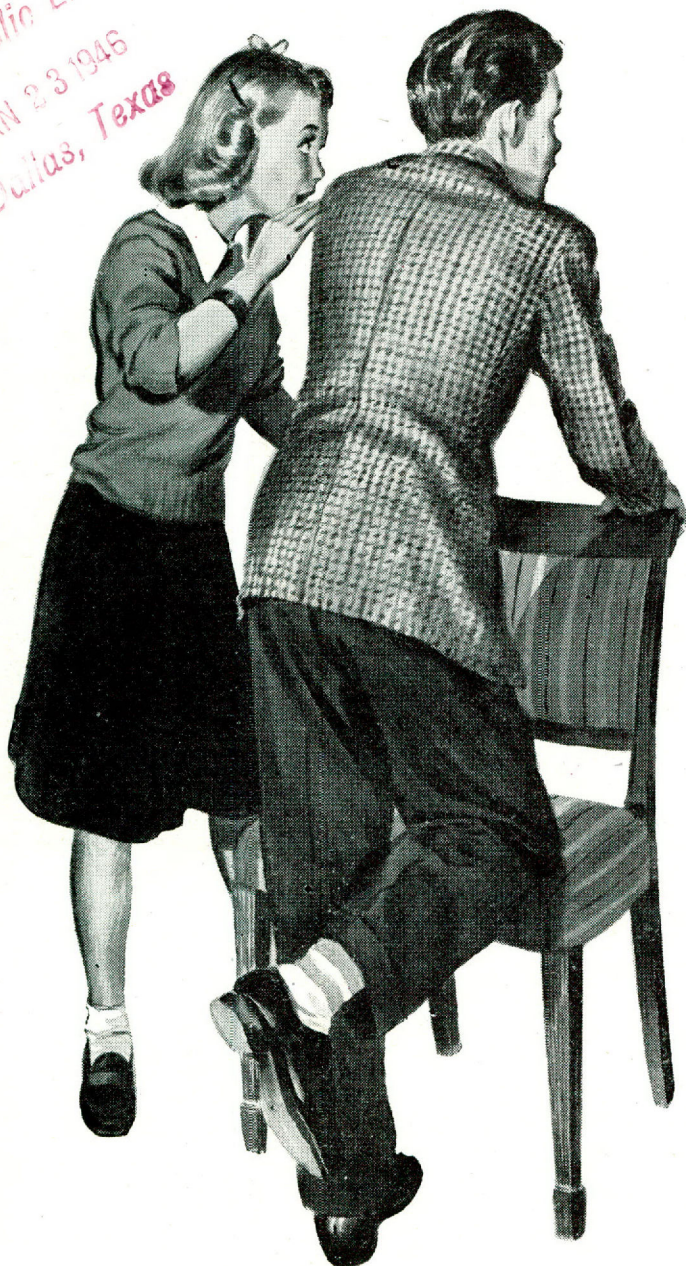
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"Oh, she's OLD!  
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**At twenty,** thirty seems ancient.

At thirty, forty is distant middle age.

At forty, well, it'll be a long time before you're fifty.

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