

Texas

# AND GAME & FISH

August 1953

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Texas Game & Fish Magazine





Staff photo by Clyde Graham

**A GREAT HORNED OWLET** captured on the Wood Ranch near Spur, Texas. The full grown *Bubo virginianus* or great horned owl reaches two feet in length. He is brownish gray in color and is the only large owl with "horns." He builds a large, substantial

nest in tree-tops. The Great Horned owl is a predator and is sometimes referred to as "The Tiger of the Air." He is not now protected by law; however, Commission wildlife biologists feel that limited protection might well be instituted.

# Texas Game and Fish

★

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August, 1953

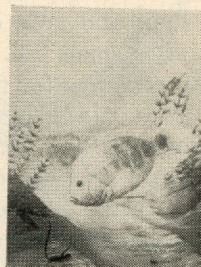
Vol. XI, No. 9

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### The Cover

The Rio Grande "perch," a member of the Cichlid family of tropical fish, is unusual among our native fishes in that both the male and female guard the nest and babies. For this reason the survival rate is high, though the number of eggs spawned is relatively small. This month's painting is by Sidney A. Wooldrige. The story is on page 8.



She asked the QUESTIONS . . .

Martha West was able to go fishing on the Coast far too seldom to suit her, for she's statistician of the Wildlife Restoration Division at the Commission's Austin office. About all she knew about coastal fishing was that she liked it. She found that her fresh-water angling tricks weren't much help in salt water.

So . . . Martha called on Pat Pew, fellow Commission employe at the Marine Laboratory in Rockport. Pat wasn't sure she could be of much help, but she volunteered to make a round among the coastal fishing experts in her area to answer Martha's questions.

We thought our readers might like to have the answers, too. So here they are. Coastal Game Warden Earl Sloan got into the act when Pat persuaded him to pose for the accompanying series of surf-casting action shots.

# Surf Fishing Tips

By PAT PEW and MARTHA WEST

. . . she got the ANSWERS from the experts



Is there some way to locate likely places for certain types of fish—by looking at the shoreline, watching the surf break, etc. particularly when you have never fished that area before?

Look for shallows, bars, channels, and deep cuts. The use of polaroid sun glasses and noticing irregularities in the wave action will help in spotting these places where fish feed. They also feed near rocks, jetties, and pilings. Watch for excited schools of small fish breaking the surface. Wherever there are small bait fish, there are large fish feeding. Watch for terns and gulls circling and diving after small fish.

An easy way for the novice to find the best place to fish is to notice where and at what tides the local fishermen fish, or to ask old timers (who usually like to tell about how and where the big ones are caught).

Can you suggest the best type of

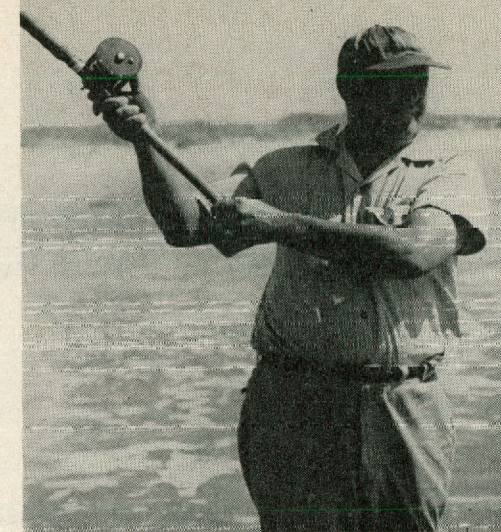
surf casting equipment for the novice fisherman? What is the best all around test line to use? Should the length of the rod be in proportion to a person's height? What type reel would you suggest?

There is no special type of equipment for novices. Buy good equipment to start with; you don't want a line or a rod to break just as you are hauling in your first big one.

**The rod:** Choice of a rod is determined by stature and strength of the user. A six-foot 250 pounder might use a 30 inch butt with a 9 foot tip; a short person would use a 26 inch butt with a 6 or 6½ foot tip. It is wise to try out various sizes of rods borrowed from friends before buying one.

**The reel:** A free-spooling surf reel with a star drag and a 200 yard capacity is best for surf fishing. If you use your fresh-water reel the salt water may ruin it.

**The line:** A good quality nine-



Warden Sloan prepares to cast, first picture, with rod tip elevated slightly and thumb firmly held against flange of the reel spool. Body and arms are accelerated backward in pictures two and three . . . then stopped.

thread cuttyhunk (linen) twenty-seven pound test or its equivalent in a nylon line is adequate for Texas surf fishing. It will take a 50 pound pull if the rod is held correctly. Most people prefer nylon because it spools on more easily due to its smaller diameter, and does not have to be dried to prevent mold or rotting.

**The tackle box should contain:** Several yards of piano wire or plastic coated metal leaders, 8 swivels, 8 snaps, a metal ring or fish-finder, 6 pyramid sinkers, an assortment of hooks, small wire cutter, knife.

**Other equipment:** Butt rest, knitted thumb stall, bait box or can.

**How should you rig your terminal tackle for best results? Should it be rigged differently for live and dead bait?**

The simplest rig for the beginner consists of a hook on a leader about 12" long, and a pyramid sinker on another leader 12" long, both attached by swivels to a ring or "fish finder" which is in turn attached by a swivel to the line. The sinker will go to the bottom and the swivels will allow the leader with the bait on it to be swished back and forth through the water by the wave action. The rig is the same for live and dead bait.

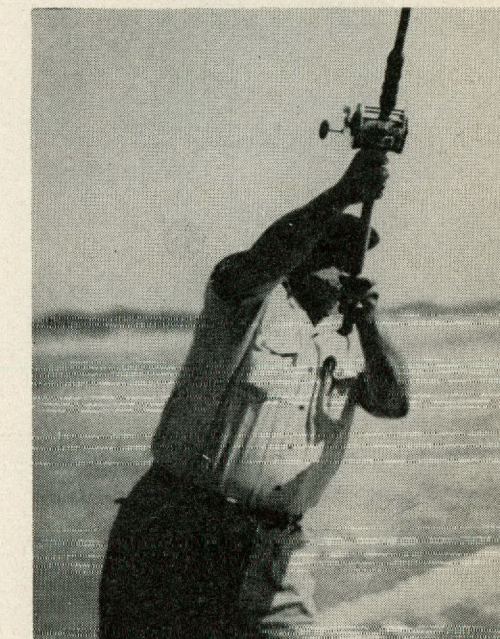
**Do you suggest using a cork—if so, under what circumstances?**

A cork is never used in surf fishing because the waves would take it inshore. Heavy sinkers are needed for distance.

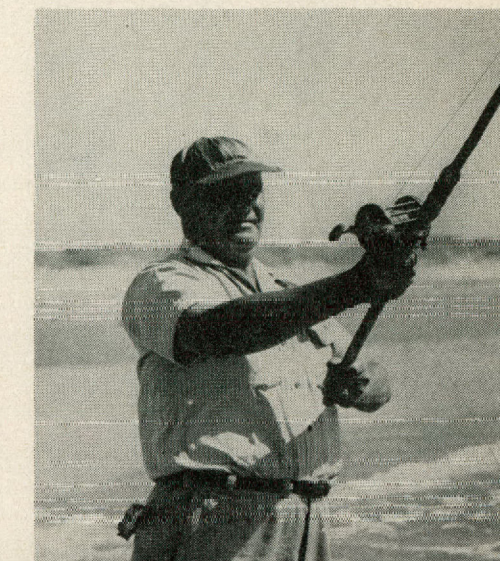
**Can you suggest the best method for taking care of your bait when wading waist deep in the surf—or do you wade when you surf cast—we do. Back to the bait, how can you keep live bait best—and also dead bait?**

One usually stands on the beach when surf casting. Dead bait may be carried in a box or can with ice if it is to be kept for a long period, or between layers of wet sea weed for

■ Concluded on page 22



With arms and rod tip stretched high, the forward cast is made, above and lower left. Hands are well apart. The right arm does most of the work while the left hand pivots the bottom of the handle. Rod tip is kept pointed at the sailing bait until cast is completed, below right. Thumb pressure is held against the spool flange (not the line!) at all times.



*Just How*

# DANGEROUS

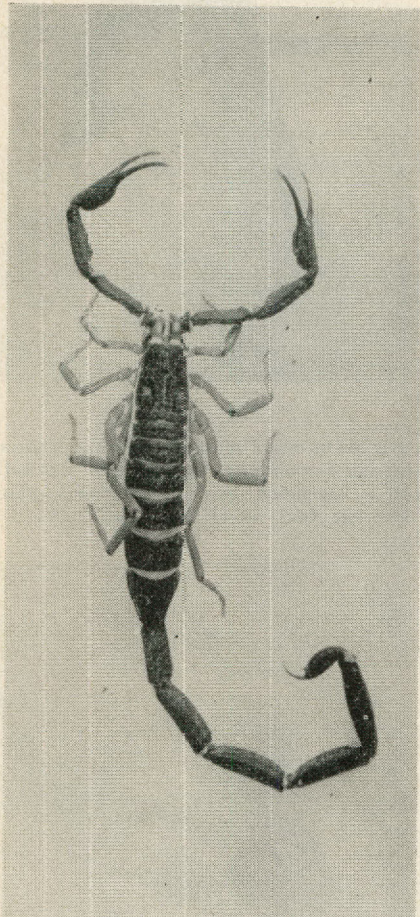
*Are They?*

By OSMOND P. BRELAND



*Western Sportsman*

## Tarantula



*Soil and Water Magazine*

## Scorpion

EVERYONE knows that rattlesnakes, copperheads, and water moccasins are dangerous, and that a person might die if he is bitten by a large one. But what about spiders, scorpions, lizards and centipedes? Every hunter, fisherman and camper in the western states is likely to have contact with one or more of these creatures at one time or another. Some people say they are dangerous while others say that they are not.

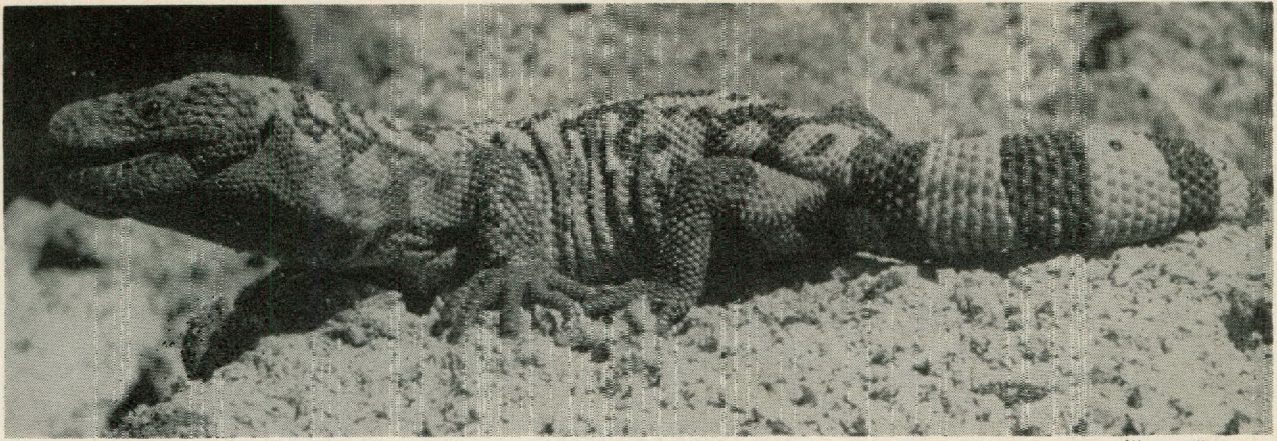
It is a good thing that some people are crazier than others because this fact has helped us learn the truth about these matters. Some scientists have actually allowed spiders and scorpions to bite or sting them in order to see how much they would be affected. In some cases these fools—er—these brave men ended up in a hospital, but they did find out what they wanted to know. Another thing that has helped is that doctors and hospitals have kept records of their patients who have been bitten or stung.

The big hairy tarantulas will certainly take the prize for ugliness among spiders. Many people are intensely afraid of them. I would certainly not care to have my bed crawling with tarantulas, even though they are really not dangerous. People who have been bitten say that one's bite

is no more painful than the sting of a bee or wasp.

Black widows are medium-sized spiders with a black body about as large as a small grape. Each one has a red or orange-colored spot on its tummy that is shaped like an hour-glass. They are found under rocks, in piles of wood, in water and light meters, in outhouses, and in other protected places. Results of a black widow spider's bite are very painful. People who were bitten have been known to die if they were not treated. A man in Arkansas who had no trouble with tarantula bites, once let a black widow spider bite him. After this he was more careful of the kind of widow he played with. This bite put him in the hospital for several days!

I could probably find a dozen black widow spiders in the boxes and other junk in my garage. But this does not disturb me particularly because these spiders do not go out of their way looking for trouble. Most bites occur when a person accidentally bumps into a black widow's web which is built to catch insects. When the web shakes, the spider probably thinks it has caught a meal, rushes out and bites. A favorite spot for a black widow web is under the seat of an outdoor "Johnny." A person would be wise to examine such spots care-



*Western Sportsman*

## Gila Monster

Reprinted from  
WESTERN SPORTSMAN  
Magazine

### Actively Harmless!

fully before taking advantage of the facilities.

One trouble with the black widow is that the bite itself is not painful. An hour or so later, when one's muscles start paining intensely, he may not even know that he has been bitten. Fortunately, doctors know a good treatment for black widow spider bites. If you are bitten by one of these spiders, go to a doctor at once.

**T**HE bite of a scorpion is not venomous, but there is a stinger in the tail that does pack a poisonous wallop. Most scorpions in the United States are not normally dangerous to human life, but there are some in southern Arizona that have been known to kill young children. These Arizona scorpions are related to the infamous Durango scorpion, an even more dangerous species found in Mexico.

Although a majority of scorpions found in the western states are not normally dangerous, even they might kill a person who is weakened or especially sensitive to the venom. This might be expected because everybody knows that some people are more affected by even a bee sting than others. In 1945 a man in central Texas was reported to have been killed by a scorpion sting. This is the only case

of death I know of, outside of southern Arizona. This man was probably more susceptible to the poison than most people.

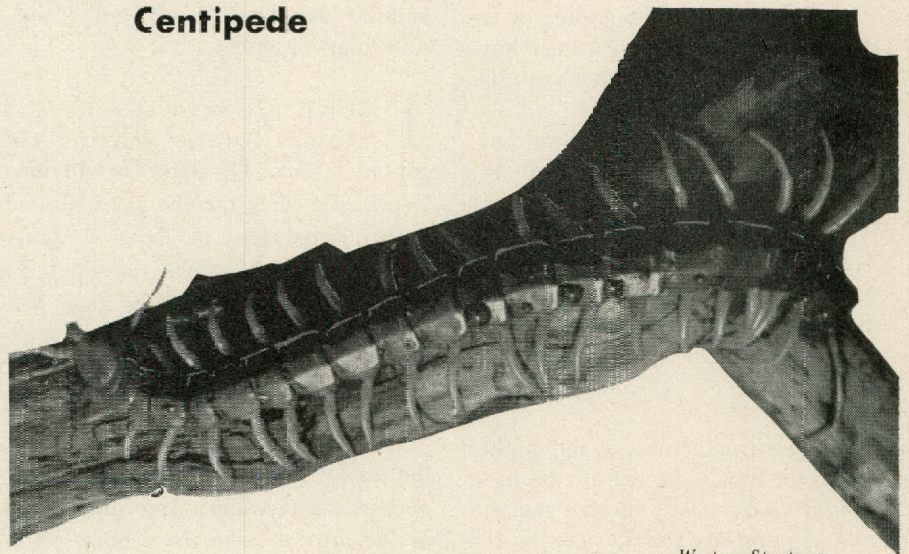
A short time ago I was examining some exhibits of animals and insects in a well known state park. Occupying a prominent spot near the center of one wall was a large specimen of the well known vinegarroon, a creature also called a whipscorpion. Under the specimen was written in large letters: DEADLY POISONOUS! Vinegarroons are certainly ugly-looking customers, but actually they are not poisonous at all. This type of misinformation from those who should know better is one reason that there are so many misconceptions about creatures of this kind. A whipscorpion can give one a good nip with its large front pincers, but the tail with which

it is supposed to sting, is absolutely harmless.

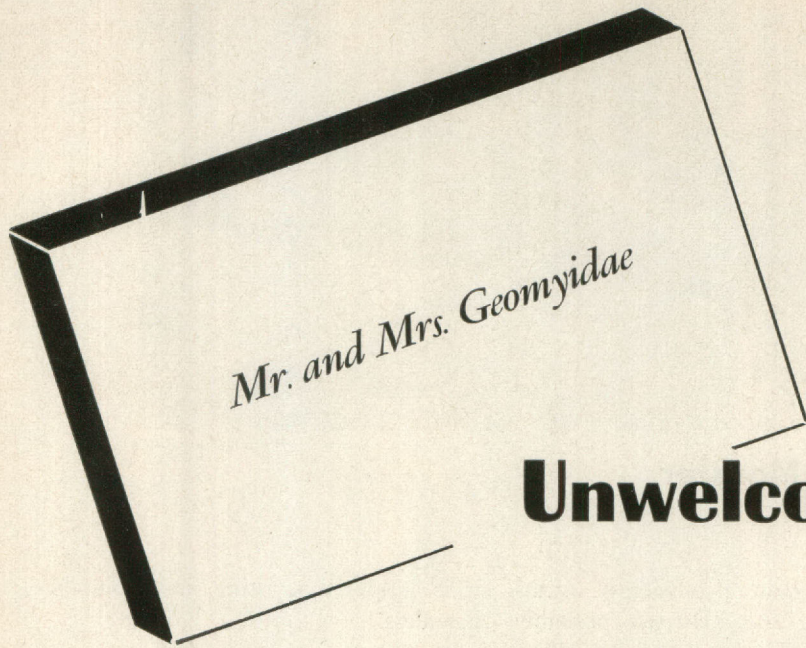
Centipedes are long and flat and have many legs. Some of the larger ones are 8 inches long. They can run rapidly. Many years ago when I first moved into the Southwest, an acquaintance of mine warned me of the dangers of centipedes. He said that a big blue fellow with yellow legs and an orange-colored head was especially dangerous. He told me that he once knew a man who had been bitten on the hand by one of these centipedes, and that his hand and arm had swelled to several times their normal size. Later, according to his story, the flesh dropped from the arm and hand and the man could not use them for the remainder of his life. This person also told me that he knew of several

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## Centipede



*Western Sportsman*



**The pocket gopher  
can be a troublesome pest**

## **Unwelcome Neighbors**

By C. O. BAILEY

**A**N EVER-PRESENT and destructive pest to Texans in general and gardeners in particular—one neither appealing nor romantic—is the family Geomyidae, or more understandably the common pocket gopher or “salamander.”

The word “gophe-” is a corruption of the French “gauthre,” but by any name the little animals are a constant irritant and source of loss to the human inhabitants of the lands where they abide. Like the earthworm they render service to humanity by stirring and aerating the soil; however, the average land owner would prefer to do his own aerating with spade or plow and dispense entirely with all help from the gophers.

The amount of damage done to fields, forests, gardens, lawns, and orchards by the pocket gopher is incalculable. Collectively gophers have been called “the gardener’s public enemy No. 1.”

Their depredations have been confined mostly to states west of the Mississippi, but this fact does not salve the feelings of the gardener who finds a treasured hyacinth drooped over from having its roots chewed off, or sees what looks like a miniature volcanic crater in the middle of a cherished lawn.

**T**HE destructiveness of the gopher causes him to be one of the most despised and hated animals extant. Some regions of Texas, such as the

Live Oak peninsula in Aransas County where conditions are ideal for gopher propagation, are literally riddled with shallow burrows and unsightly mounds of raw earth piled up by Mr. and Mrs. Geomyidae.

The eradication of the gopher is difficult because of widespread infestation, rapid propagation, and their mode of living. Their natural enemies are few when they are underground since only a snake or weasel can enter or navigate the two-inch tunnel in which the gopher lives. Above the ground their natural enemies include members of the badger family, owls, and hawks. Their tunnels may be found on vacant lots, or other open space if the proper type of loose friable soil is available. Here they will settle down, raise large families, and be completely disdainful of surrounding humanity.

**T**HERE are several different schemes for decimating the gopher family. The latest bright idea I’ve heard of is for the poor abused human inhabitant to shove a chunk of overripe fish down the gopher’s front door. The idea being that Mr. and Mrs. Gopher, after one good sniff, will depart hurriedly for new pastures. ‘Tain’t so.

We tried it and all we got out of the deal was ants. Mr. Gopher merely pushed the repellent aside and called in the ants to take over. Soon there

was no fish, but the gophers were still there.

Another idea which went sour after trial was our attempt to drown them with a garden hose. In our sandy soil, absorption and rapid drainage apparently took care of the flow from our garden hose, so Mr. Gopher was perfectly safe. We ran a hose full blast for twelve hours down one tunnel and not even a damp spot was left. The only result of our effort was lost time, trouble, and water. It is possible that the gopher family residing in that particular hole may have enjoyed a refreshing bath, but they certainly did not drown as we found out later.

Another scheme we think very little of is to connect a garden hose to the exhaust pipe of a running gasoline engine and asphyxiate the gopher with carbon monoxide gas. Frankly this seems rather an expensive, if satisfying, method of deleting unwanted animals, even gophers. It also involves the problem of getting the old jalopy close enough to do some good.

A far better method of gassing gophers, and that which seems to be the best overall system of control, is to obtain, or make, some small balls of some absorbent material such as gauze, soak the balls in bi-sulphide of carbon, and roll them into the burrows. If done carefully and thoroughly this method will rid a treated area of gophers. However,

● Concluded on page 29

# ANDY

and his

# Disabled

Vets Go

# FISHING



Andy Anderson, right, has invented special fishing gadgets for "his" disabled vets. Here he equips John B. Haynes, left, who last year was tarpon champ, and Carl Wilkeson. Both are legless and have only one arm. With them are boat-owner John D. Jones, Patricia Meadows, and Charles R. Cole.

Energetic Andy Anderson, Houston Press outdoor editor, is a busy man in many fields. But once each year, he takes time out to throw one of the biggest fishing parties of all. His guests are disabled war veterans from all over the South.

This year, 347 vets responded to the invitation to try their luck at Freeport. Many used special gadgets to handle the heavy salt-water tackle

—gadgets Andy has invented during his tours of veterans hospitals all over the nation to give fishing instructions. Boats, \$2,000,000 worth of them, were furnished by generous camp operators and private owners.

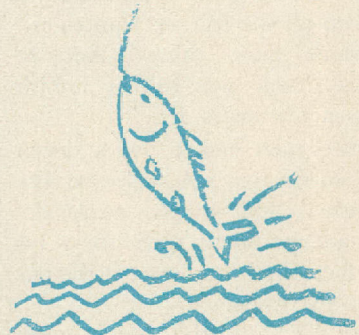
A snappy Gulf wind kicked up a rough sea for this year's trip, and many of the vets found the going mighty rough to and from the snapper banks or while trolling in clear water

far beyond a muddy surf. Pills to discourage seasickness were more popular than food and refreshments.

Still, few went home empty-handed. The vaunted kingfish were running, and they went a long way in making up a catch of over three hundred fish.

There was no rest for Andy, himself a veteran of wartime duty, on his "day off." Preparing passenger lists for the 59 boats kept him up past midnight, and he was first up for the pre-dawn start. But his veterans had fun and caught fish, so Andy had fun, too.

*Houston Press photos by Tony Triolo*



The vets caught plenty of fish, despite an uncooperative Gulf. Owner Dick Le May volunteered this boat for the party.



# Cichlid

of the

## Rio Grande

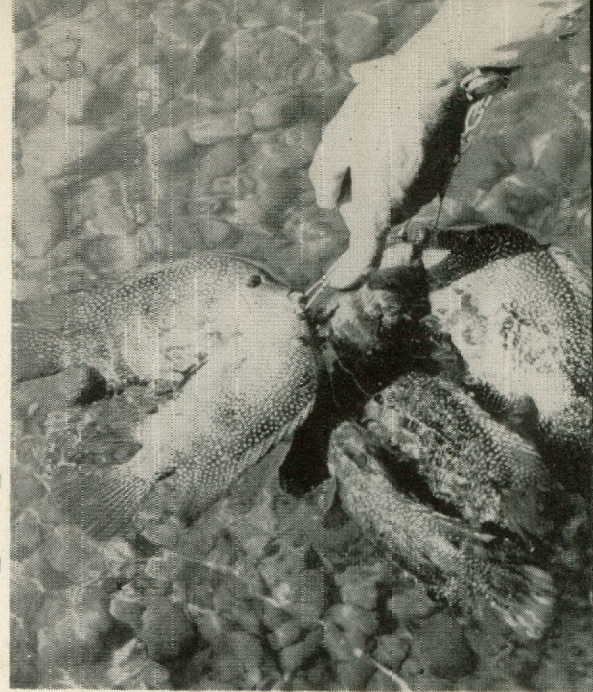


Photo by Hart Still

### The Story of This Month's Cover Subject

“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 the familiar argumentative twinkle which usually came 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.”

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.

“Those fish,” said the “bug hunter” slowly. “It’s true that many people have 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 sick-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,” the biologist continued. “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?”

The Rio Grande ‘Perch’ is one



"Well, I guess some such statement was made," laughed the biologist. "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. Or, 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 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. "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 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 mouth-breeder, 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."

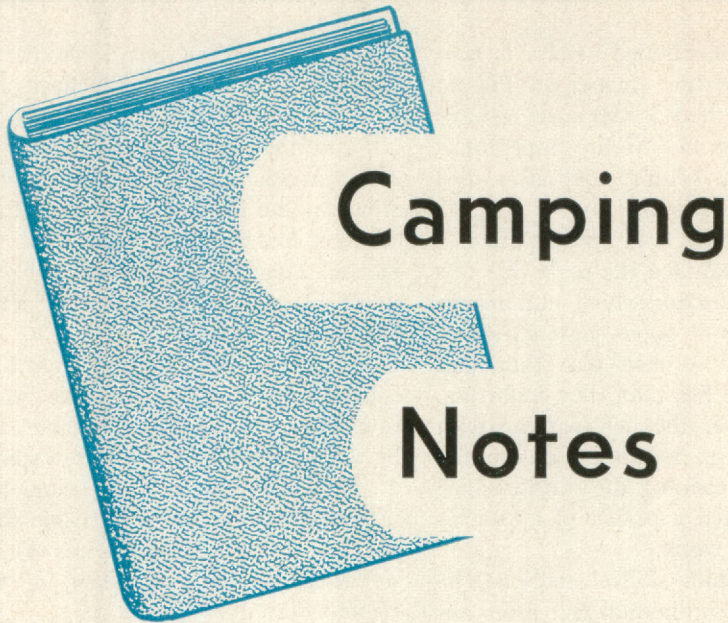
"You mentioned that many of the species are small. Some of our sunfishes are small, too, like the pigmy sunfish, the pumpkinseed, and the orange spotted sunfish. I think they are extra bright colored. Is that true with the cichlids?"

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

"Since the cichlids are mainly warm

• Concluded on page 29

## of Texas' Most Fascinating Fish



# Camping Notes

## Last of a series about camping equipment for outdoors Texas

Now, we've reached the point of making out a list for lightweight camping and backpacking in the Southwest. Lists are practically essential to remind me to take along what I need on a certain trip. Rather than have to sit down and make out a list for each trip, I've found it best to have a complete list to take care of most any trip. Then I just refer to it and assemble the gear needed for the particular trip in mind.

Two lists are needed; one for a day trip and one for over-night or longer trips. The day list should take care of whatever is needed during the course of the day with some emergency provision should the hiker become lost or not be able to get back to camp by night. The equipment for the overnight or longer trip remains about the same whether for 24 hours or two weeks. Only the expendable provisions and supplies taken need to be varied to fit the time.

The following list starts out with the day list, which contains nearly all emergency equipment. It is followed by the overnight list, which is equipment needed in addition to the day list. These lists are full—take only

what you need. Then, if there is something you know you will need that is not on the list, add that item to your list.

Points to consider in making up a list for a particular locale are:

**1. Climatic conditions** likely to be encountered—sweltering heat to cold; wet to dry.

**2. Type of terrain**—rocks, sand, soil?; forest, brush, scattered trees, grass plains, arid breaks?

**3. Insects**—mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, biting flies, ants? Netting and repellent may be needed and a wire coated with repellent for hanging food bags or pack.

**4. Availability of water**—pure water close to campsite or does it have to be carried a distance? Swimming hole or sponge bath? Water bag or canvas bucket and plastic wash basin may be needed.

All said and done, you can go nuts trying to specialize for each given or possible situation and stay within a light pack limit. Try to compromise on a happy medium for the average situation you know you will encounter, then use your ingenuity and experience to meet the variations with

the minimum basic equipment at hand. The following lists should fill the bill for this type equipment in the Southwest.

### Texas and Southwest Backpacking List

#### DAY LIST:

**On Person**—Clothing to suit climate, plus:

Bandana

Binoculars (or monocular)—not necessary but worth their weight in convenience and pleasure, especially in open or rough country. Use short neck strap.

Marble or other waterproof match safe filled with matches and thick rich pine stick. Save for emergency. Carry book or small box matches for smoking or other use.

Watch

Camper's pocket knife

Small pocket first aid kit (for list of contents see below\*)

Wallet with licenses needed and valuables

Small packet of toilet paper

Large shirt pocket size plastic envelope containing:

Map of area (folded accordion style)

A few 4" x 6" index cards

Small plastic protractor, 6" plastic rule—for map plotting

Pencil stub

Smokes, if used—pipe safest fire-hazard wise, but be careful where you knock out hot ashes. It's best to let them cool. Break all matches before throwing away.

**On webb pistol belt or other wide belt:**

Army canteen

Cartridge pouch or other hobby gear

Sheath knife (4½" thin blade)

Compass (lensatic) in small pouch

**In small rucksack or "all pockets" jacket,** depending on climate and how much of the following is needed for the day:

Lunch

Poncho—if possibility of rain *plus*

leg protectors if rain looks certain.

Sweater, extra shirt or other item of clothing which weather prospects and your activity will prove useful.

Extra ammo or other hobby gear wanted

Bandana

Insect dope, if needed

Flashlight—Penlite is lightest practical for emergency use. Standard 2-cell most efficient for amount and duration of light vs. weight.

Items listed under *On Person* not used frequently can be carried in rucksack or jacket provided you hang on to it in an emergency.

\***First Aid Kit** in Sharpe & Dohme sucret tin or other similar box:

6 assorted bandaids, merthiolate  
Very small bottle of 3½% iodine  
New single-edge razor blade in wrapper

Stout woven cord for tourniquet  
Two 2" compress bandages in sterile wrappers

Small fold of adhesive tape  
Needle on short thread  
Small tweezers—for splinters, cactus spines, etc.

A few aspirin tablets  
Small tube of Burntore or Zinc Ointment

Seal tin all around lid with ¼" adhesive tape.

The above is a day pack list. A small rucksack is all that is necessary for this type packing. For longer trips I prefer a large frame rucksack which is more comfortable than ordinary packsacks—cooler and distributes weight better. Packboards sound good, but I haven't had any packing experience with them. Both can be "cinched in" to carry small day packs, although they would be bulkier because of frame than a small pack designed for day use.

### LIST FOR OVERNIGHT AND LONGER TRIPS:

All the items listed in day pack list, plus the following items in a large frame rucksack or other pack:

Blanket or light down bag, depending on season and climate

Air or other mattress, if desired  
Ground sheet (36" x 72" plastic) if you don't use poncho or bug-

● *Continued on next page*

# Light Back Pack List Recommended by the Author

USE	ITEM	WEIGHT		
		Lbs.	Ozs.	
<b>SHELTER</b>	Poncho—C & T 66" x 90" Vynlite coated nylon...	1	10	
<b>BEDDING</b>	Blanket for 60 degree F. and above or down sleeping bag for 70 F. and below—C & T Atomwate or Mountain Top bags 2 lbs. 12 ozs. to.....	4	8	
	Browse Bag or Air Mattress—C & T Slumber-Lite 48" with detachable pillow.....	2	6	
	(Use poncho for ground sheet--bed tarp)	8	8	
<b>CLOTHING</b>	Clothes worn <b>plus:</b> Change of underwear and socks in pack.....		12	
	Cotton windbreaker jacket and/or sweater or sweat-shirt.....	1	4	
	2 bandanas.....		2	
		2	2	
<b>COOKING</b>	Skillet.....	} Boy Scout Cook Kit fine	2	
	Cup.....			
	Tin plate.....			
	Fork and spoon (plus knife).....			
	Pot (2 handy for dehydrated foods)			
	Small can opener, salt and pepper shaker with caps.....			
	Canteen (Army stainless steel with cup best).....			1
Soap, small dish towel, piece of steel wool, cotton gloves for hot pad.....		8		
Food bags, friction top tin(s), egg container, etc...		8		
		4	4	
<b>MISCL. TOOLS</b>	Knife—pocket camper's or stock knife.....		2	
	Sheath Knife, 3½" to 5" blade.....		6	
	Hatchet.....	1	6	
	Repair Kit—Sharpening stone and 6" Mill file, cord, housewife, buttons, safety pins, small pliers, extra shoe laces.....		12	
	Lensatic Compass, 4" x 6" file cards, pencil stub, map, etc.....		4	
	Match safe, filled.....		2	
	Shovel, small (make own of aluminum or use flower pot type).....		6	
	15 ft. to 30 ft. of parachute cord.....		3	
	Flashlight, 2 cell (plus extra batteries and bulb?)...		12	
	First aid kit (make own).....		2	
	Toilet paper.....		1	
	Toilet kit—Small towel, tooth brush and paste, comb, etc.....		6	
			4	14
	<b>PACK</b>	C & T large frame pack (all above will go in pack)...	3	4
		<b>Total weight.....</b>	23	0
<b>PLUS FOOD</b>	2—man Bernard Kamp-Pack (6 meals).....	5		
	4—man Bernard Kamp-Pack (12 meals).....	9		
	—or— work up your own grub list.			

All the items listed above can be "back packed." The list weighs only 23 pounds without food and the addition of 12 meals adds just 9 pounds—yet it contains, shelter, bedding, change of clothing, cooking equipment, and all the necessities of camp life.

proof tent for this.

Tarp tent or light, bug-proof tent if you feel weather is such that poncho will not serve for shelter.

Mosquito netting—if needed

Cook Kit (See 1\* below for list)

Stove—small Primus 71-L or other light stove if camping during wet spell or in Park, Forest or other place where there are camp fire restrictions. Carry fuel bottle (aluminum) for stove on long trip or when needed.

Repair Kit (See 2\* below for list)

Gun Cleaning Kit (See 3\* below) if needed

One change of underwear

One or two changes of socks—nothing more than necessary

Change of shirt and pants—only if feel this is absolutely necessary. Experience proves it hardly ever is.

Silk or nylon neckerchief (at least 24" x 24") for use as ear protection, sleeping cap in cool weather (a necessity for bald-heads).

Cotton work gloves—double for hot-pan pad. Carry wool ones instead for cold weather.

Toilet Kit—keep to minimum.

Small towel, cake of soap (Lava good from dishes to baths), tooth brush and smallest tube of tooth paste practical, comb or small brush, small steel mirror, shaving gear if wanted. Roll in towel and fasten with rubber bands with loose stuff in small cloth bag.

Axe—if needed. A small hatchet has served my needs. In rocky country, dead fire wood can be broken over rocks. I'd hate to get along without a small hatchet, though.

Small shovel—This is found very useful for digging trench fires, "cat-style" latrine, preparing bed ground, ditching tent, burying trash, etc. Had to make my own out of aluminum to get it light enough (6 oz.). For "across the counter" a small, strong garden hand spade should work well. I've heard of small trowels being used, too.

Fire irons—2 to 4—flat strap irons about 10 or 12 inches long (you can cut these from old steel

wheel windmill arms) are fine for pot holders and broiling over a trench fire, when laid as a grill across the trench. These are heavy and not necessary, though. Plan to experiment with some dural angle stock—then convenience may overcome weight factor. As is, usually carry these for weekend jaunt. Trench fires are ideal for prairie and sandy loam country—they get fire out of wind, are economical with wood, greatly help avoid grass fire danger, can be quenched with dish water and smothered by filling hole with the dirt taken out. Tradition has it dig the shallow end to windward for draft; however, in our windy country I haven't found this very important. The most important thing to avoid smoke in your eyes is to cook "across" the wind—not have it in your face or to your back.

Collapsible canvas bucket or waterbag—if needed. Desirable to necessary in most semi-arid to arid regions.

Canvas or Plastic wash basin—handy, but hardly necessary except for group camping.

Toilet paper—plenty.

Extra flashlight batteries and bulb—two-cell standard hand light most efficient for weight; three-cell headlight-lantern type most convenient if you do a lot of night work, frog, 'coon, or predator hunting.

Baby Ben type alarm clock if want to be *away* from camp by dawn. Debate as to whether it is just as well to wake up at dawn without this additional weight and fuss.

Any medication needed other than small first aid kit, such as:

1. Ferrous sulphate powder for poison ivy.
2. Laxative—prunes, etc. usually best.
3. Sedative—for group and long or dangerous trips. For this type trip first gain camping experience locally, read all available works on camping, expeditions, etc., especially those on your planned area or

similar country, study the Red Cross First Aid Handbook, consult your physician on medical matters concerning special drugs for severe injury, shock, pain.

4. Any pills you have to use.

\*Cook Kit (as mentioned above):

Skillet—6" to 8", folding handle best

Plate(s)—if not alone or don't want to use skillet

Stew pot (1 qt.), folding handle

Can opener

Cup, enamel or *tough* plastic

Fork and spoon (and knife)—if don't use hunting knife for table knife. Light Swiss aluminum alloy fork and spoon that clip together—lightest.

Salt and pepper shaker with screw on, leak-proof tops

Small cup towel and dish rag—small piece of steel wool may be handy—sand or other soil scours just as good if have plenty of water for rinsing.

Paper napkins—handy on short trips

Steak tweezers—handy if you broil much—make own of heavy wire or buy small pliers-type tweezers at 5 and 10 store.

Swiss aluminum egg container for 6 fresh eggs—mighty handy but not essential.

**Minimum cook kit** is Army skillet-plate set plus canteen cup plus other auxiliary items needed.

**Scout nesting kit** fine for one or possibly two with extra cup, plate, and so on.

For a group of four, Wearever nesting kit is about the best.

LITEPAC Camping Equipment booklet (15c from *Boy's Life*) tells how to make your own from standard kitchen utensils available most anywhere. This is a good set and a good booklet for lots of light weight equipment you can make yourself.

Also available is a 2¼ pint Swiss aluminum pot with folding handle and plate lid and a folding handle skillet that can be used as a companion piece.

For cooking dehydrated foods you should really have two pots. I use a Scout kit plus Army canteen cup for

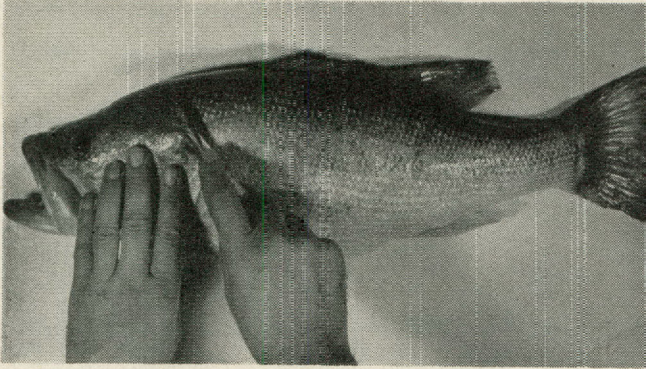
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**For Choice  
Tastiness**

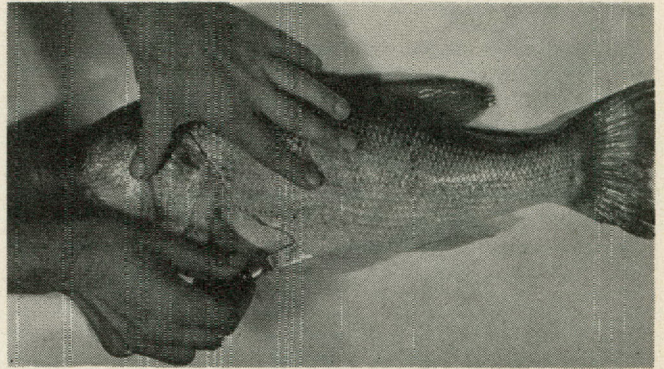
# fillet your fish this way

By PAUL A. MOORE and WALLACE DANLEY

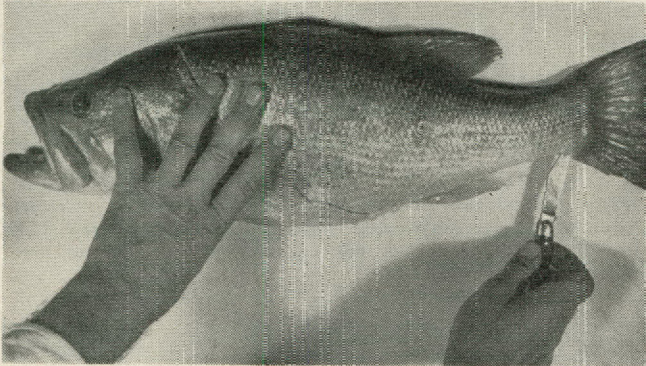
**So you like to eat some fish—but not bass. Pre-cooking preparation can make a big difference. Try the method illustrated below. It's easy. If you already enjoy eating bass, you may discover added tastiness in following these directions.**



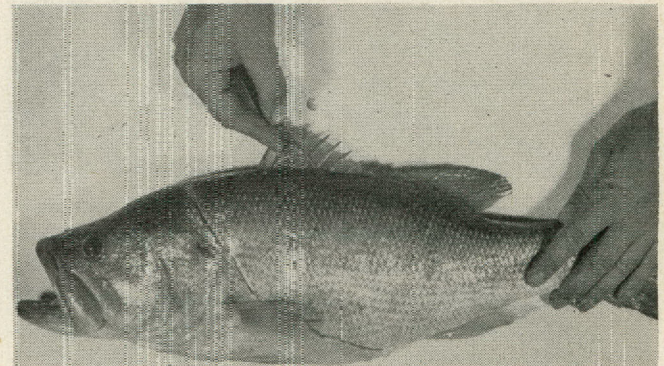
(1) With any knife start skin cut just behind bony structure of head. Continue skin cut approximately half way down body of fish. Exert only enough pressure on your knife to cut the skin.



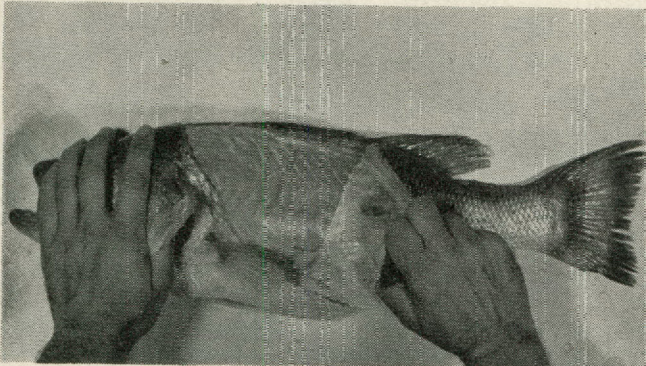
(2) Change position of hands, push knife blade outward, continuing cut to front of anal fin. Slice toward rear of fish, just above anal fin.



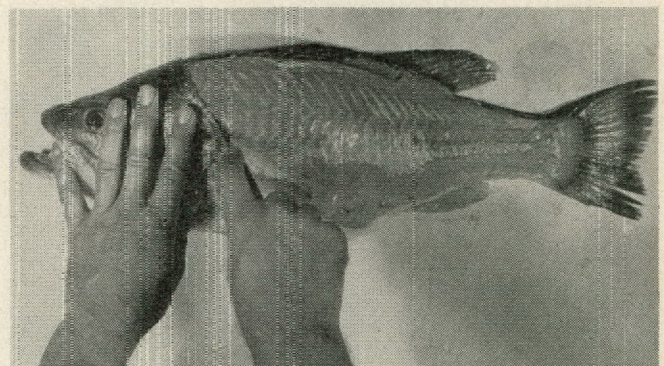
(3) Complete cut dead center of bottom of fish tail. (Note how position of left hand has changed from 2).



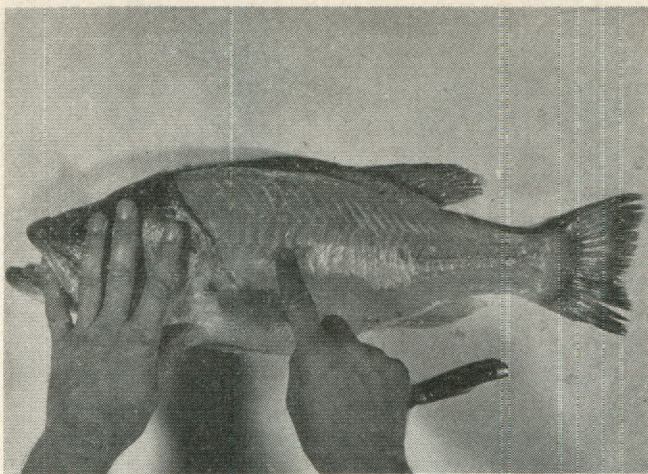
(4) Reverse fish (or your position) and begin cut on back-bone from point of first cut. Hold cutting edge of knife so that it scrapes along the dorsal fin. Continue this cut to end of tail at a point just above the first cut.



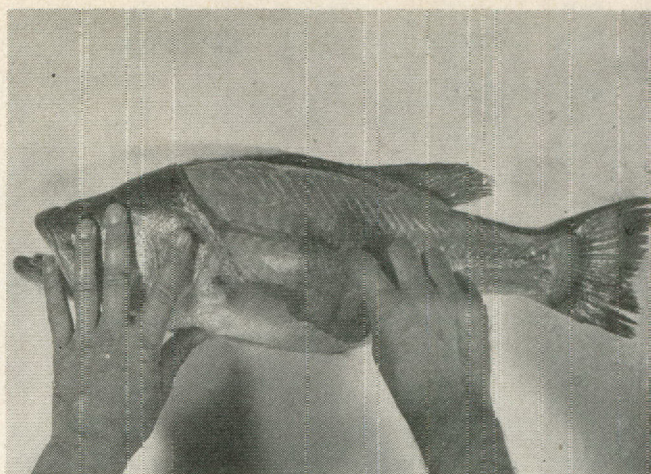
(5) Take good grip on fish with left hand. With right hand grasp skin firmly at top of front cut. With steadily increasing pressure rip skin from fish. This prepares the fish for removal of the fillet.



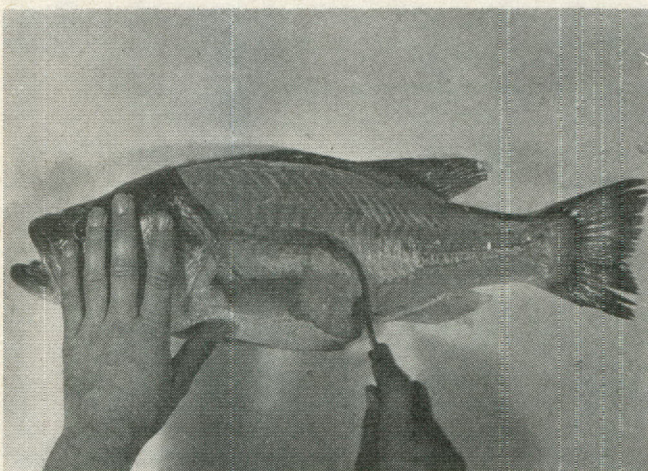
(6) Following line made by skin cut, slice deep into fish until knife hits bony structure, then make your first cut.



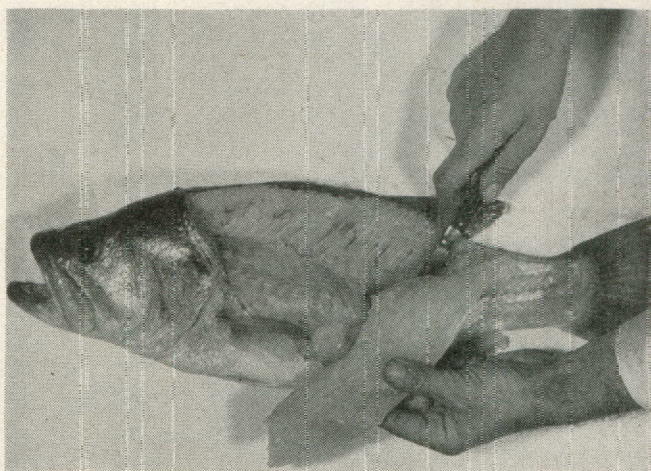
(7) Continue knife cut until your knife hits the lateral line pointed out here. You will find row of bones at this point.



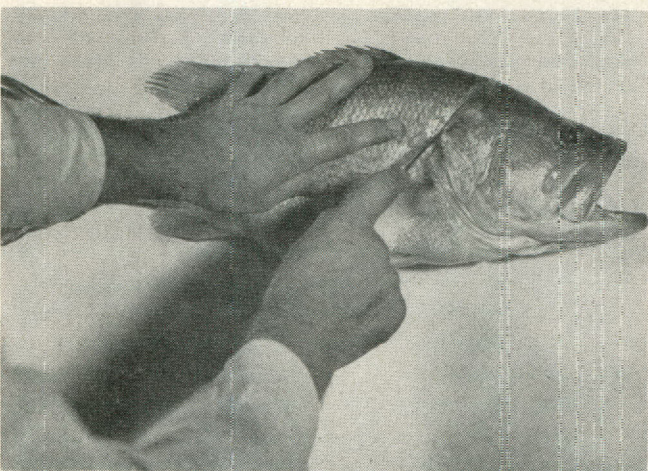
(8) Make cut just above lateral line and row of bones.



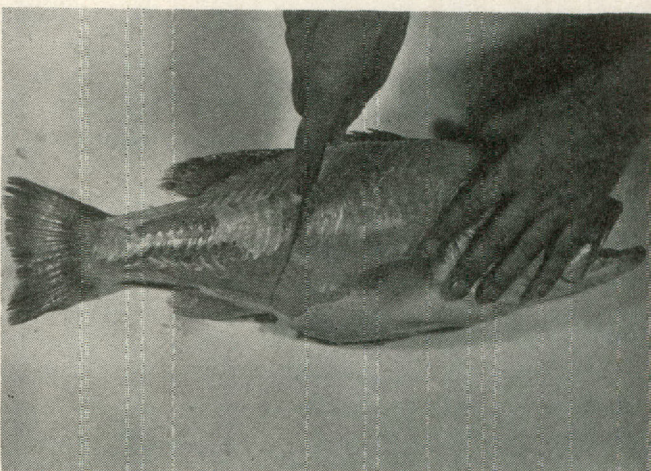
(9) When reaching point shown here, turn knife and slice abruptly to front of anal fin.



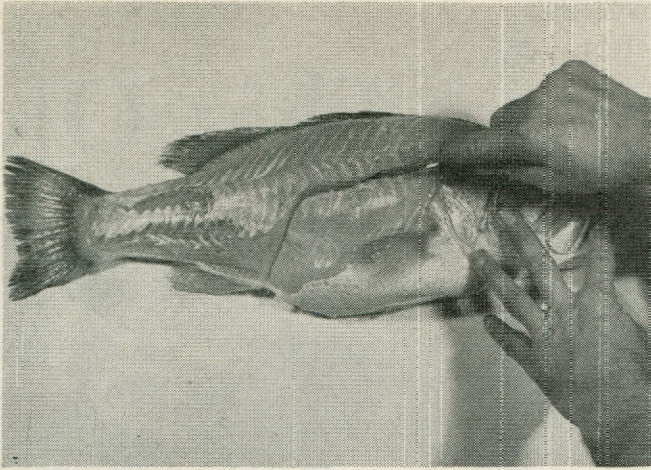
(10) Hold knife as shown and shave fillet from bony structure, starting at front of fish and working toward rear. This completes your operation on one-half your fish and nets one fine fillet.



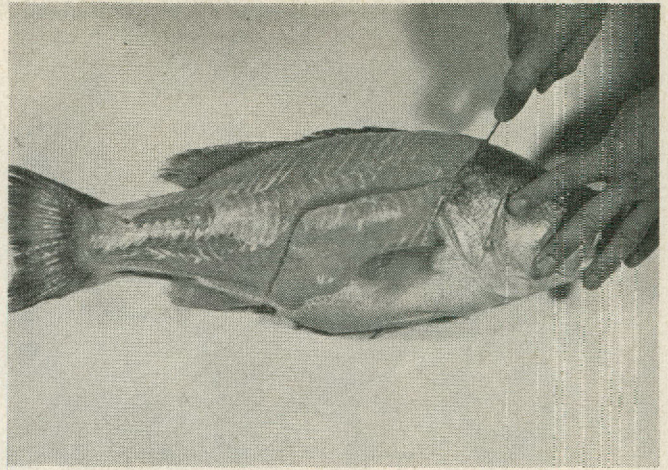
(11) Turning fish over, begin process used before in reverse.



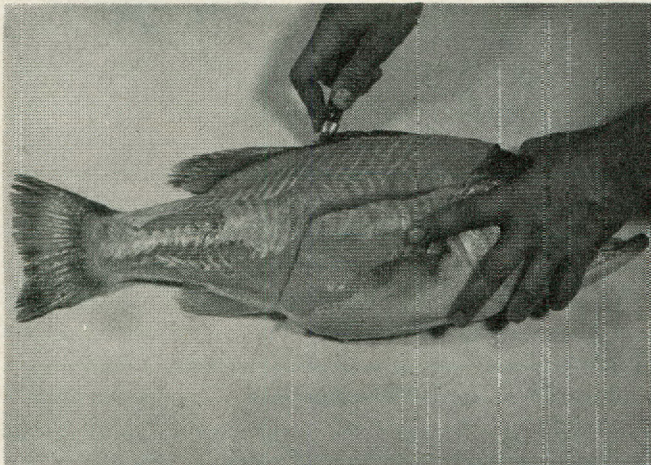
(12) When you reach the point of removing the fillet, for easiest working, first cut on fillet is made on an approximate 45 degree angle from just in front of the anal fin to point just above lateral line.



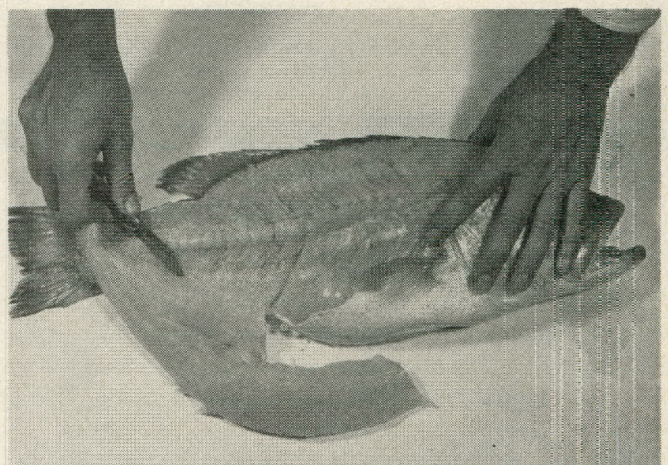
(13) Cut toward front of fish, with point of knife scraping along the bony structure. This is the rib bone or backbone of the fish.



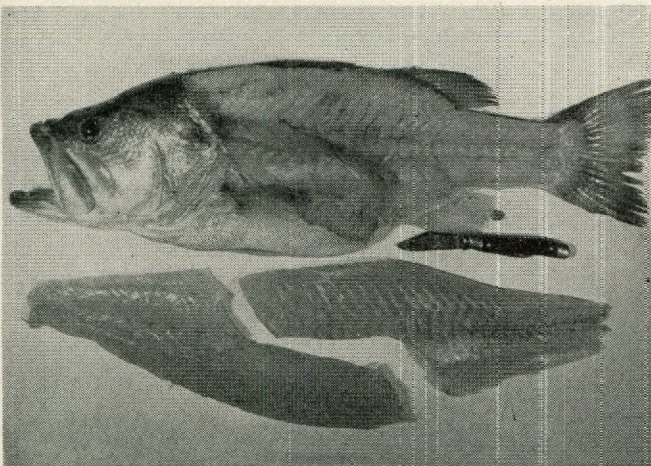
(14) Complete cut to top of fish.



(15) The top cut is made here from back of fish toward front, following the procedure of figure 9 in reverse.



(16) Reverse knife and shave fillet from bony structure. Again, note how position of hands has changed.



(17) The two fillets and knife used. There is some meat left on the fish, but it is of relatively little value and the time and effort saved make filleting well worthwhile.

Fillets obtained as shown above are easily stored in a freezer, and have the fine advantage of having no bones to interfere with their fullest enjoyment. Even very small fish may be filleted in this manner. Small bream result in fillets that may be favorably compared with jumbo shrimp.

Incidentally, if you are left-handed you will have to go through this whole process backwards—or perhaps holding these illustrations before a mirror may be of some help to you!

Adopted from the  
TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST





A bewitched gun offers no problem to a student of black magic. Just use a picture of the bewitcher for a target, shoot it with a silver bullet, and burn the target.

Illustrations from Blaine's "Encyclopedia of Rural Sports," London, 1852.

IT'S TOO bad that modern science has no place for superstition. Sometimes a man gets desperate, and finds little comfort in scientific logic. When he misses six pheasants in a row, for example. That's when I start thinking of witch-brews in the dark of the moon.

You can lay your poor shooting to a blown pattern or wrong lead if you want to. But if you go to the real root of the trouble, you will blame your bewitched gun, and there is a lot of ancient precedence to back you up.

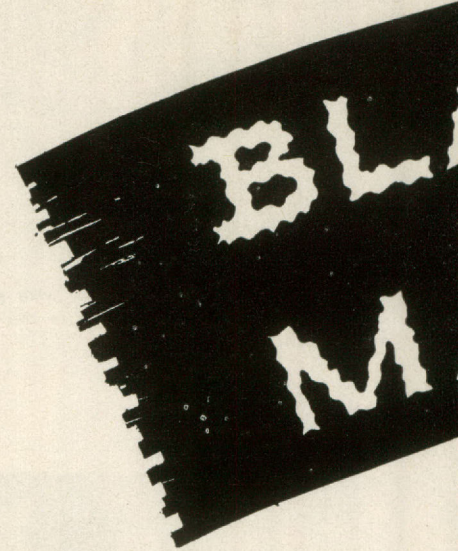
A bewitched gun offers no problems to a student of black magic. Where there's a cause, there's a cure. Just tack a sheet of paper to a tree, and on it draw the face of the bewitcher. Then shoot the target with a silver bullet. Burn the target, dig the silver bullet out of the tree, and your gun is dehexed.

Aside from unjinxing your gun, there are other ways to improve its performance. First, when you buy it, rub the stock on your left leg three times. This is very potent magic. Never let a woman touch one of your guns, and never shoot a snake. The snake will "poison" your gun, and its accuracy will die. Cats don't have such a toxic effect on firearms, but shooting one will hex a gun just the same.

The Irish believed that rubbing a gun with the fat of a corpse improved its accuracy threefold. Never carry a gun on your left shoulder if you want good hunting, and whatever you do, keep your gun pointing at the ground until you see game, or you will miss your target. This last is one of the few hunting superstitions that really makes sense.

THERE is an old English belief that if two hunters accidentally strike their guns together, they will be hunting

# That Old



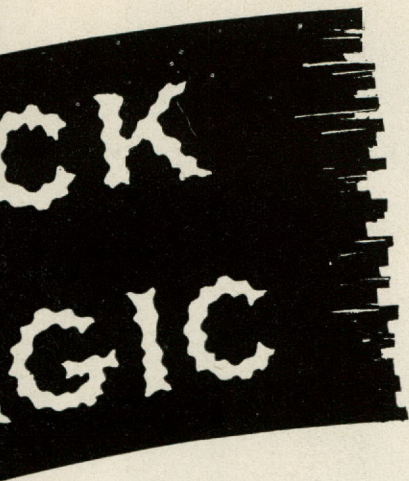
together the next year. Another story has it that if a gun accidentally discharged at the beginning of a hunt, the hunter will bring home plenty of game. (Probably his bare limit of hunting companions.)

According to the occult sciences, your gun may be all right but your ammunition might be jinxed. So don't count your bullets before you start out on a hunt . . . it's bad luck. But if you drop a cartridge while loading your gun, that cartridge will be a lucky shot. If you want good duck hunting next fall, save the shot from the first duck killed, and you'll have good luck the rest of the season. The old-timers had a simple explanation for this . . . once a shot or bullet is taken from game it will be lucky when used again, for it is a "killer shot."

IF YOU want to go all out on improving your ammunition here's some good witchcraft. Back in the old days a German hunter named Freishütz (or "Free-shooter") received seven rounds of ammunition from the devil, with whom he was in league. Six of these shots would infallibly hit the target chosen by the shooter, but the seventh was "free ball," believed to have infernal connections, and was directed by the devil or one of his conjurers. So the next time you are on a skeet range and see a shooter break six straight birds and then shoot a deacon with his seventh round, view that man with suspicion.

There may be other reasons why you missed those pheasants. For a really good hunt, you should wear a bittern's claw in your buttonhole. The next best thing is a prairie

By JOHN MADSON



# f Hunting



Don't dare ever go hunting unless you are sure your ammunition is properly dejinxed and medicated.

chicken's wishbone hanging over your heart. However, both birds are protected, so you had better just settle for having a lady give you a penny before you go hunting. This isn't very strong medicine, but it's better than nothing.

With your gun and ammunition properly dejinxed and medicated, you're ready to go hunting. But in what direction? To decide, simply, set up a straight stick and hold it vertically with its end on the ground. Let it fall over, and whichever direction the stick points is the way to go. Evidently the ancients didn't consider the wind on this point, because if the stick blows over you will approach the game from upwind, which isn't very smart.

The birds and animals you hunt are powerfully influenced by magic. For instance, if you are after 'possum don't leave home until you have greased your dog's left front foot with con fat. Then, when you have killed your first 'possum, rub it on his left ear. If you do this, it's going to be a good 'possum night.

WHEN you go 'coon hunting and hear an owl hoot on the left side of the trail, you might as well go back home. But if the owl is on the *right* side of the trail, or if the clouds roll over a couple of times, you're going to bring home 'coons.

If you shoot into a covey of quail, kill one and can't find it, you'll get no more birds from that covey. AND THE

WORST POSSIBLE THING YOU CAN DO IS TO SHOOT A RABBIT UNDER AN ALDER TREE! It's a fearful omen, so don't forget it.

It is also bad luck to shoot a nesting dove, and if you don't believe it is in Texas these days, just ask a game warden. However, it's good luck for two hunters to yell at a dog at the same time, and to draw the blood of any wild animal on New Year's Day means good hunting and fishing for the rest of the year.

Once you're in the field, never eat cheese or chew spruce gum. If you do, brother, you're hexed! Certain California Indians also considered it unlucky to eat meat they killed themselves, so they hunted in pairs and then swapped their game.

The Belgians say that if a hunting dog rolls over three times in dewey grass, he will hunt no more that day, and the Persians claim that if a cat eats any part of the first game of the season, hunting will be slow until next year.

In case you brought a pheasant or quail into the house this season and a drop of blood fell from the bird, discard any object on which the blood fell. That object is bewitched, and will burn or break very easily.

The Cherokees had an incantation which they mumbled when they drew their bows on game: "Instantly may the red Selagwutsi strike you in the center of your soul . . . instantly! Yu!" At the "yu" the bowstring was released. We

● Concluded on page 28

From the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

**Big bass have an added advantage in swift water. But the author landed one lunker and was doing all right until some photographers came along.**

## Fast Action In Fast Water

Last of a series of adventures with big bass

By H. C. GENTRY

Last time I told about the big bass that saw me coming and declined my first offering, only to fall for a different lure a few minutes later. Now we go down Wichita Falls way, Lake Diversion, to be exact, for a fling at largemouth bass in the lake proper and the big Kentucky spotted black bass, commonly called "small-mouth," in the fast water below the dam.

It was just one of those leisurely two-day trips of mine for outdoor recreation—to see what I could see, and maybe to do a little more experimenting with various artificial lures on lunker bass.

The first morning I launched my small fishing craft on the lake proper and fished for big largemouth, catching two fair-sized blacks, along with several smaller ones. Later that first day, after taking my afternoon nap, I walked down to the dam to look the situation over in the river and canal below. I leaned on the guard rails over the dam, to watch the swirling waters from the open gates, and I noticed great schools of small fish in the eddy pockets around those gates which were closed.

They appeared to be perch and shad, and the very action of these schools of small fishes suggested that there might be big fish of some kind close by in the deeper, swirling waters,

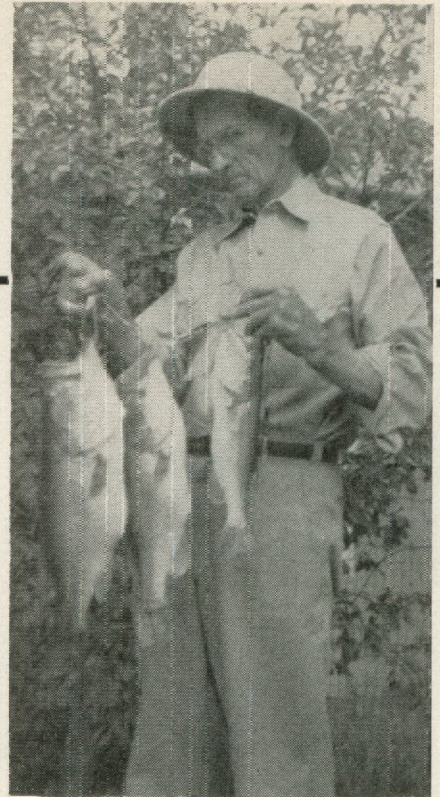
waiting to gobble up any of the little fellows that might venture too close. The possibility that it could be big bass on the feed prompted me to take off for camp and my casting tackle.

Since the small fishes seemed to be perch and shad, a lure of live design seemed logical, so, delving into my box, I came up with a Heddon Punkin Seed. As luck would have it, the finish was perch scale. I tied on the lure and was off for a fling at what I figured might be big Kentucky spotted bass in that fast water.

In order to get to a suitable stand for casting into those quiet pockets and retrieving out into the moving waters, I had to cross the dam and scramble down over the rip-rap and boulders to the flat top of a retaining wall. It was a perfect setting but slightly far away for my favorite length of cast.

After three or four casts into some of the smaller eddy pockets, I tossed the thing into one right next to an open gate and started the plug on a fast retrieve out into the moderately fast-moving water.

That's when I felt that familiar tug of a big bass taking an under-water lure. And a terrific tug it was when that giant Kentucky spotted bass made for those swirling waters! I didn't dare try to stop a fish like that in those fast waters, and he began taking yards of line off the reel.



I knew I was in for a real fight. That big bass—I figured he'd hit over five pounds—would get a run in the fast current, then break water to try to throw the plug. I was so far away I didn't feel any too sure of my chances of landing the fast-moving fighter.

Presently the big fellow decided to take off downstream. This suited me exactly, although it was necessary to give him more line while I scrambled down over the boulders to footing near the water's edge where I could follow him downstream and take up slack at the same time.

On and on he went, down that fast water until we had battled some two hundred yards. Then I made a stand to try to tire the big fellow down. It wasn't long before I had Mr. Kentucky coming in for the landing.

He scaled six and one-quarter pounds, one of the biggest spotted bass I have seen in Texas.

I walked back upstream to the dam, but when a few more casts failed to bring up another fish I staked my spotted bass out along with the two big largemouth taken that morning and turned in for the night.

I wasn't feeling any too good physically, anyway, and was a little late

with my bacon, eggs, and coffee the next morning. I decided to try for another big Kentucky spotted bass before going on the lake proper, and while walking to the dam I noticed two couples of young people watching the swirling waters pouring from the open gates.

They seemed to be preparing to snap some pictures of the dam and swirling water, so I suggested they hold their fire until I could get down to my casting position and maybe we could get a big fish in the picture. This was eagerly accepted, and I proceeded to strut my stuff hoping to repeat the act of the evening before and get it recorded.

What happened? You guessed it—the big 'un got away of course. It was on the third cast I made that the familiar tug of a big bass taking an under-water lure came, and the big fellow headed for that deep swirling water. I was giving just enough line to avoid a snapped leader, hoping that the big fellow would start breaking water for the waiting photographer.

He jumped, all right, but it happened so suddenly none of us knew

## Texas Antelope Season Set

Applications from hunters who wish to take part in this fall's Texas antelope hunting now are being received at the Game and Fish Commission office in Austin.

A request will bring a blank, which the hunter completes and returns to

what was going on. That whoppin' big spotted bass came out swinging hard and threw that plug right smack into my breast where it anchored itself in my shirt and left me all tangled in recoiling line.

It was all over in a matter of seconds, and I didn't go over to see if the youngsters got a "camery" shot. I knew they didn't, unless it was of me getting my outfit untangled. And I didn't want any picture of that kind!

I just took off down the river, acting as if I had some mighty important business to attend to. Yep, sometimes the big 'uns win—but it's always fun, just the same.

the Austin office with \$5 to cover the cost of the special license.

A drawing will be held early in September to determine which hunters will receive the limited number of permits, and all hunters whose names are not drawn will be refunded their \$5.

The Executive Secretary said the completed applications with \$5 fees must be in the Austin headquarters before midnight, Monday, August 31.

Dates for the annual antelope harvest were set by the Commission for October 1 to 6, inclusive, in the Big Bend country and for October 20 through 24 and for October 27 through 31 in the Panhandle.

The Commission estimated the probable harvest of male antelope in the Big Bend at from three hundred to three hundred and fifty and the harvest in the Panhandle at about three hundred bucks. The final license total will depend on surveys now being conducted.

Persons, who are awarded a license through the drawings in Austin, make their own arrangements with ranchers who are permitted to charge up to \$40 for each licensed hunter.

## State Outdoor Meeting Planned

Carl Shoemaker, nationally-known wildlife authority, is scheduled to fly to Texas from Washington, D. C., to address the Texas Wildlife Federation next month.

A cordial invitation to all persons

in the state interested in the increase of fish and game has been extended by Dorothy King, Dallas, president. The meeting will be held at San Angelo September 19 and 20.

Local wildlife organizations throughout Texas, whether they are members of the state Federation or not, are particularly urged to send representatives.

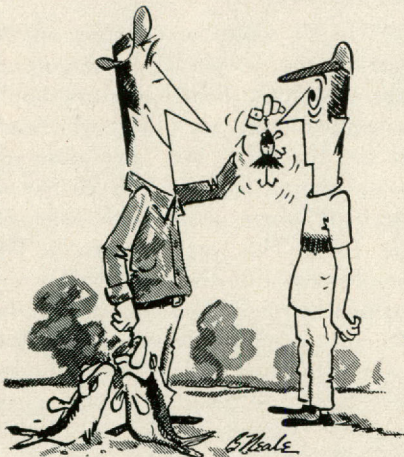
Luke Proctor, program chairman of San Angelo, said special invitations are being extended to the nine members of the Texas Game and Fish Commission and that a majority of them are expected to attend.

Officials feel particularly fortunate in obtaining Mr. Shoemaker as the principal speaker. He is the former director of conservation for the National Wildlife Federation.

The program will be completed at an early date, Proctor said.

Headquarters for the meeting will be at the Cactus Hotel.

### Famous Fisherman's Last Words



"You really going to buy that silly looking plug?"

### The Hunting Season Is Not Far Away!



PREVENT FOREST & GRASS FIRES!

By JAY VESSELS

## THEM WAS THE DAYS!

The Abilene Reporter *News* opened its editorial page sanctuary to this piece headlined "Oldtime Fishing Trips," quoted here in part: "We want to go catfish fishing. We suppose we'd have to use motor transport, but we'd prefer a wagon and horses. We'd load the wagon with cots and old dirty quilts and trotlines half a mile long and fat bacon, coffee, beans and onions and a frying pan and a deep boiling kettle. With a few cronies, we'd push off across country, through pastures knee high in grass, and we'd bring up somewhere along the second bank of the river and pitch camp . . . We'd fish awhile, eat awhile, play games awhile and sleep awhile . . . It was the outdoors effect, the fellowship and the loafing, that made the oldtime fishing trip enjoyable. It was nice to catch fish, but that was quite incidental. The main idea was to relax and enjoy yourself and eat coarse but delicious food and let your whiskers grow."

## BOMBS AWAY

Reg Westmoreland writing in his Outdoor News column in the Dallas *Times Herald*:

"Nine year old Frank Ray, Jr., of Longview is an unorthodox nimrod. He bags 'em with rocks. Frank pulled the stunt while berry hunting. Having to pass through a pasture where there were some 'mean' cows, he took a few rocks along just in case. He saw a fox run toward a barn, and when Mr. Reynard paused for a moment in his dash, Frank let fly with a rock which struck the animal on the head. The fox staggered, then crawled under a house, but the youngster followed up his pitch and brought home the kill."

## SOME DO, SOME DON'T

Marine Biologist Ernest Simmons reported this one:

A drum tagged in Laguna Madre eight miles south of the Corpus Christi-Padre Island causeway was caught five months later in St. Charles' Bay north of Rockport. Distance traveled 55 miles. Another drum tagged the same day was caught one mile away.

Simmons said the traveling drum had reached the most northerly point of any drum reported caught after being tagged in the Laguna Madre. He reckoned this drum was looking for more room because of the congested conditions in his old stomping grounds. The over population of drum in Laguna Madre has become a menace to trout, redbfish and other species.

## PSYCHIATRISTS PLEASE NOTE

The Missouri Conservation Commission reports what may become the first neurotic wildcat in the show-me state. The tale centers around a report by Conservation Agent Jim Featherston that a hunter bagged a mamma bobcat which had a three-week old kitten that survived. His cocker spaniel, with pups of her own, made room for the waif along skid row. The difficulty comes because the bobcat, now weaned, doesn't see much future. You see, it cannot bark like the puppies.

## WARNING TO ALL DOVES

Photographer Clyde Graham of the Game and Fish Commission was returning from an assignment near Bastrop when a mourning dove forgot to duck and lodged in the grill of Graham's car. He found the dove unharmed and brought it to Austin headquarters. It was promptly banded, at least as a reminder to watch its traffic manners.

## JUNGLE JUSTICE

It's give and take oftentimes as Nature balances up the advantages and disadvantages. This was pointed out by Game Warden Tom Waddell of Eagle Lake in showing off one of his shore bird nesting areas in trees in the shallow backwater of Eagle Lake. He said some species of the birds punish the black bass severely as the nesting birds seek food near the bass' young. The equalizing factor comes when the young fall or are blown by storms from their shaky nests. Some of them climb back, said Waddell, but very often they are gulped down by bass and alligators attracted by their struggling on the water's surface. Another hazard is provided by black crown herons, according to the game warden. He said they eat the young of other birds. Finding a struggling nestling in the water, the black crown holds it under the water until it drowns and then swallows it whole, after first shaking some of the water from the body.

## TAKE IT EASY, CHUM

Leo Healer, writing in his "Sinkers and Shots" column in the Lubbock Sunday *Sun*:

"There's room for courtesy on the part of the people using the upper lake at Buffalo. Boat operators should remember there are others who want to use the lake. We have observed boats coming within 15 or 20 feet of the bank where people were attempting to fish. This was unnecessary. The people who ride their water skis and surfboards might also consider others. Recently a fellow on skis came close enough to shore to become entangled in a line. The result was that a rod and reel valued at \$35 was jerked from the fisherman's hand and has not yet been found. Stay at least 100 feet from the shoreline."

## Press Views

### Game Notes

#### PHEASANT VS. CHAPPAREL

A traveler, westbound on Highway 31 out of Tyler, was astounded to see a cock pheasant streak across the road ahead of his car. First one he had seen since observing them in countless numbers up north in the Dakotas. A short distance away he caught the connection—a bird breeders' sign. The speed of the big bird lingered in his mind. It was the equal of if not superior to that of a chaparral, or road runner. Then he decided a foot race between the regal cock pheasant and the plain old fashioned back country chaparral would be something . . . Help yourself, sport, no charge for the idea.

#### FAIR OR FOUL

Jimmy Lingan, writing in the *Houston Chronicle* on pollution control:

"Our own conclusion is that when fishermen use the health angle to save our fishes they will begin to do something for themselves. The public is much more concerned over its health than whether anglers catch fish."

#### SPIKING A RUMOR

Marion Toole, Chief Aquatic Biologist of the Game and Fish Commission who doubles as vice president in charge of matters about herpetology, doubts that old one about rattlesnakes foolishly picking off bullets shot in their general direction. To the contrary, Toole reports that rattlers seem to strike not at things moving their way but at things moving away from them. For the general trade, then, there would be greater danger stepping away from a diamond back than stepping toward it.

#### IT CAN HAPPEN HERE

News releases from New Hampshire agencies on one recent day included information that Texans might well heed, especially East Texans or those who visit that area.

One announcement stated that the woodlands ban affecting the northern half of the state was being softened to permit hiking, stream fishing, and other normal vacation activities, but that the restriction in the southern part still was complete. Smoking, camp fires and such were forbidden through the state's woods areas.

Here is the reason as provided by a paragraph in another release:

"In the *once* wooded territory around Ossipee, over a foot of ashes now covers vast burned out sections and the effects of this disaster will *not* be remedied until nature has decades to repair the damage."

#### FISH STAY AT HOME

The Game and Fish Commission is not concerned over fish reversing the wet-back routine to cross from the Texas to the Mexican side after the huge Rio Grande Valley lake created by Falcon Dam is stocked. Executive Secretary Howard D. Dodgen explained why: "Fish don't move around much; they're practically sedentary. Therefore, the concentrations we create by stocking bass, catfish, and other species will be available almost exclusively from the Texas side."

#### FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Editorial in the *Dallas Morning News*:

"Officials of the State Fair of Texas are to be congratulated on selecting 'Water For Texas' as the central theme for the agricultural show of the 1953 exposition. If this state had adequate water for irrigation, it would, indeed, be the garden spot of the world. It is already the leading agricultural state, but, with more water, its production could be vastly increased in quantity, and improved in quality . . . Texas, as a whole, over a period of years, has sufficient rain, but much of the precipitation comes in downpours and in short periods. The problem for almost every

part of the state is simply one of water conservation."

#### WALLEYE WARMUP

In view of Texas' experiments with walleye pike, the following from Jimmy Lingan's column in the *Houston Chronicle* is timely:

"Stan Pechaver, executive secretary of the Ely, Minnesota, Chamber of Commerce, writes that Sammy Montgomery, 14-year-old Houstonian, broke the existing Ely record for walleye pike when he landed one which weighed eleven pounds, two ounces. Sammy fishes with a minnow and spinner. The Ely Chamber did *not* bother to send the name of Sammy's dad who caught one weighing nine and one-half pounds."

#### DEM BONES, DEM BONES . . .

Patricia Pew, technician at the Game and Fish Commission's Marine Laboratory at Rockport, let the word out that she was collecting fish bones for a friend writing a thesis. Game Warden Pug Mullinax who specializes in Indian relics, preferably arrows, but also collects Indian bones when they are turned up along the coast, finally got the word. But the adjective was deleted. Just bones was the way he got it. So the next time he showed up at the Lab, Pug had the shin bone and forearm bone of some long gone warrior.

#### SEGUIN GAR GETTERS

Otto Peters, writing his Hunting and Fishing column in the *Seguin Enterprise*, goads his readers to gang up on the gars which are one of the worse enemies of game fish:

"The gar rodeo is in full swing with a few catches already reported. Let's get busy and start going after those gar. This is a big project, a project that every Guadalupe County fisherman should get behind. Prizes are offered for the largest gar (in weight) and the largest number of gar. Don't put it off, get in early and you'll get more sport out of entering the rodeo. Get those snares ready and get going."

shorter periods. Live bait is kept in a floating bait box which should be anchored or tied within easy reach.

If the water is shallow for several hundred feet, or if the fisherman cannot cast very far, it is sometimes necessary to wade out into the water. In this case the dead bait should be carried in a small can or box on a strap over the shoulder. Live bait may be carried in mesh bag suspended in the water by a string from the belt.

**What difference in catch can you expect when using live bait and dead bait?**

Live bait is usually better than dead bait, though it is a little more inconvenient to carry. Shrimp is the best all around bait. It attracts all kinds of fish, is easy to keep alive, and is always available at bait stands. Squid, crabs, young mullet and pin perch cut up in pieces are commonly used.

Sometimes the surf fish will take an artificial lure, but live or dead bait is usually more reliable.

**What are some of the points one would need when surf casting for the first time? That is, how do you handle a surf rod?**

The main difference between freshwater casting and surf casting is this: in the former you use wrist action while in the latter you use your whole body. The surf rod is longer and heavier and you have to have a back swing, a forward thrust, and a follow-through, something like in bowling or tennis.

First wet the line thoroughly, pull the sinker out about 20 inches from the rod tip, and put the reel in the free-spool position. Stand with the left shoulder pointing in the direction of the cast, with the right foot parallel with the water's edge and the left foot pointed slightly outward. Hold the end of the butt with the left hand. The four fingers of the right hand grip the butt just under the reel while the thumb rests on the reel spool.

In the back swing, the rod is swung around to the rear as if it were a baseball bat. The forward swing is up and over the head. The left hand holds the end of the butt close to the chest

and acts as a pivot, while the right hand propels the rod up and forward. All the time, the right thumb has been pressing on the spool of the reel to keep it from turning. But as the rod reaches a perpendicular position (or just before) and the rod tip unbends and adds an additional forward thrust to the weight on the end of the line, the thumb is released slightly so that the spool may revolve, and the force of the flying sinker and bait will pull the line off the reel. (Do not release *all* the thumb pressure, however, or the reel will spin too fast and you will get a backlash.)

The force of this forward swing will bring the right foot off the ground and the left foot will bear the body weight and act as a pivot as the right foot comes forward. The rod is brought forward and downward as the weight shifts again to the right foot and the body twists so that the right shoulder is now slightly forward. (If this shifting of the weight and twisting of the body sounds complicated, don't worry about it. The swing of the rod is the most important. The body action seems to come naturally as you master the swing.)

The cast is completed when the rod tip is just about level with the eyes. As the bait and sinker drop into the water increase the thumb pressure on the spool to bring it slowly to a stop. Put the reel in gear and fit the rod butt into the butt rest, which is strapped around the waist.

Is there some way to play the wind to your advantage? Is it best to

cast into it, across it—or not to cast at all on a windy day?

It is always windy on the coast, and the wind will usually be blowing in your face since the prevailing winds are southeasterly and you will be facing southeast (since the coast runs northeast and southwest). So the surf fisherman has to get used to casting into the wind. That is, unless there is a "norwester" blowing, and in this case, all but the most hardy will be home reading a good book.

**Other than the sun, are there any precautions landlubber surf casters should observe?**

If you wade into the surf you must be careful of the jellyfishes. The most dangerous is the "Portuguese Man-O-War," which looks like a large blue bubble floating on the surface. It has many string-like structures hanging down into the water which send out stinging capsules which kill small fish and may sting a human badly enough to incapacitate him for the rest of the day. There are also the "Cabbage-heads" and the "Four-leaf Clovers" (these look like their names) which do not sting seriously, but are rather painful.

Sting rays can inflict a painful wound, but as long as a wader drags his feet these animals will move out of his way. It is only when the foot is placed directly on a ray's back that such accidents occur.

**What are the best months of the year to fish on the coast? And what type of weather is best for surf casting as far as the fish being around is concerned?**

Here is the list of the most common surf fish and the best times of the year to catch them (according to Henry Studeman of Port Aransas): Redfish, fall and winter; Drum, fall and winter; Croaker, fall and winter; Trout, fall; Tarpon, spring, summer, early fall; Pompano, all year; Shark, all year; Bluefish, spring.

The best kind of weather for surf fishing (or any kind of salt water fishing) is when it is not too windy and not too calm; that is, when it is about "half way in between."

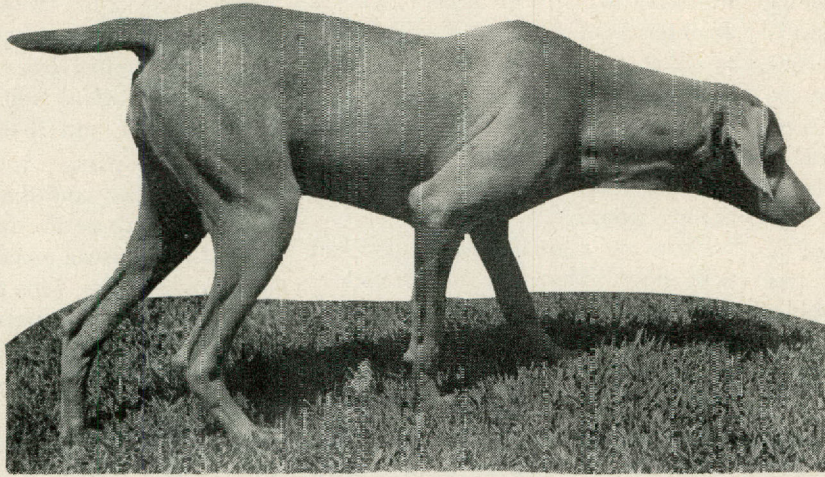
**New Cover Design**

At the request of a number of readers who like to frame Texas Game and Fish wildlife cover paintings, readers will note a change in this month's cover format.

No longer does the title appear in large letters on the picture. It was necessary to decrease the size of the picture slightly, but we hope the change was worthwhile.

Let us know what you think of the new design. If you like the old way better, we can change back again.

Staff photo by Clyde Graham



Weimaraner On Point

# Skin Diseases

By MARTIN P. HINES *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

SKIN diseases of dogs often are quite discouraging to the owner. There are many forms of non-parasitic skin diseases such as dandruff, alopecia (loss of hair), dermatitis, acne, eczema, and others. The cause of many of these conditions is known but the etiology of some remains unsolved. Ectoparasites, such as fleas, lice, ticks and mites, further complicate the picture and must be eliminated as a cause by identity of the parasite.

A well balanced, high quality diet has been emphasized as essential if a hunting dog is to have the stamina to withstand the demands placed upon him in the field. Here, again, we find the nutritional status of the dog often closely related to many of the non-parasitic skin conditions. Basic research is being conducted at present concerning this relationship. External

treatment is of little value if the cause is poor nourishment. When the diet and parasites can be excluded after careful examination, often the cause is found to be either mechanical, chemical, thermic or an allergy.

Mechanical causes may be bruises or injuries, lying on hard floors, fly bites, running through brush as hunting dogs do, and shaking the ears. Some chemical agents are strong, caustic soaps or the too frequent use of ordinary soaps, irritating medicinal preparations, as parasiticides, improperly applied, caustics as use of lime in pens, and insect stings. Thermic influences such as burning or freezing are not too important but irradiation of the skin, especially exposure to sunlight, may set up an eczema. The pathological disturbance of the skin varies from a mild, local, superficial inflammation to an acute, infected in-

flammation involving the deep layers and widespread over the body. The symptoms also vary greatly.

Pruritus is usually the first noticeable symptom which causes repeated scratching, rubbing on the ground and floor and licking the part. The restlessness caused by the itching, if continued, will give rise to disturbances of nutrition, emaciation, and exhaustion. Hunting dogs, especially at the beginning of the season, usually injure the skin over the chest, end of tail, and front of legs, which may become reddened and moist after bleeding in the field. When the skin is injured, bacteria, which are always present on the surface, are able to invade the deeper layers of the skin. Also when dogs are washed too often the horny layer of skin is softened and loses its natural protection, permitting bacteria to penetrate.

● Continued on Next Page



In so-called "weeping eczema," the itching is intense and the frequent scratching, biting and rubbing removes the matted hair and crusts, leaving a raw bleeding surface. Upon healing, the skin becomes thickened, folded, and bleeds easily. This type of eczema is seen often in hunting dogs, especially between the toes, probably because of the irritation of the skin by thorns, splinters, etc. It is also seen in well-fed house pets, especially among well-bred dogs, and tends to return each summer.

Treatment generally consists of a nourishing diet, proper care of the skin including, if necessary, clipping the hair and the treatment of any underlying disease. The cause, if possible, must be determined before effective therapy can be prescribed. Many skin conditions respond to X-ray treatment, and specific injections. Have your veterinarian examine the condition and advise you on the course of treatment. "Home remedies" sometimes get results but many are quite toxic and are dangerous to use.

There are many skin parasites of dogs. Some of the most common are fleas, lice, ticks, and mites. Fleas are large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. They suck blood and produce irritating bites and are thought to be one of the causes of so-called "summer eczema." The dog flea also acts as the intermediate host of the dog tapeworm.

To control fleas, they must be destroyed on the dog at periodic intervals with approved insecticides such as rotenone powders, 10% DDT dust, and benzene hexochloride preparations. The bedding used by the animal should be sterilized, the floors scrubbed, and all rubbish and dry organic matter which may serve as a breeding place removed.

Dogs are infested with two species of biting lice and one species of sucking lice. The life cycle is spent entirely on the host where the female attaches the eggs (nits) to the hair and they hatch in 5 to 12 days and develop into adults.

Lice irritate the skin, resulting in scratching, rubbing or biting, leading to wounds and bruises. They are observed mostly on ill nourished and neglected animals but occur also on well fed animals, especially in the

winter, if the skin is not cared for very well. Lice can be seen by the naked eye, but it should be emphasized that lousiness and mange may occur simultaneously.

In controlling lice, it is generally necessary to apply treatment twice at an interval of 10 to 14 days in order to kill the young lice which may have hatched after the first treatment. Louse eggs show a high resistance to most insecticides. Rotenone preparations have been used as effective de-lousing agents.

Ticks are a great summer problem with dogs. They are blood suckers through all stages of their life cycle. The species of ticks most commonly affecting dogs are *Dermacentor variabilis* and *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*.

The former is called the "wood tick" and is widespread in the United States. It will attack man, horses and other animals and is the principal vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It may also transmit tularemia and cause tick paralysis in dogs.

The female tick deposits eggs on the ground, which hatch into larvae and feed on rodents, later dropping to the ground and moulting into a nymph. The nymph again attacks rodents, later dropping to the ground and moulting into the adult tick, which attacks dogs and other animals.

*R. sanguineus* is commonly known as the "brown dog tick." The life cycle is the same as described above except the dog acts as the host each time.

To control ticks, it is important not only to kill the ticks on the dog with various insecticides but to treat all cracks and crevices in places where the dog has inhabited in order to kill the larvae and nymphs that are developing. A dust containing 4% rotenone will kill ticks, but for protection from infestation two applications a week are necessary. Better protection is obtained by using a dip or lotion prepared by adding 2 oz. of derris powder (4% rotenone) and 2 oz. of a good soap to 1 gallon of water. Ticks on dogs probably will not be controlled with DDT but it may be used to kill ticks in places used by dogs, especially cracks and crevices. Benzene hexochloride (lindane) preparations are also quite effective against ticks when applied properly.

Mange is a contagious disease caused by minute parasitic mites and accompanied by more or less severe eczematous inflammation and by intense itching. The species of mites differ in size and appearance. Some cause direct injury to dogs and others transmit disease.

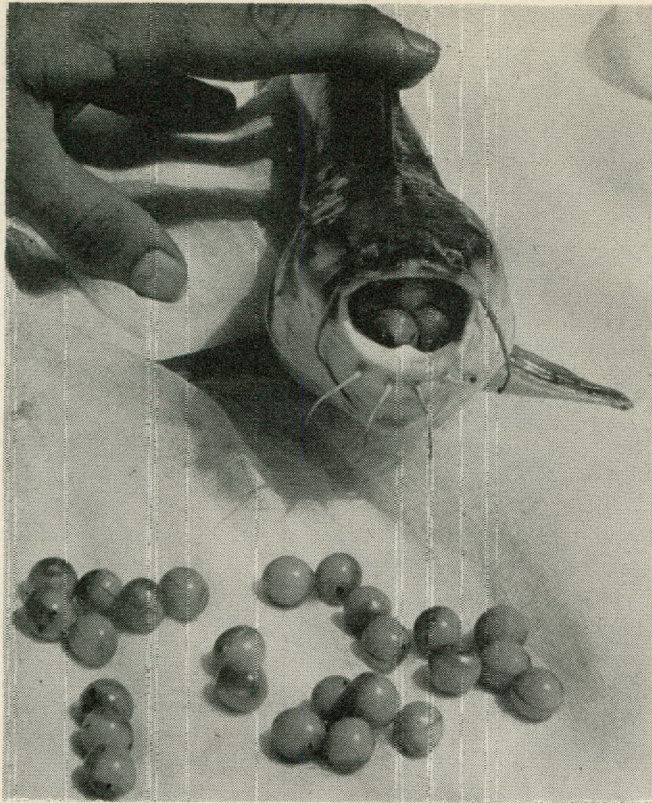
Parasitic mites infesting dogs are *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *canis*, *Otodectes cynotis*, and *Demodex canis*.

Sarcoptic mange is the so-called common mange and the mites burrow in the skin where the female deposits eggs. Later, larvae emerge and moult to become adults. This type of mange may appear on any part of the body, but usually is found in the sparsely haired areas. It may spread all over the body if not treated. Intense itching is present and constant scratching, rubbing and gnawing at the affected parts leads to restlessness and, if of long duration, to emaciation.

Otodectic mange occurs in the ears of dogs. The mite lives on the skin of the ear and deposits its eggs on the hairs of this region. They cause intense itching and usually there is an over-production of wax and other secretions which are excited by the presence of the mites and the mechanical trauma and introduction of dirt from the constant scratching. Dogs may shake their heads and whine; also in advanced cases a discharge may be observed.

Demodectic mange is produced by a mite that lives in the hair follicle and is commonly called "red mange" or "pustular mange." The parasite is elongated like a cigar. The skin develops scales and later there is a wrinkling. There is a loss of hair and usually cutaneous abscesses. Early indications are the appearance of inflammatory areas in which the hair appears as closely clipped.

A positive diagnosis of mange is possible only by finding the mites in scrapings from the affected parts and identifying them under a microscope. Mange is not easily cured and must be treated properly. Infected animals should be isolated and their quarters cleaned and disinfected. Good food, warmth and exercise are important aids to treatment. Consult your veterinarian for a positive diagnosis and advice about proper treatment. The



Papa sea cat carries eggs  
and young in its mouth!

## Texas Has Some, Too!

Texas also has some of those—that is a male fish which packs around in its mouth, first, the eggs of its mate, and then the young fish until they are big enough to fend for themselves.

A national photo magazine carried a feature about such a fish, it being a tropical species named Tilapia.

When this appeared, the Texas version of this strange fish was under close scrutiny at the Marine Laboratory of the Game and Fish Commission at Rockport. There, the staff of

the Chief Marine Biologist, Cecil W. Reid, was studying the hard-head, or sea catfish, *Galeichthys felis*.

Marine Biologists already had experiments underway to determine whether the Gulf coast sea cat could be adapted to fresh water. They got the idea from the fact that a few salt water species have survived in fresh water. The salt-water drum found in fresh water have weighed many times more than those taken from salt water. Mullet which seldom exceed three pounds in weight in salt

water, have commonly attained nine pounds in fresh water.

But it has not been determined whether these species originating in salt water reproduce in fresh water. That is one of the things that Biologist Lee hopes to find out about the sea cats. He already has fairly well determined that the sea cats will individually thrive in fresh water.

If the cats are adaptable to fresh water, Reid believes that they might provide additional sports fishing inland and also that the cats, being a bottom feeder, may be able to help control rough fish that are becoming a problem in Texas waters.

While Lee carries on his experiments, Technician Patricia Pew has been busy with her camera. She took several shots of the eggs-in-the-mouth males. One aquatic prop, dipped out of the Gulf, had 32 eggs in its mouth.

Strangely for the young, they hatch by breaking out of the round egg which continues attached to their bellies. At first, the young appears like a minnow with a large marble attached to its underside. Then the eggs sac is finally absorbed into the young cat's lines.

Ho hum! Marine biologists consider it mere routine in the ichthyological field . . . Jay Vessels.

## Skin Diseases of Dogs

• Continued from preceding page

dog has a particularly sensitive skin and poisonous substances are readily absorbed from it. Toxic home remedies, not properly applied, can be disastrous.

Ringworm is a contagious disease of the skin caused by the fungi *Trichophyton* and *Microsporum*. These fungi develop around the shaft of hair and extend in the follicle. The hair may break off close to the skin. At

first the areas are circular, but later they increase in size to form irregular patches. Itching may remove the crusts and leave the surface raw and bleeding. The microscope, special lamps and culture media are used to identify the specific fungus. Ringworm in animals is transmissible to man, so adequate precautions should be taken.

Skin diseases are complicated. Much is known concerning life cycles, cause

and treatment of parasitic skin diseases, but more research is needed concerning the obscure etiologies of many non-parasitic skin diseases of dogs. It is not hard to understand why this is true when dermatoses are related to or influenced by climatic conditions, breed, metabolic disorders, state of nutrition, diet, even neurotic states. It is the unusual dog that escapes this affection throughout life.

my two. If you like your coffee or other hot drink piping hot, try to find an enamel or plastic cup to replace the aluminum cup in the Scout kit.

**\*2 Repair Kit** (as mentioned above):

Notched thin stick or cardboard wound with button thread, canvas or leather thread (heavy), fish line, one-inch strip of adhesive tape about three feet long, small wire and one small, two medium to large needles and two small canvas needles with triangular points stuck under thread windings.

Minnow hooks, fish hooks, sinker and float if you may need a mess or so of fish to get along or just want to fish "on the side."

Small pair of side cutting pliers or Sargent Fisherman's Pliers. These, with a canvas needle, make a good sewing awl.

Carborundum or other small sharpening stone—two grits handy with axe.

Six-inch Mill File if use of edged tools calls for much sharpening. Put a stick with a hole drilled in the center inside an empty cartridge case and drive file shank in for a trim handle.

Small assortment of buttons and safety pins.

Horse blanket pins handy for making a sleeping bag out of blanket(s)—about 6 or 8 are needed. Would prove handy for making a blanket stretcher. Eliminate on a lone trip unless to solve a bedding problem.

Assorted leather thongs, heavy cord, air mattress patching kit if use air mattress.

Small screw driver to fit screws on hobby equipment.

A few assorted nails if these may prove useful.

**\*3 Rifle Cleaning Kit** (as mentioned above): (In small tin or bag)

Flex-Gun Rod, pull-through thong or light jointed rod.

Bore brush

Patches

Light weight gun oil in small oiler.

Any particular tool your gun may need. A small fiber or copper rod will prove handy for driving a sight in or out of its slot.

Since most of us have more opportunities to get out for an overnight trip much more frequently than the longer one's, following is an overnight grub list that I've more or less standardized upon.

I like the steak cut a good inch thick, either a T-bone or small sirloin. Squeeze and rub half a lemon over both sides of the steak when you are ready to cook it, salt and pepper it; use excess fat or butter as basting. Turn frequently over a blaze, let simmer over the coals. In 15 or 20 minutes you have a steak fit for a king.

You can cook regular biscuit dough in a skillet by turning it frequently—doesn't rise as much as oven biscuits at home but it's darn good hot camp bread. The rye bread is an appropriate size piece of the small, dense ice box rye found in most stores—keeps as good off ice as other bread does.

**Overnight Grub List:**

**Supper**

1 lb. Steak (to be broiled)

Can fruit, small

Bread or biscuits

**Dawn**

Small can fruit juice

Fritos

**Breakfast (late)**

Coffee

Canadian bacon

Eggs

Toast (buttered skillet)

**Lunch**

Swiss on rye

Lemonade (hot tea in cold weather)

Raisins

**Misc.:** Fritos, raisins, peanuts or pecans, candy bar for pick-ups.

¼ lb. butter

Sugar

Salt and pepper

Coffee and/or tea

2 fresh lemons

**Grub List for 2 days or longer:**

This depends on individual tastes and food available in your local stores. For lightest packing and for any kind of weather, prepared food packs like the Bernard Kamp Pack or other dehydrated foods are the mainstays. I like to start out with a big steak and fresh food for as long

as it will keep and in keeping with what I can conveniently carry, then carry an appropriate amount of dehydrated stuff. Remember that approximately 3,000 to 3,500 calories a day are needed for heavy work. By experiment you determine how much of each item to take by keeping accurate records of how much of each is taken and how much is brought back.

Stewed prunes are one of nature's best laxatives. Many campers seem to suffer from constipation, which I think is often caused by too starchy and greasy a diet. Canned fruit juices should always be taken where transportation will permit, otherwise dried fruits and dried citric fruit powders are a must for light trips.

**Easily procurable items to consider:**

Canadian bacon, unsliced for longer than weekend trip. More economical in weight than standard breakfast bacon because there is no excess fat.

Swiss cheese in individually wrapped, pie-shaped slices.

Other cheeses, appropriately wrapped.

Salt—take plenty, especially for curing hides or meat. Need plenty yourself during the heat of summer.

Pepper—as you desire.

Dried fruits

Shelled nuts

Biscuit and pancake mixes, or mix your own

Ice box rye bread—dense, small loaf

Ry-Krisp, Breadstixs, other unleavened "hard-tack"

Fritos or other corn chips—crush some if too bulky.

Sardines or other canned meats—these are on heavy side for food value per weight of tin.

Noodle, onion, split-pea, and vegetable soups, packet type

Coffee powder in tin

Tea bags

Lemons or lemon powder (where available)

Powdered eggs

Klim—whole milk powder (i.e., with butterfat)

Raisins

# Hen Hatches Wild Turkeys

They've got the wild turkey production fever out in Kerr County along the Guadalupe River. Even the barnyard hens have the turkey know-how on the Alvin Barfield farm one mile east of Center Point.

Big Bill Garrett, state game warden at Comfort and one of the acknowledged authorities on wild turkeys, tells about it on a relay from Warden Supervisor Herb Ward at Catarina.

A grain binder exposed three turkey nests. There was nothing to do about it except to hope that the hens would return and resume their setting chores. Farmer Barfield knew that any human molestation of wild turkey nests or eggs usually is fatal.

Finally, after two days one of the three hens returned. But the other two were unclaimed. So Barfield, who was in touch with Warden Garrett, decided to risk setting the thirty-two eggs in the two nests under his farm fowl.

Two cooperative and expansive Red hens got the assignment. Almost before they could begin planning on eventualities, the eggs began hatching. Thirty of the thirty-two eggs yielded peeping poults.

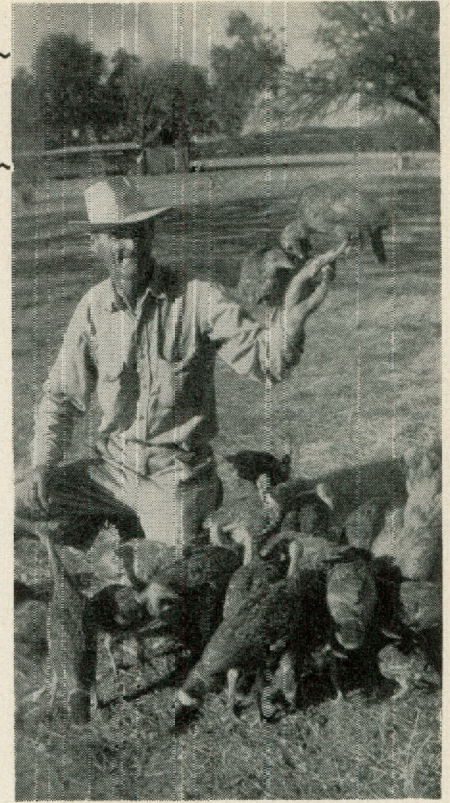
It's a well known fact among wildlife authorities that the less domestic

taint to wild turkey young so much the better. So Barfield gave one of the happy hens an honorable discharge, figuring correctly that the big clutch of turkeys would dominate the one mother hen and route her out into the open and away from the domestic hazards around the barnyard.

On the last report, the faithful old hen was still managing to keep up as the then remaining twenty-eight young birds roamed hill and dale. Warden Garrett said "they don't hang around the barnyard at all" and credited their independent attitude for their robust health. Garrett got a late check on the flock when he observed them crossing the road toward the river.

Eugene Walker, Wildlife Biologist, who specializes on big game, said the Barfield farm is in the center of excellent wild turkey country, and complimented Farmer Barfield for acting after allowing time for the hens to return. He agreed with Warden Garrett that the eggs in the two nests, although unattended, might have hatched, but the baby turkeys without protection probably would have fallen prey to predators.

Biologist Walker suggested the rare



This unusual photograph showing Pct Frane mingling with wild turkey young was taken by Game Warden Bill Garrett. His heart wasn't in his work, though, because Garrett knows that contact with civilization ordinarily is fatal to the poults.

case should not be accepted as a simple precedent for well-meaning persons finding wild turkey nests. He said ordinarily, if the eggs are not molested, the hens will return but warned that any contact with the nests usually scares the sensitive hens away permanently . . . Jay Vessels.

## Camping Notes

Butter, margarine, olive oil, cottonseed oil, vegetable shortening.  
Butter and margarine can be tied in small plastic bag (when it is determined it is not dissolved by these) and squeezed out like shaving cream.

Sugar and candy bars

Various dry cereals

Pre-cooked rice and other pre-cooked dry items that are appealing

Pudding mixes

Small cans of fruit juices and fruit where packing permits

Cocoa, Ovaltine, etc.

Jams, jellies, honey

Candied fruits

Dry cookies

Dried beef flakes

Pack all foods in waterproofed cotton or plastic bags when possible—carry as little cardboard, tin and glass as possible. Bags have the advantage of being light and easily packed and reducing size to the remaining supply of food left. Label by writing name of contents on strip of adhesive tape.

Tins with friction tops are handy for certain items. Tops can be sealed with adhesive tape. Glass, when necessary, can be reinforced from breaking by binding with a layer of adhesive tape.

**NOTE on above lists:** The ideal is to get the weight of your pack, less food,

down to about 20 lbs. Only by using the lightest equipment and culling from the above list what does not fit in your scheme of things can you get a complete kit that is this light and still practical.

Unless you are hale, hearty and in training, try not to exceed 35 pounds, including food and hobby gear in pack. You can no doubt carry more than this but will soon be figuring out ways to cut down the load. The ideal is to get used to sleeping without a mattress—this is usually for the younger fellows and steady campers, though. Pay particular attention to your bedding gear—you spend a third of your life in it.

• Continued from Preceding Page

## How Dangerous Are They?

• Continued from page 5

people who had died from centipede bites.

These stories worried me considerably until I found that my acquaintance had the reputation of being an awful liar. I then found that so far as known, no one had ever died from the bite of a centipede; nor could I find any evidence that the flesh dropped off in great gobs as a result of a bite. I do know that a centipede bite is painful, because a friend of mine was bitten by one some years ago. His hand pained him for a day or so but he suffered no permanent

## Old Black Magic

• Continued from page 17

tried it on pheasant this year, and by the time it was spoken the bird was a hundred yards away. But then, I was using a shotgun, and the incantation was written for bow and arrow.

If I had killed that pheasant, I would have bitten off the tip of its tongue. The Indians claimed that this makes for good hunting the rest of the day.

Seriously, there's not a grain of truth in any of this. You can take it or leave it; I'm too hungry to care one way or the other. I've been fox hunting all week, and haven't eaten anything but raw vegetables. Not that I'm superstitious, but the Indians *do* say that if you eat cooked food before hunting, the game can see the cooking fire inside you . . .

## Next Month

**The Bison Hunters** of early-day Texas—the flint-point masters of years ago.

**World's Record Black Bass.** The details of this catch, lost to the fishing world for years, have been uncovered again.

**Horned Lizards**—a factual article about the life and habits of Texas' distinctive symbol.

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**TEXAS GAME AND FISH**  
Walton State Building  
Austin, Texas

ill effects. A centipede's bite is, however, fatal to some animals.

**E**VERYONE should remember that many bites from spiders, scorpions and centipedes occur because the creatures like to get into shoes and clothing when they are not being worn. A person would do well to shake thoroughly his shoes and clothing before putting them on. This is especially important when one is sleeping outside or in buildings that are not well built.

Many people believe that several kinds of lizards are poisonous, and they are especially afraid of those that have bright red heads. These red-headed lizards are called "scorpions" in some regions. Large lizards can bite and one may even take a mouthful of skin along in the process. But there is only one lizard in the United States that is poisonous, and this is the Gila monster. This lizard occurs in Arizona, New Mexico and possibly adjacent areas. People did not know for sure that the Gila monster was poisonous until someone got the bright idea of trying out some of the material from the mouth glands on a guinea pig. When this was injected into a guinea pig, the creature promptly died. Since that time the lizard has been regarded as being potentially dangerous to human beings.

There is still disagreement as to just how dangerous these bites are. Probably one reason for this is that the poison does not squirt out, like that of a snake, when the lizards bite. The venom flows very slowly, and a Gila monster must hang on and chew for a time before he can get much poison into the wound. Another probable reason for this disagreement is that some lizards are more ornery than others. Then too, most Gila monsters do not try to bite if they are caught during cold weather.

A friend of mine named Joe Smalt, living on a ranch in New Mexico, once claimed that he knew all about Gila monsters. He said that he had caught many of them and that they would not even bite. One cold frosty morning he found a big Gila monster under a stone. It did not try to bite him so he carried it home and put it

## Wanted!

Again this year, the Commission urges hunters to watch for banded doves.

The band, or the number, should be sent to the Game and Fish Commission, Austin, or to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., together with date and location of the kill.

Data obtained is being used to check migrations and breeding habits of this popular game bird in an important cooperative nationwide research program.

Hunters returning bands will be given a complete report indicating where and when the dove was banded.

in a box outside his house. About noon the sun was nice and warm and Joe decided to look at his Gila monster. He reached into the box but the lizard was no longer cold, and it was not in a playful mood. It hissed like a steam engine and clamped its jaws on Joe's hand. Joe was flabbergasted. He had never known one of these lizards to do this before. The Gila monster hung on like a bulldog and chewed away. Joe came out of his trance, yelled and succeeded in freeing his hand. The hand and arm swelled and Joe became very sick. He was forced to go to bed and did not recover fully for more than a week.

My friend, Joseph, knows more about Gila monsters than he did at one time. He has not been playing with any recently. I do not know of any specific case of death resulting from a Gila monster's bite, but this could very well happen. Anyone who finds one of these lizards would do well to keep his paws to himself.

And that same advice might work for all the species I have mentioned in this article. People like to think a thing is terribly dangerous, or they want to act heroic and show contempt for its lethal capabilities. Son, let's you and me adopt a sort of "middleman" attitude when it comes to these nasty little creatures. We'll feel a lot better as a result. Who knows, we might even live longer.

## Unwelcome Neighbors

Continued from page 6

vigilance must be maintained or others will move in from untreated sections in a short time.

FOR PURELY local control around the home grounds, the easiest way to eliminate the unwanted gopher is by the use of traps that are especially designed for this purpose. These traps are obtainable at any hardware store and are cheap and efficient.

One never need wonder whether or not Mr. and Mrs. Geomyidae are in the neighborhood. Their presence is self evident by the new mounds of raw earth atop the ground. If you have 'em and don't want 'em, you might try writing Texas Extension Service, or secure Conservation Bulletin No. 23 from the United States Department of Agriculture.

## Doves Build Nests Above Bare Ground

Game Warden Tom Waddell has found another fussy phase of morning dove nesting, and he considers it quite understandable.

In observations made down in his home Colorado County, Waddell noticed that doves ignore nesting areas with long grass growing on the ground below.

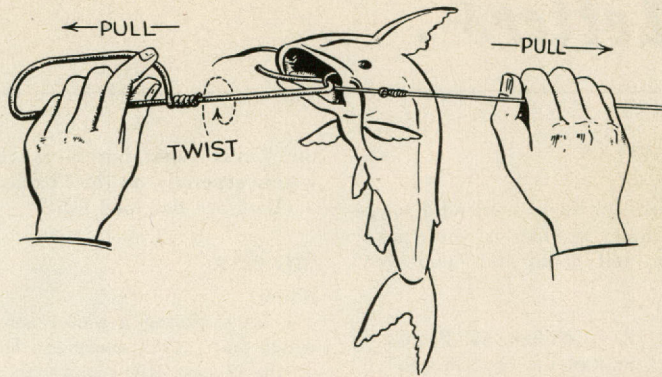
The reason is that the undergrowth provides a death trap for young birds when they abandon their nests to learn how to fly. They become entangled and many are lost to predators.

Waddell said a huisache mott near Garwood with grass five to six inches tall had a few nests but that another mott nearby with weeds up to two feet high had no nests.

When the latter area was mowed, doves began nesting the next day.

In one area which had natural short growth, alternating from bare ground to short Bermuda grass, he found as many as fifty nests grouped close together.

All of which, observes Waddell, makes the mourning bird more cautious than is indicated by the flimsy nests it builds. This bird is a notorious poor planner on nest structure.—Steve Hamlin.



## Easy Way to Release Catfish

Rex M. George, Houston, contributes this handy method of handling hardhead sea catfish, the rascal which has punctured fishermen's skins since man began fishing.

"It was given to me by a friend of mine, Alvin R. Lawson, Houston, and I am surprised that more fishermen haven't used this system," George writes.

The gadget consists of a piece of heavy wire, at least as heavy as a coathanger. One end is twisted to form a handle. The other is bent in the form of a hook.

"Let the hardhead dangle at the end of the line," George directs. "Slip the hook around the leader and slide it down until it reaches the fish hook in the fish's mouth. Apply pressure, and this opens the hardhead's mouth. Then a quick twist of the gadget releases the hook and sends the fish flying. You haven't touched it, and little time is lost."

## Cichlid of the Rio Grande

Continued from page 9

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 understand that 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, which 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 I'll take the yellow catfish every time."

"You, my friend, are certainly spoiled."

## "POOR BOY"

Editor:

. . . Thanks for such a splendid magazine. One thing we like is your policy to write for and about the "poor boy" sportsman.

Rev. William H. Brooks  
Star of the Sea Church  
Freeport, Texas

## WHICH IS WHICH?

Editor:

I wish you would settle a question for me please. What is the difference between the following fish:

- Redfish
- Channel bass
- Red bass
- Red snapper

I have been having a few arguments on the subject.

Carl Kaden  
P. O. Box 433  
Gainesville, Texas

(The redfish, channel bass, and red bass are all the same fish. It is a fine game fish commonly caught in the surf and bays of the Texas Coast. It is generally called redfish in Texas and channel bass in the Atlantic. The term red bass is seldom used.

(The red snapper also is common to

## Lure Offered At Special Rate

Charles Garcia & Co., pioneer manufacturers and importers of spin fishing equipment, have joined with the Sport Fishing Institute in offering their Plucky Lures at a special non-profit price of \$1 with net profits going to the Institute.

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the Texas Coast but is caught in deep water, generally on the "banks."

(Both are fine food fish.)

## BIG GAR

Editor:

I am enclosing a picture of a big gar, which was caught above the Holland dam on the Nueces River southeast of Cottula. This fish measured 7 feet, 10 inches. We guessed the weight to be more than 300 pounds.

. . . We have caught many alligator gar weighing between 75 and 200 pounds on trotlines at this place. One such fish . . . had an undigested blue catfish in its stomach that weighed 10 pounds, 3 ounces. This in my opinion shows what damage a large concentration of these fish can do to the game fish population.

George L. Nye  
1126 Mason St.  
San Antonio, Texas

(Unfortunately, Mr. Nye's photo was a little too dim to reproduce in printing. But the gar was a big one!)

## ROADRUNNER A PREDATOR?

Editor:

I would be the last man in the country to ban folklore, but it does not seem ethical to me to bring folklore into a factual article.

In your June issue, Martha W. West, in an article entitled "And the Bands Go On," says that "perhaps the nesting birds (doves) had fallen prey to such predators as skunks, road runners, and snakes."

I should like authority for classifying road runners as predators . . . considerable

has been written of this interesting and delightful bird, and all evidence . . . has acquitted him of being a true predator, although now and then some road runner may catch a small bird and eat it.

J. Frank Dobie  
702 Park Place  
Austin, Texas

(Mr. Dobie certainly is well-qualified to separate fact from fiction in the Southwest, since he is one of the nation's most successful writers in both fields.

(Personally, we, too, have a soft spot in our heart for this bird, although we are well aware that South Texans in particular regard the road runner as an enemy

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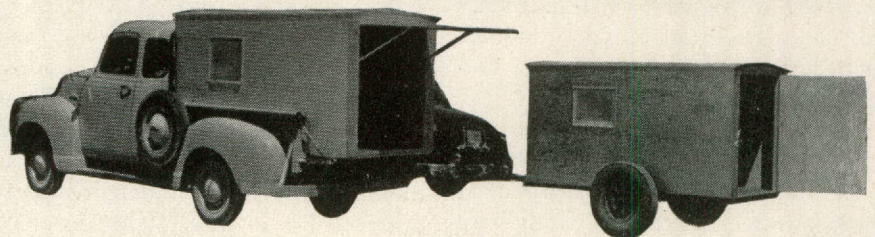
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of quail, turkey, and other ground-nesting birds.

(We checked with W. C. Glazener, head of the Wildlife Restoration Division, and he tells us that road runners definitely eat eggs.

(Then we passed Mr. Dobie's letter on to Mrs. West to let her defend her own article. She points out that field men have reported 17 instances of road runners preying on dove nestlings or eggs.

(It is not known whether or not these field men actually saw the depredations.

(Mrs. West told Mr. Dobie of these reports, to which he replied):

. . . Nothing spreads more easily than the accusation against some creature for killing game life. I do know that the most road runners I've ever seen were in a region where I made an estimate of about 1,000 quail, mostly blue quail, seen in one day.

Personally, I'd rather have one road runner and six quail than no road runners and seven quail. The people need to cultivate a sense of values.

(With that final thought-provoking shot from Mr. Dobie's very able typewriter, we'll let the case rest with our readers.)

(Incidentally, it is interesting to note that Mr. Dobie's letterhead bears a lone design—the small silhouette of a road runner in the upper left corner.)

**ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

Then please fill out the following form and send to TEXAS GAME AND FISH, Walton Bldg., Austin, Texas, so that you will continue to receive your copies of the magazine.

The magazine is sent second class mail and can not be forwarded by the post office nor remailed from this office. Allow six weeks for processing.

Name.....

Old Address.....

City....., State.....

New Address.....

City....., State.....

Editor:

In your February issue you published a photo of an unusually small five-point buck, weighing only 52 pounds. I thought this was interesting because I also killed a small buck last season. Mine was a six-pointer which weighed only 61 pounds. He came from South Texas, where deer usually run larger than average.

Troy Woodward  
Pearsall, Texas

**MORALE BUILDER**

Editor:

Your magazine has been a source of

unlimited pleasure and education to me and my students. I think it is absolutely the best thing in the outdoor field I ever read . . .

F. B. Curry  
Giddings, Texas

Editor:

Please find enclosed a dollar for renewal of my subscription to TEXAS GAME AND FISH. Wish I could get as much for every dollar that I spend!

L. C. Willett  
4018 Oakridge  
Houston 9, Texas

**Air Fishermen Haunt Coast**

By land, by sea, and by air Texans maneuver into position for the Gulf coast fishing paradise. But Game Warden M. B. (Pug) Mullinax of Rockport, considers the flying contingent most impressive. Mullinax said the aerial anglers come from as far away as Houston and from San Antonio to work over one area in Cedar Bayou, just northeast of Rockport.

One thing the game warden likes about it is that the flying fraternity gets its fish home in a hurry. "They hook them out of the sea and have them back home almost before they've quit flopping," he explained.

For the men of the stick, it's pretty soft. They zoom down along the Gulf side of Matagorda Island and when they spot trout or redfish in close to shore, they land on the hard packed sand, flush against the water. Then they strip down, get out their surf casting tools and help themselves.

Mullinax said he has seen as many as 12 planes parked in the Cedar Bayou area. One flying doctor from San Antonio is a regular customer of the flying fishing market. The game warden described this man as particularly adept at running an aerial reconnaissance and also at surf casting.

"He never misses," said Mullinax.

The game warden said the hazards are minimized to those who know their coast, and went on to explain

that the sand along the surf is hard packed and very good for landing and taking off.

Mullinax also considered the time element important, since the flying fishermen cut down the travel time to and from their favorite fishing spot.

So it's off into the wild blue yonder; out into the trout haven, and back to the office for almost a full day's work.—Jay Vessels.



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# Flying Fish Capture Breaks Monotony of Marine Lab Research

They go down to the sea in ships from the Marine Laboratory of the Game and Fish Commission at Rockport. They come back with everything from baby shrimp to tiger sharks. And it's so many fathoms for this and so many fathoms for that. Yet it was Johnny Sapp, using a dip net from the quiet of the Lab's loading dock, who surprised the staff recently.

This lad's routine calls for feeding the fish in the Lab tanks. When there's time, he collects salt water species from the basin waters. And

then routinely reports the details for the official log.

On this particular day, he skipped protocol and raced upstairs because he had something different. A small flying fish.

In the memory of the Lab staff,

## Magazine Writer Fatally Injured

Adam Wilson, III, who has contributed articles concerning guns and shooting for many years to TEXAS GAME AND FISH, died of gunshot wounds at Kerrville July 9.

Wilson was found in his quarters early June 27, unconscious and with a bullet wound from one of his pistols in his forehead. He apparently had been cleaning or repairing the gun.

News of Wilson's death came as the July issue of TEXAS GAME AND FISH was going to press. It contained one of his articles, "Shootin' Shorts."

In addition to this article and "Venomous Little Beauties," which appeared in the January issue, he contributed nearly 60 other articles dating back to 1946.

Wilson was an ardent gun collector and one of the state's foremost authorities on guns, ammunition, and shooting.

no such specimen had ever been taken from the harbor waters, although flying fish do occur in Gulf waters.

While the young fellow admired the tiny fish in the glass container to which it had been transferred, the Lab staff scanned the record books.

Came the verification. A sketch of an adult fish and identification as to fins and coloring.

The new find was a small fish, about two and one-half inches long but the wings, or rather fins, were distinct.

Flying fish previously taken from Gulf waters ranged up to roughly eight inches in length, according to Cecil W. Reid, Chief Marine Biologist.

Reid went on to say that the flying fish label really is a misnomer since the species becomes air borne by kicking itself out of the water and then gliding along with its tail nicking the top of the water.

"We'll isolate this fellow from the other fish for a while," explained Marine Biologist Howard Lee. "Put him on a ground fish diet and see what happens."

Johnny Sapp, elevated to Chief Flying Fish Finder, hopefully returned to methodical dip netting from dockside.—Jay Vessels.

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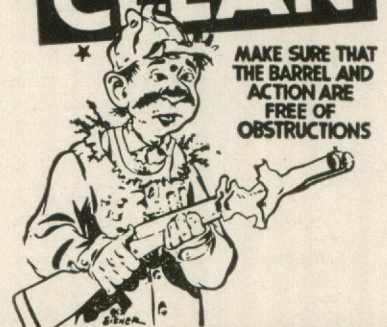
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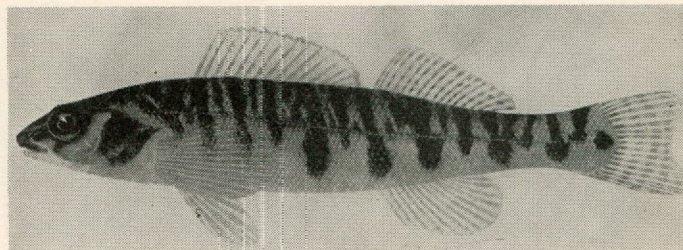
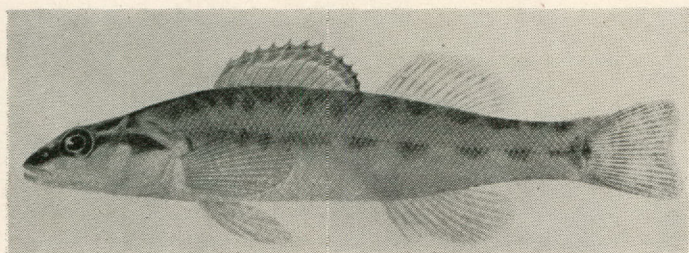
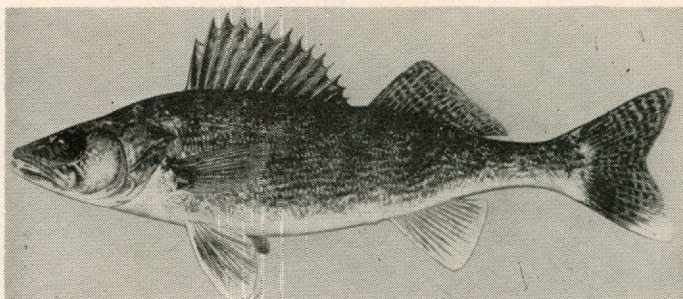
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## Which One Is the Yellow Pikeperch?

*(Walleyed Pike)*

Yellow pikeperch (walleyed pike) were introduced into Texas waters for the first time early this spring. Since then, many fishermen claim to have caught the small fry, particularly in seines.

More than likely, it has been a case of mis-identification. Take a look at the above photos. You see, Texas has some natives that very closely resemble the yellow pikeperch.

The photo at upper right shows the new import. This gamester, which reaches upwards of twenty pounds, has been stocked in two Texas localities, both selected as spots where the yellow pikeperch, or walleye, is most likely to succeed. The Game and Fish Commission placed half a

million newly-hatched fry in Lake Travis north of Austin, and another half million in Devil's Lake near Del Rio.

Incidentally, first reports indicate that the bustling youngsters grew about three inches the first six weeks.

The fish at lower left is a darter. These little fish seldom exceed a length of one and one-half inches.

The fish at lower right is a logperch, which may reach a maximum of around seven inches. It sometimes may be caught on a small hook.

Logperch and darters rest on the bottoms of streams or lakes. They move through the water in "jumps." The larger walleye, a true perch and not a member of the pike family, swims through the water in the more usual manner.

# WOOD RAT



THE WOOD RAT OR "DACK RAT" AND "TRADE RAT" AS IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN IN TEXAS, IS SUBJECT TO THE HABIT OF CARRYING OFF SHINY OR BRIGHT COLORED OBJECTS AND LEAVING IN THEIR PLACES BITS OF WOOD OR ROCK. THEY BELONG TO A LARGE GROUP OF ATTRACTIVE AND SOFT-FURRED RODENTS WITH LARGE BROWN EYES AND FURRY TAILS. THEIR HOMES ARE LARGE UNASSUMING JUMBLES OF DEBRIS. THEY FEED UPON MANY KINDS OF GREEN VEGETATION, FRUIT, NUTS, ROOTS AND BARK. THE DACK RATS ARE SOMETIMES ANNOYING BUT HAVE READILY ACCCEPTED HUMAN HABITATION AND ARE IN MANY WAYS BENEFICIAL TO MAN.

WOOLDRIDGE

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