

Documentary Department

# Texas Game and Fish

MAR 1 1956

State Library

NOVEMBER

1955

TEN CENTS







## Hold your fire—and watch that smoke!

There are several things wrong with this picture, so far as hunting safety is concerned. It is known that most forest fires occur during the hunting season, and last year we had more forest fires than in any other year since 1939. All hunters should be mindful of the danger packed in a lighted cigarette, burning match or carelessly abandoned campfire. The hunter in the picture is doing a dangerous thing in trying to smoke game out of a hollow tree. Such trees act as chimneys when ignited, and wind throws sparks and embers over a wide area, carrying fire and tragedy with them. Next year's hunting depends on this year's hunters. Keep the forests green and untouched by the conflagrations begun by human hands.—Texas Forest Service photo



# Texas Game and Fish

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



EDITOR.....Townsend Miller  
*Assistant Editor* Shirley Ratisseau Dimmick  
*Circulation and Advertising*.....L. M. Hancock  
*Business Assistant*.....Louise Kreidel  
*Field Editor*.....Jay Vessels  
*Chief Photographer*.....Lon Fitzgerald  
*Asst. Photographer*.....Clyde Graham

November, 1955

Vol. XIV, No. 10



## In This Issue



TEXAS GAME AND FISH is published monthly by the Texas Game and Fish Commission. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. Single copies of current issue 10 cents each.

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

TEXAS GAME AND FISH regrets that it cannot continue subscriptions beyond date of expiration. Checks and money orders should be made payable to STATE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION, Editorial and Advertising Offices, Walton Building, Austin, Texas. Entered as second-class matter May 19, 1943, at the post office at Austin, Texas, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Postmaster: If undeliverable, please notify TEXAS GAME AND FISH on form 3578-P at the Walton Building, Austin, Texas.

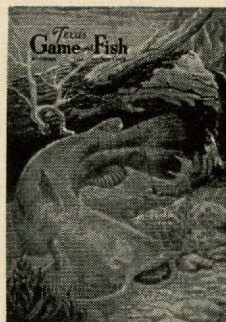
TEXAS GAME AND FISH invites republication of material since the articles and other data comprise factual reports on wildlife and other phases of conservation. Credit line appreciated.



Members of the Game and Fish Commission: Herbert J. Frensley, Houston, chairman; Howard Carney, Atlanta; Hal Peterson, Kerrville; Herman Heep, Buda; Frank Wood, Wichita Falls; W. T. Scarborough, Kenedy; J. W. Elliott, Mexia; Henry LeBlanc, Port Arthur; Henry Coffield, Marfa; H. D. Dodgen, *Executive Secretary*; W. J. Cutbirth, Jr., *Assistant Executive Secretary*.

Directors of Divisions: Marion Toole, Austin, *Inland Fisheries*; Eugene A. Walker, Austin, *Wildlife Restoration*; Joe Marks, Austin, *Engineering*; V. E. Skaggs, Austin, *Chief Clerk*; Cecil W. Reid, Rockport, *Coastal Fisheries*; Everett T. Dawson, Austin, *Conservation Education and Publications*; Earl Sprott, Austin, *Law Enforcement*.

<b>Deer Tracks: Buck or Doe?</b> .....	5
By DR. FREDERICK H. WESTON Can you or can't you tell the sex of a deer by its tracks?	
<b>Redheads of the Laguna Madre</b> .....	7
By HAROLD WAYNE FERRELL South Coast duck hunters have a special appreciation for red heads.	
<b>You Should Have Been Here Yesterday!</b> .....	8
By SAM WELCH A bit of fishing humor from the Ozarks.	
<b>East Texas Conquest</b> .....	9
By JAY VESSELS Cooperation solved the deer problem for these East Texans.	
<b>Natural Resource Speech Wins Award</b> .....	10
By OLGA JEAN CHRISTOPHER This high school senior saw much her elders have ignored.	
<b>Spying Eye Camera</b> .....	11
By JACK DERMID Tips on photographing birds—and some of the results.	
<b>Fundamentals of Producing Fish</b> .....	14
By DR. R. W. ESCHMEYER Results depend on how a fish management program is administered.	
<b>Take Care of Yourself!</b> .....	20
By SHIRLEY DIMMICK What would you do if you were bitten by a rattler?	
<b>Statewide Outdoor Organization Planned</b> .....	22
<b>Outdoor Television Program Schedule Announced</b> .....	23
<b>Letters</b> .....	2
<b>Texas Tracks</b> .....	16
<b>Guns and Shooting</b> .....	18
<b>Things You May Not Know</b> ....	21
<b>Summary of Seasons</b> .....	21
<b>New Life for Goose</b> .....	25
<b>Books</b> .....	32
<b>Eyeless Redfish</b> .....	
.....	Inside Back Cover



## The Cover

This month's cover painting, by Clay Mc-Gaughy, is the flathead catfish, known also as the yellow or opelousas cat. They grow quite large, often attaining a length of five feet and have been known to weigh over one hundred pounds. Flatheads prefer large lakes, bayous, rivers, and the overflow ponds of a large river. These fish are voracious eaters, their main diet being other fish. When properly prepared, the flathead is considered by many as the best tasting freshwater fish.



# Letters to . . .



Editor:

Enclosed is a photo of five Texarkana teen-agers and a big alligator gar they caught from Little River. The 6½-foot gar was hooked on a trotline, but the boys did not bring it ashore until they had riddled its body with a shotgun. Shown left to right are Larry Payne, Jimmy Payne, Robert Powell, Dale Payne, and Tommy Ellis.

Bob Mundella  
TEXARKANA GAZETTE  
Texarkana, Texas

## Favorable Comparison

Editor:

Enclosed find my check for \$4 for a two-year subscription at the new rate

## ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Then please fill out the following form and send to TEXAS GAME AND FISH, Walter Bldg., Austin, Texas, so that you will continue to receive your copies of the magazine. The magazine is sent second-class mail and cannot 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.....

of \$2 per year, recently announced.

During the time I served as Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I had opportunity to become familiar with all the magazines published by various state game and fish departments, and yours certainly is among the half dozen best in the nation. Certainly it is a distinct credit to the Texas Game and Fish Commission, its leadership, and to the magazine staff.

Incidentally, I think the new rate of \$2 per year is unusually modest, and I can't believe any of your readers would offer objections to this increase.

Clarence Cottam, Director  
Welder Wildlife Foundation  
Sinton, Texas

(Coming from a person of Dr. Cottam's experience and reputation, these remarks are particularly appreciated. And we sincerely hope our other readers will accept as graciously the necessary subscription rate increase.—Ed.)

## Will Doves Remate?

Editor:

I wonder if you might be able to settle a discussion concerning the dove family. One person claims that the dove mates for life and that when one is killed, the remaining mate will NEVER mate again. I would appreciate knowing the correct answer to this.

Jack Smith  
P. O. Box 101  
Mineral Wells, Texas

(As far as we have been able to determine, we believe that if one dove is killed, the mate remaining alive will mate again. I believe some of the work done at Texas A. and M. College

by Wendell Swink definitely proved this.—W. S. Jennings, Asst. Dir. Wildlife Restoration.)

## Average Over 24 Pounds

Editor:

Enclosed is a photo of ten yellow catfish which weighed a total of 242 pounds. The largest weighed 50 pounds.

They were caught on a trotline from a stock pond near Winchester in Fayette County in two nights of fishing. Shown in the photo are Rudie A. Mitschke, Rudie Lee Mitschke, Martin Schulz, his grandson, Steven Dwight Schulz, and Andrew Pietsch, owner of the pond. Not shown is Raymond Schulz, who took the picture.

Rudie A. Mitschke  
Route 4  
La Grange, Texas

(Unfortunately, the photo was too poor to reproduce well in the magazine.—Ed.)

## Big Jewfish

Editor:

Enclosed is a photo of a jewfish I caught on rod and reel and 210-pound test line near the Port Isabel jetties off Padre Island. The fish weighed 335 pounds and was six feet, seven inches long. I used a 2½-pound sheepshead for bait.

J. B. Tubb  
Route 1, Box 148  
Raymondville, Texas







**Sporty Catfish**

Editor:

The article in the August issue "Fishing for Channel Catfish in Texas" prompted me to send you the enclosed photograph.

I had never heard of a catfish striking a topwater lure, but this ten-and-one-quarter-pound blue cat was caught on a floating Bass Oreno lure.

Jack Mullican  
Herald-Press  
Palestine, Texas

(Although catfish usually prefer natural baits, at times they can be induced into striking artificial lures. And in rare instances they will hit a topwater casting or flyrod lure.—Ed.)

**Extra Choppers**

Editor:

I killed a deer on the Marykaty Withers ranch east of Encinal that had two teeth growing out from its chin, each a half-inch long. His lower jaw, where the teeth should have been, was completely healed without any sign of a scar on the inside of its mouth. There were six more teeth, three on each side of a vacant space where the two teeth normally would be located.

Augustus Dobie, Jr., and I were together at the time, and we hauled the deer eleven miles to the main ranch house before either one of us noticed the teeth.

Ernest P. Randle  
250 Barrett Place  
San Antonio, Texas

● Continued on next page

Announcing

**NEW RATES**

for

**TEXAS GAME & FISH  
MAGAZINE**

*\$2 per Year*

Despite rapidly rising production costs during the past 10 years, *Texas Game and Fish* subscribers have continued to receive the magazine each month for only \$1 per year. That's less than 10 cents per copy and only about one-half the total production cost. To enable *Texas Game and Fish* to pay its own way WITHOUT lowering its present quality, it is necessary that rates be increased.

**We, therefore, announce with regrets  
the following new rates:**

**Effective November 15 until  
December 31, 1955—**

- \$1 per year for a ONE year renewal
- \$1 per year for a ONE year subscription
- \$2 per year for each ADDITIONAL year, new or renewal

(For example, until December 31, the rate for a ONE year subscription or renewal will be \$1—two years for \$3—three years for \$5—four years for \$7—five years for \$9, etc.)

**After December 31, 1955—**

ALL subscriptions and renewals \$2 per year.

**Subscribe Now!**

**To TEXAS GAME AND FISH Magazine**

Walton State Bldg., Austin 14, Texas

Until Dec. 31, 1955—\$1 per year for first year, \$2 per year for each additional year. After Dec. 31, 1955—\$2 per year.

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please send Texas Game & Fish Magazine for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Subscription. Please send one of your special gift announcement cards with my compliments. Sign gift card \_\_\_\_\_

Sent in by \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE—You may expect to receive your first copy of the magazine approximately six weeks after sending in remittance.**



Call Me Mister

Editor:

I've spent the last 15 months in Korea, and TEXAS GAME AND FISH has been one of my most vital links with home—second only to letters from my family. I consider it the best investment of a dollar I know. It's been a lifesaver for me in Korea. The only criticism is that there isn't more of it.

This is to notify you of my change of address. I'll be returning to the States soon and don't want to miss an issue. So please drop the rank and serial number and address the magazine to Mr. John H. Wooters.

John Wooters, Jr.  
2119 Pine Valley Drive  
Houston 19, Texas

(May we remind readers that TEXAS GAME AND FISH makes a fine gift—especially for servicemen away from home. There is no extra charge for overseas mailing.—Ed.)

Outsized Bobcat

Editor:

For many years I never shot a bobcat while hunting deer, but in recent years I have changed my mind. They are predators on small livestock and game, and, besides, they make pretty good trophies.

I am enclosing a photo of my daughter, Trudy, with a bobcat I killed. It was exceptionally large, so large, in fact, that at first I thought it was a small mountain lion. Despite the fact that my first shot left a gaping hole in its shoulder, it leaped high in the air, bellowed like a tiger, and ran almost 100 yards before falling.

Lloyd H. Glover  
Editor-Publisher  
The Pharr Press  
Pharr, Texas



# GIVE Texas Game & Fish for CHRISTMAS!

SOLVE your Christmas gift problems by sending subscriptions to Texas Game and Fish. Just fill out the coupons NOW—it's as easy as that! We'll even send a GIFT CARD bearing your name.

From \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City and State \_\_\_\_\_

To—TEXAS GAME AND FISH  
 Walton State Building  
 Austin 11, Texas

**NOTE—IMPORTANT!**

Addresses **MUST** be **COMPLETE!**

Gift cards may not be delivered before Christmas on subscription orders received after Dec. 7.

Please use these coupons for **GIFT** subscriptions **ONLY**. Subscriptions for longer than **ONE** year not accepted at rate of \$1 per year (see announcement on preceding page).

Gentlemen: Sounds like a real gift bargain to me! Enclosed find \$..... Take over my Christmas gift problem by sending **TEXAS GAME AND FISH** to:

Send \_\_\_\_\_ year subscription

To.....

Street.....

City and State.....

Sign gift card.....

Send \_\_\_\_\_ year subscription

To.....

Street.....

City and State.....

Sign gift card.....

Send \_\_\_\_\_ year subscription

To.....

Street.....

City and State.....

Sign gift card.....



## Deer Tracks:

# BUCK or DOE?

By DR. FREDERICK H. WESTON

Author of the book "Hunting the White-Tailed Deer in Texas"

TAKE  
THIS  
TEST

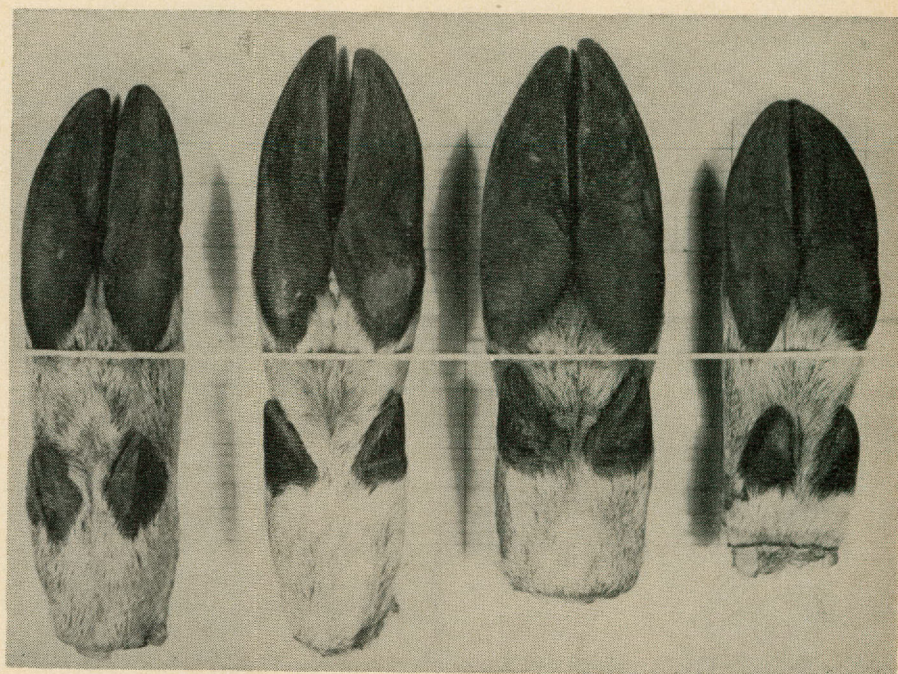
"THAT," said the old-line deer hunter, pointing to the track in the soft soil, "was made by a buck. It was a small buck, about half the size of the doe that made this track," he added, pointing to another track adjacent.

Shown a third track, he identified it without hesitation. "Now that was a fair-sized buck."

Thus, he unwittingly joined others like himself of long hunting experience in providing information on whether tracks can be used to identify positively and consistently the sex of the deer which made them. He was wrong in each instance, but he was not alone in his error. Others who claimed they could positively identify a buck by his tracks had made the same mistakes.

The tracks were not made by deer. They were made by man using the feet of dead deer. In the first instance, the tracks were made using

Photographs by James W. Metler



A.

B.

C.

D.

If you think you can identify the sex of a deer by its tracks, take a look at the feet pictured at right.

Score yourself before reading the article. The answers will be found in the next to last paragraph.



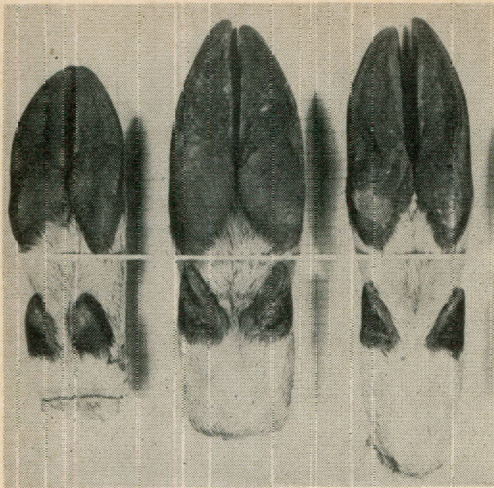


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

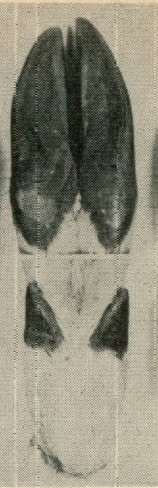


Fig. 3

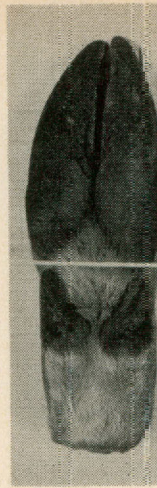


Fig. 4

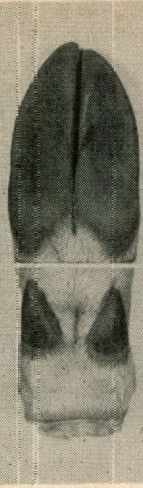


Fig. 5

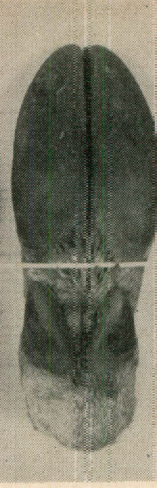


Fig. 6

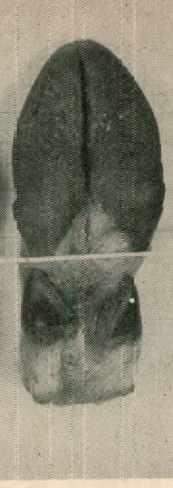


Fig. 7

the feet of a doe which hog-dressed at forty-seven pounds. The tracks were made to appear as if the animal had stepped in a bare patch of soil while walking. A photograph of one of the front feet used appears as Figure 1.

In the second instance, the tracks were made using the feet of a buck killed on a softer-soiled range which hog-dressed at sixty-five pounds. It, too, was made to appear to be walking across the same opening. A photograph of one of the front feet appears as Figure 2.

In the third instance, the tracks were made using the feet of a doe which hog-dressed at sixty-four pounds. In this case, the tracks were made to appear as if the animal had been running with the hoofs spread and imprints of dewclaws showing. A photograph of one of the front feet used appears as Figure 3.

Only those hunters who said they could positively identify the sex of a deer by its tracks were tricked into

this small-scale experiment. This little fun notwithstanding, the fact is that tracks made by deer do not give positive identification as to the sex of the maker.

The white-tailed deer exists on ranges of varying ecological types. The different soils of the ranges they occupy alter the size and shape of their feet. Those living on ranges of clay, sand, or other softer soils are more likely to have longer and more pointed hoofs than those existing on rocky ranges. Food, too, creates changes, as does age and the effects of the various seasons.

The 2½-year-old doe whose foot appears in Figure 1 was not completely grown and lived on a rocky range on a near-starvation diet. Her feet were smaller and more worn than was the fully grown doe whose foot appears in Figure 3, and who existed on a range of softer soils on a better diet. The buck whose foot ap-

• Continued on page 27

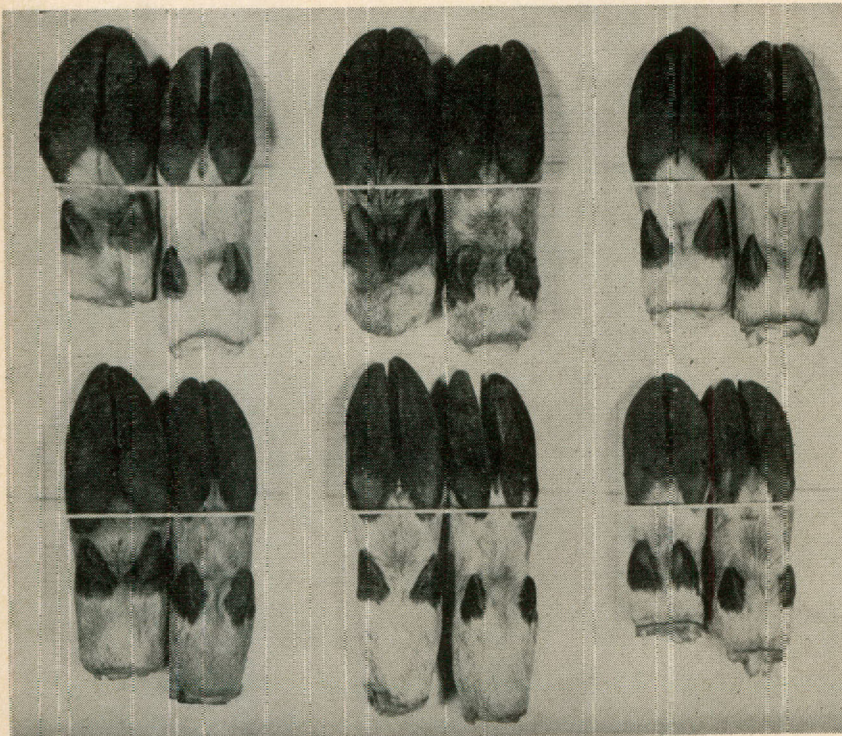


Figure 8

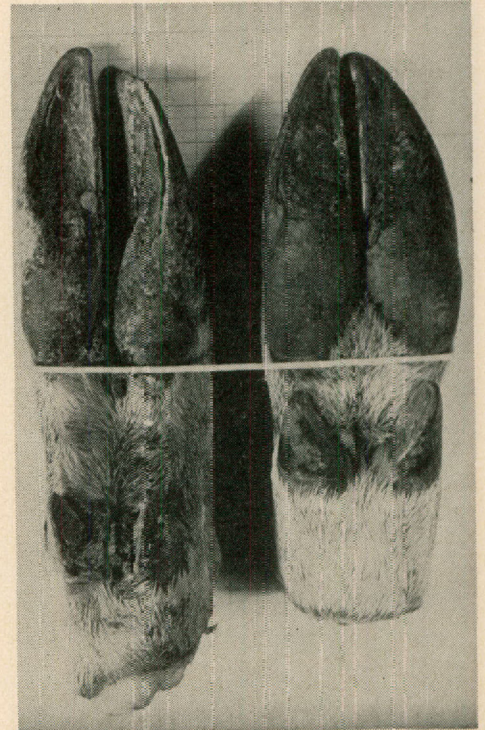


Figure 9



# Red Heads of the Laguna Madre

By HAROLD WAYNE FERRELL

Much has been said and written about duck shooting in the state of Texas, particularly the lower Texas Coast. But a hunter has to take part in it firsthand to see and realize the full splendor and the almost unbelievable sport it has to offer.

The state in general enjoys good duck shooting, but the lower coastal section of the state is blessed with by far the greatest assortment of water fowl. As any sportsman in that part of the state knows, a hunter can, with a little patience, fill his bag with the kind of ducks he most desires.

A large part of our winter visitors from the far north is made up of pintails, but it is not uncommon to see a flock of most any kind of ducks during a day's hunt. The most sought after bird along the lower coast, in my estimation, is the one favored by most seasoned veterans. That is the redhead. They flock to

a certain spot of bay country between Corpus Christi and Port Isabel in such numbers that only seeing is believing.

There is one particular spot north of Port Isabel known as the mouth of the Arroyo Colorado that is generally wrapped up by these birds, and it is not unusual to see rafts of them that extend for a mile or so. At times parts of the bay along this spot are absolutely black with them, and the most uncanny characteristic is that they feed and fly over the same area day after day. It is here that the native hunter can and does enjoy some of the finest duck shooting found in the entire United States.

This part of the Laguna Madre offers several different types of gunning for ducks due to the digging of the Intracoastal Canal many years ago. This ship channel was dredged through an open part of the bay country, and as a result, big earth

deposits were piled up along the ship channel. Many of them resemble good-sized hills. Frequently where these so-called "spoil banks" have been piled up close together, they have left narrow passes between the banks. The lowering and raising of tides have caused them to wash out, leaving pretty good inlets between the two bays on each side of the channel. It is through these passes that these great flights of redheads travel daily on their trips from bay country to fresh water.

After a few days down there you get to know where they pass and the time these flights take place. And the flights seldom vary more than a few minutes each day. Close observance and mental note-taking will enable the hunter to capitalize on bagging these choice birds for the family table.

My hunting and fishing "compadre" of many years in South Texas, E. A. (Tommy) Thompson, and I have in the past always taken our part of these birds. Words cannot describe the fun we have had at it.

At times we go after them in the manner of "pass shooting." This is the hardest way to fill a game bag, as the range is always one suitable for magnum guns and loads. We simply locate a spot along the spoil banks where these birds are traveling and leave our boat a couple of hundred yards away. Wading up to the bank of our choosing, we get on top and start blasting away at the ducks.

Most of the shooting is in access of sixty or seventy yards, thus necessitating the magnum loads and guns, if available. Neither of us has

● Continued on page 31

After the hunt, and the kill, comes time to clean and partially pick the day's bag. For some unknown reason, the largest flocks of ducks always seem to fly over at this time!





Here's proof that  
there CAN be humor  
in the saddest words  
a fisherman can hear . . .



## *You Should Have Been Here Yesterday!*

By SAM WELCH

"The Ozark Fisherman"

That's how they greet you when you come in with a tired right arm and a stringer that's still in the tackle box—

For weeks you'd been hearing about the big ones they'd been taking at Lake Soandso, so you decide to give it a try. You load up with plugs the bass have been "eatin' up" and get an early start. All the way to the lake you have visions of that big one you know you're going to take. You can see the rod dip as he strikes, and you feel that good solid pull as you set the hook. He tears off line so fast your thumb smokes as you try to turn him. You finally do it, just in time, then reel in frantically as he rushes for the boat. "Look out for that motor—better swing it up or he'll wrap the line around the propeller," you shout to the guide, and he gets it up not a second too soon. There he is on the other side of the boat, churning the water, and as you're wondering how you'll ever get him back under the boat, he sounds. You're over deep water and this bass takes line at a terrific speed. Suddenly the reel stops spinning and you have a sinking feeling as you begin to turn the reel handle again, and there's nothing on your line. But, wait a minute, that line's moving out and up, and before you can do anything about it there he is out of the water.

He's a good thirty feet from the boat, but drops of water hit you in the face as he tries to shake the plug free. You'll remember those drops of water as long as you live, and that big lunker out there in the air, mouth wide open, gill covers extended . . . what a picture! He hits the water and you feel like cheering as your rod bends almost double and you know he's still hooked. From then on you know you've got a good chance of taking him. He's still pulling hard, but his rushes aren't so spirited. Suddenly you realize that your left arm is so tired you can hardly hold it up. You press it tightly against your side to stop the aching. The knuckles of

your right hand are bleeding and you can't remember just when or how it happened. But what's a barked knuckle or two? You're so elated as you finally get him in the boat you wouldn't care if he'd broken every bone in your hand. How much will he weigh???

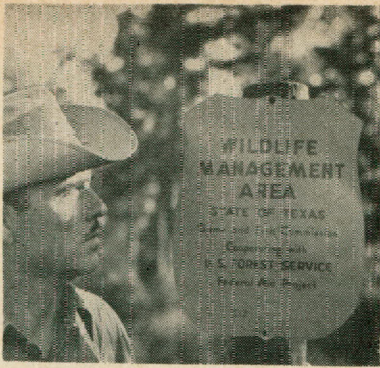
And about there a road sign tells you you're close to your destination—and puts an end to a dream that's been with you ever since you first planned this trip.

Upon reaching the dock you're a little impatient. Can't they get that boat ready a little faster? Now why does that dock man have to stop and sell minnows when you're so anxious to be on the lake?

Finally you start out and you wonder why the guide has to take you so far up the lake. Point after point you pass, and every one of them looks like it ought to produce bass. At last the motor stops, the guide puts his paddle into the water quietly and eases you into a spot about one hundred feet from shore. You've had a plug snapped on from the time you left the dock. You pitch it in toward a likely-looking spot, and to your surprise the plug drops within inches of the big log you'd aimed at. You leave the top-water there for a few seconds—it seems like minutes to you—then you jerk it sharply. Nothing happens. And so you repeat the movement. Surely there's a big lunker bass under that log, but why doesn't he strike? Your guide's talking, and you hear him say, "There's a big one hangs out right under that log; he's got away from two parties I've had out in the last two weeks." So you try again before moving on. The lake looks perfect and you keep on casting, and retrieving. Perhaps the color's not just right. So you change plugs, hanging the one you've replaced on the gunwale of the boat. You may need it again soon, you think, and you want it handy. The day wears on, and you begin to backlash every second or third cast. Must be something wrong with the reel, you

● Continued on page 23





Project Assistant Warden Allen Woolley inspects area designation sign within Davy Crockett National forest.

# East Texas Conquest

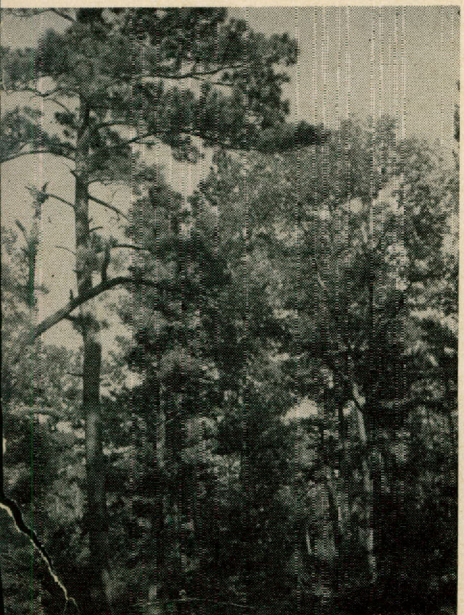
The Commission provided the know-how and the deer. But the real secret of success was the cooperation of local citizens.

Text and photos by JAY VESSELS  
Supervisor of Information



Here is a typical water impoundment created in new deer range food plots also have been planted to discourage deer from poaching farmer's crops.

Trail deep in the forest is shaded by giant pines; note dense cover for game.



One late summer edition about fifty years ago, the publisher of The Crockett *Courier* editorialized on the appalling amount of deer poaching going on in the area.

In effect, Publisher W. D. Page, wrote that poaching deer was bad enough but it was particularly bad in August when many parent does still cared for their fawns.

A few days later, the publisher, better known to his readers as "Senator Page," got a smelly package through the mail. It contained four deer tails somewhat odiferous from the heat and lack of refrigeration.

The incident was recalled recently by present editor W. W. Aiken.

So it went over the years and so did East Texas become known for its universal contempt for game laws. And of course, the area also got to be pretty well known for reckless elimination of its once unlimited wildlife numbers.

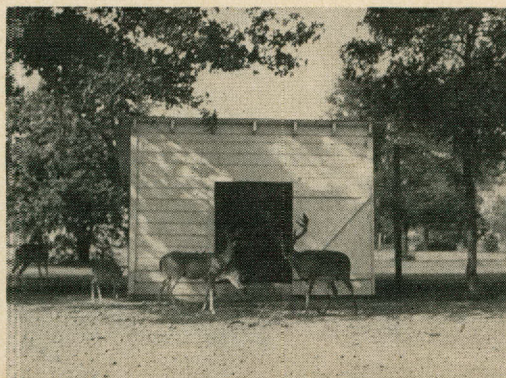
Now, the contrast with the lawless days is approaching the maximum, at least in many areas. Certainly, the swing is going all the way in the Crockett area. And it's a present-day success story that brings smiles of approval to the faces of the older residents who can remember well the days when wild-life resources were looted openly.

The current pleasure is more pointed because of incidents dating back slightly less than four years ago. At that time, substantial forces in Houston county, of which Crockett is county seat, saw the fruit of their cooperative organizing efforts materialize. They were the landowners, farmers, forestry folks, schools, and game authorities who had worked out a deer restoration program.

When the first truckload of deer for restocking was unloaded before one of the biggest crowds in the county's history, skeptics probably were in the majority. Some persons at the historic scene in the Davy Crockett National Forest guffawed that most of the crowd came to pick out the new targets.

● Continued on page 24

This family of deer, below left, is maintained by City of Crockett to familiarize local people with big game which was bordering on extinction there before restoration program was launched. Below right, Editor Jeff Davis of Crockett DEMOCRAT, right, a staunch supporter of restoration program is an archery fan and advocates permitting large scale bow and arrow hunting of deer when area is reopened to hunting in 1957. That's his composing room foreman, Johnny Counts, left, who considers himself a bull's-eye man with the pioneer-day weapons.





# Natural Resource Speech Wins Award

Keen insight into the need for wiser handling of our natural resources made the speech reprinted here a prize winner for this Texas high school senior.

By **OLGA JEAN CHRISTOPHER**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and God made man in His own image and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the heaven and over all the earth. In the beginning our resources were plentiful and man was few. In the millions of years since the creation man has increased his kind manifold and his needs are great. Much too often, now as in the past, man has exhibited little thought or care as to the source, supply or quantity of his natural resources. Now the problem of shortage is acute with us.

By family heritage steeped in a tradition of love for nature, by constant association through environment of rural living and through training received in my many years of active participation in 4-H Club work, I have developed a sense of reality for the need of conservation that we may perpetuate our natural resources. I grew up in the great piney woods region of East Texas on the banks of the mighty Trinity River and bore witness to man's selfishness and greed for timber. I have seen thousands of acres of charred pine stumps that are perpetual monuments to man's unwise use of one of his great resources.

I know of the waste of water—the millions of acre-feet that flow unharnessed, unused, into the sea each year while parts of our country suffer for a lack of it. I vividly recollect a few years ago when deep wells pierced the surface of the earth in the vicinity of our farm, for the

Olga Jean Christopher, 18, a 1955 Liberty high school graduate, displaying a chest of silver awarded her for winning the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest at A. & M. College in June. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garth Christopher of Liberty.



purpose of obtaining water for irrigation, and the water level dropped in all the surrounding area; our family suffered from the loss of water until such time as my father could drill a deeper well for domestic use. The shortage is even more acute at the present time.

I read with intense interest of man's early exploration for oil and gas and of the colorful history that this industry went through—of some of the enormous waste that occurred; some instances from lack of technical knowledge and in other cases where eager men failed to realize that all supplies are limited. It was not until after the turn of the century that wise men, recognized the error of their ways and corrected this situation. The same problems were encountered in what is today Texas' greatest industry—that of refining. Millions of dollars worth of valuable oils and natural gases were released to pollute our streams and pollute the air, but along with the advances of production know-how came advancement in refining and transmission. Only a few years ago, little or no commercial demand was made on the vast deposits of sulphur that were so plentiful in Texas, especially along our Gulf Coast region, but since World War I the increased uses are to a point that authorities

tell us that we can exhaust our present supply in 50 years.

We are confronted with another problem of equal importance for which a solution will surely be forthcoming in this age of scientific study and application, and that is our wildlife. I do not want to appear as an alarmist or a cynic, but rather to make a problem of importance known to my elders and especially to you, my fellow club members. Let us not be naive and believe that it cannot happen, because in less than a hundred years twelve species of birds and four species of animals have become extinct on the North American continent, never to return again. From greater demands on our lands, both for agricultural purposes, and dwelling, we are suffering a decrease of habitat. The marshes of the great prairie provinces of Canada are being drained to grow wheat and the ducks and geese have lost their nesting grounds. Overgrazing and farming of the great prairies of the Western United States has caused an incalculable loss of fertile topsoil to wind and water, and with it went our herds of antelope and our flocks of prairie chickens. A social reform of shorter working hours, and man's desire to satisfy an instinct to hunt is adding

● Continued on page 30



# Spying Eye of the CAMERA

Photo feature by JACK DERMID  
From WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Most birds zealously guard their family secrets by building their nests and raising their young in clever hiding places or in inaccessible locations. They are seeking security from predators and protection from the weather rather than privacy from the camera, and once they have become accustomed to the shining lens and

clicking shutter, their secrets are not difficult to capture on film.

A simple setup is to place the camera close to the nest and to trip the shutter by remote control from a distance with a string or with electricity and an electromagnet. The degree of wildness varies with the species of birds and even among individuals of the same species. With most songbirds, the camera can be placed at the nest and photography begun almost immediately; but with some of the wild game species, it may be necessary to gradually move a dummy camera up to a nest over a period of several days and after the bird is used to it, substitute a real camera for picture taking. Sometimes the photographer can remain in the open a few feet from the nest; at other times, he may be required to hide in a blind some distance away.

Success is easiest when young are in the nest or during the last days of incubation for those birds whose young leave the nest shortly after hatching, like the quail or killdeer. Parental instinct is greatest then, and there is little danger of the nest being deserted. It is surprising how little heed many birds give the camera after the first exposure or two. The flashbulb and noise seem to be little more than a nuisance to them.

**PRIVACY PREFERRED.** This clapper rail, or marsh hen, did not appreciate the presence of a camera while incubating its clutch of seven eggs and is shown in the process of building a screen of marsh grass. The rail is a secretive game bird of our coastal salt marshes where its loud, rattling calls are heard more frequently than it is seen.







**MAMA QUAIL RETURNS TO HER NEST.** Each time this quail returned to her nest, she followed a definite routine. She would sneak up to within a foot or so of the nest, pause a few moments to look around, and then run into the nest at full speed, going as far to the rear as possible (left photo). There she would remain crouched and motionless for a moment or more before moving around to face outward. Below: After carefully turning and arranging her sixteen eggs, she would finally settle down to the job of incubation.



**TATTERED AND TORN.** Hatching time is near, and the ragged breast feathers of this killdeer indicate she has been faithful to the task of incubation. She literally watched the tobacco plants grow up beside the nest, for the nest was discovered when the plants were set out.

**ONLY A MOTHER WOULD CLAIM THESE YOUNGSTERS.** Greatly resembling pigeon squabs, nestling mourning doves are about as ugly and homely as baby birds can be. The youngsters grow rapidly, however, and leave the nest in about two weeks. Once adult plumage is acquired, they have a graceful beauty that is difficult to surpass.



**BABY BLUE EYES.** A young crow has appealing bluish eyes and lacks the wild look of the brown-eyed adults. Taken from the nest during babyhood, crows make interesting and mischievous pets.

**HOUSEKEEPING.** A brown-headed nuthatch emerges from its nesting hole with the droppings of one of its five youngsters in its bill. Right: It returns with an insect—a lot of work is required to raise a bird family.







# Fundamentals of Producing Fish in fresh water

By DR. R. W. ESCHMEYER

**Here's how a good fish management program  
should be set up and administered.**

Twelfth of a series by the late Executive Secretary of the Sport Fishing Institute

There is no uniformity among our various state fish set-ups and programs. Nor could there be. The problems in one state differ decidedly from problems elsewhere. In so far as organizational set-ups are concerned, there is no closer relationship between the kind of organization and the quality of the program. In some states, the fish program is under a conservation department; elsewhere, it is in the fish and game department. In some instances, there is a single commissioner; more commonly, we have commissions with a number of members.

The tendency is to have commissions made up of an uneven number of members and to have fish, game, forestry, etc., under one department. Actually, the effectiveness of the fishery program depends on the caliber and ability of the personnel, rather than on the nature of the organizational set-up.

Listed here are some of the observations which, in our opinion, will help determine whether your state has a modern fish conservation set-up. Because of the differences in organizational make-up, and differences in local problems, some statements do not apply to some states. Too, we may be wrong in some of our observations. The statements

which follow should be considered "food for thought," not "gospel."

## THE COMMISSION

The character of the commission, itself, will determine whether a modern program is possible. In a progressive organization, the commission members work together as a team. Where we have dissension at commission level, there is certain to be indecision and low morale among the personnel. Feuding, common in some commissions, can be expected to result in an ineffective program.

The commission members should have a broad viewpoint. A provincial attitude, with each member concerned mainly with his own area, can only be expected to hamper the program.

The commission members should not think of their membership as a means of realizing personal ambitions, political or otherwise. If their membership is aimed mainly at promoting themselves, they can be expected to contribute little or nothing toward improvement of fishing or hunting.

The chief functions of a commission are to select highly competent personnel, to establish policy based on the recommendations of that personnel, and to act as a "buffer" between the personnel and pressure

groups. Actual administration of the program should be left to the personnel selected.

## THE PERSONNEL

Where the commission does its job well, progressiveness in fish conservation seems to depend largely on the caliber of the men in the top fishery swivel chairs. But, we're still a little in the dark as to the proper background for these individuals. My own feeling is that things move along best where one of the two top men is a competent administrator who understands business management and people, and who also appreciates the importance of the technical aspect. The other should be a trained fish man who has a good understanding of the fish conservation problems. So long as these two work as a team, it doesn't matter much which one holds down the top swivel chair.

To have an efficient fishery program the various "specialists" must work as a team. There is a tendency to have friction among enforcement men, hatchery men, and the professionally-trained fish men, and to have an ineffective program as a result. The enforcement man is a specialist in enforcing laws and preventing violation. The hatchery man is a specialist in raising fish in hatcheries and rearing ponds. The researcher is



a specialist in fact-finding. In comparison, the trained fish manager should be best equipped to plan and supervise the over-all fisheries program.

In a field as new as fish conservation, some professional fishery workers are far better qualified, by way of native ability and training, than others. The salaries paid to highly qualified workers and to poorly qualified workers do not differ greatly. A state set-up which pays top salaries can get "the cream of the crop" by spending only a few thousand dollars more than the average. Good salaries attract competent people. An investment in good salaries is the best investment that a fish and game commission can make. In some states, the fishery jobs are not attractive to competent personnel because the pay is too low.

In a progressive organization, the workers must have a certain amount of job security. In a few states, this is lacking. Of course, there are instances, too, where jobs are too secure. Where there is complete assurance that the job will continue, regardless of the individual's performance, there is little incentive to do outstanding work, and there may be a tendency merely to "coast along." Both too little security and too much security may lead to mediocre performance.

### THE PROGRAM

The modern fish conservation set-up has a well balanced program. It places proper emphasis on such aspects as fish management, research, and education.

A survey made by the Sport Fishing Institute late in 1953 showed the

average budget breakdown for 15 states to be (a number of states were unable to present a breakdown of expenditures):

Administration . . . . .	8%
Information-Education . . . . .	3%
Law Enforcement . . . . .	21%
Stocking . . . . .	30%
Management . . . . .	28%
Research . . . . .	10%

As expected, individual percentages for the various budget items differed decidedly from state to state.

Our own feeling is that the three per cent for information-education is highly inadequate.

### STOCKING

The modern set-up has a set stocking policy, copies of which are made available to the public. If your state has not released such a policy, you should insist that it do so, and that it abide fully by that policy. We still have instances of "public relations stocking"—planting of fish in certain waters regardless of the biological merits of the plantings—because of political pressure. The modern set-up does not make such plantings.

Stocking should be based on demonstrated need. Where the fish are to go and what species are to be planted (and in what numbers) should be determined by a study of the habitat, fishing pressure, and the stocks already available. Such studies should be made by trained fishery workers.

In some states, a big part of the license dollar is wasted on unjustified, unnecessary, or even harmful stocking.

### REGULATIONS

In a progressive fish and game or-

ganization, the fishing regulations tend to be few in number. Here, regulations are based on demonstrated need. An active research program to determine which laws are needed is in constant progress.

The regulations should be made by the commission, itself, not by the state legislature. Legislatures may be slow in making needed changes, and may tend to bow to political pressures instead of basing the laws on facts.

Enforcement should be by well-trained wardens (preferably called fish and game or conservation officers), selected on the basis of qualification for the job, and with major emphasis placed on *prevention* of violation rather than on *detection*.

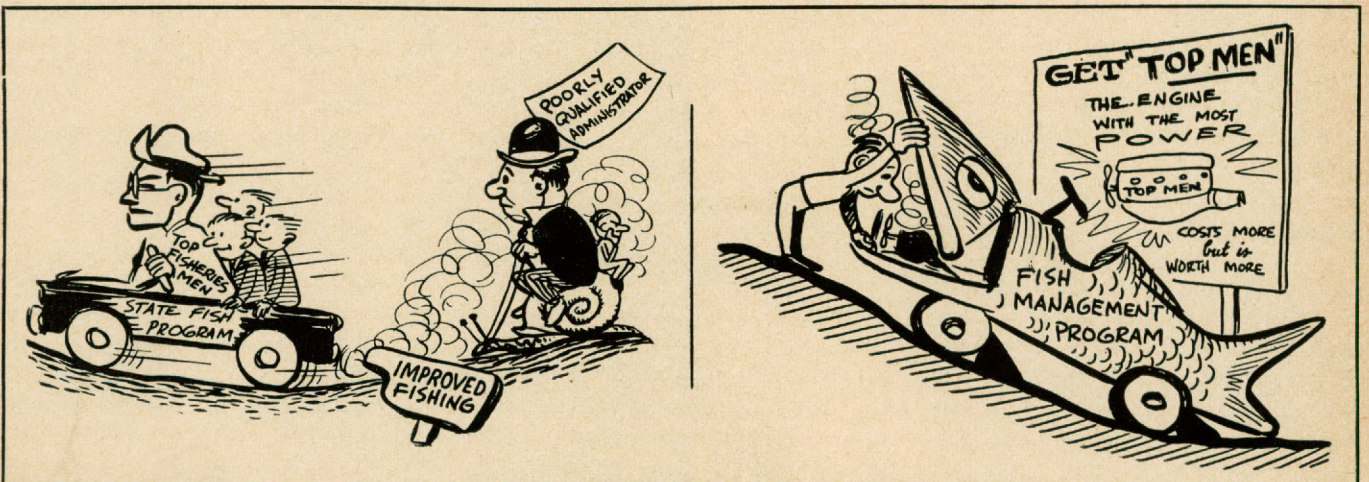
### MANAGEMENT

The state should be using a fair amount of its budget on fish management (other than stocking and regulation). The program will differ widely from state to state because the situations differ. In states with limited fishing water, major emphasis may be on building public fishing lakes. Or, emphasis may be on securing access to existing waters. In some states, the emphasis may be on rehabilitation, on rough fish control, on habitat improvement, or on any of a number of other management methods. In some states, this important fish conservation activity receives far too little attention.

### RESEARCH

The modern program is guided by facts, produced by a competent research unit. The unit should concern itself with important problems that can be expected to produce

• Continued on page 26





By JAY VESSELS

## LOOSE MONGOOSE

A pet mongoose got loose from its owner at Mission and caused consternation until its recapture. You see, the mongoose is rough on live snakes. And Mission has a rapidly developing industry whereby rattlesnakes are caught and shipped alive to an Arizona firm.

## SHOOTING SCHOOL

Game and fish technicians setting up the various public hunts on wildlife-experimental-demonstration areas, don't count on many veteran nimrods. Public hunts have to be too closely supervised for the old-timers, who prefer to do as they please rather than have to restrict their activities to a certain stand. Biologists point out that the newcomers, predominant among the participants in the conducted hunts, benefit from the restrictions since they learn "to stay put" and not ramble around, and thus do not frighten away the game.

## HABITAT'S THE ANSWER

Harv Boughton's outdoor column in the *Houston Post* picked up a short but mighty item from Hearne, Texas: "Hunters report that quail are far more numerous than any time during the past ten years in Robertson county. Good spring rains and fine food and cover have brought the quail back."

## FIRE HAZARDS

The *Beaumont Journal* devoted its lead editorial to a plea for hunters to be careful with fire afield. "Be a smart hunter," admonished *The Journal*. "Save your fire for the game you're after and save the forests for another shooting season."

## EIGHT-INCH SPREAD

Dr. Clarence Cottam, chief of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation near Sinton, hadn't been in Texas but a few months before he qualified for the tall tales department. He related to Outdoor Editor Roy Swann of the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* how he killed a 41-inch cottonmouth snake and found inside it a 49-inch brown mouse snake.

## HIGH AND MIGHTY

The harvest of surplus game in areas under regulatory responsibility of the Game and Fish Commission may take a new and weightier turn next fall. Wildlife biologists estimate that, all things being equal, an effort may be made late in 1956 to reduce the overpopulation within a herd of Texas elk high in the Guadalupe Mountains along the Texas-New Mexico border. If the hunt is found to be feasible, frail nimrods may be eliminated from *la chaise* because the going is awfully rough eight thousand feet up, and the weight of a bull elk runs into several hundred pounds.

## ANGLERS' WILL POWER

Galveston's vaunted shore-based attractions meant nothing to one flying party. They taxied their seaplane up to shallow waters near the city's East Beach, got out on the pontoons with their casting outfits, and finally flew away with their catch—without even going ashore.

## SCOTLAND YARD STUFF

Game Warden D. W. Bowers of San Marcos astutely suspected a lapse somewhere along the line in reporting status of shooting preserve licenses. Writing in his column in the *San Marcos Record*, he observed:

"We know a lot of folks that took pay from dove hunters and as yet we have had only one man buy a preserve license." A state law requires landowners leasing their land to hunters or receiving money for hunting privileges to buy a \$5 shooting preserve license, and also to record names of the hunters and the number and species of game taken.

## WHY IT HAPPENS

In the heat of late summer, usually just before the transition to fall, fish in small lakes or ponds frequently die mysteriously. Here's a lucid explanation for such situations as published in *The Sherman Democrat* on authority of Aquatic Biologist Ed Bonn: "The fish at Sherman country club lake died from lack of oxygen causing them to suffocate. This oxygen condition was a natural condition brought about by a combination of the following factors: continued high temperatures (it was 96 degrees the day before); lack of wind aeration (very calm night); overpopulation of fish (an estimated five tons died and more were still alive in the forty-five acre lake); decrease of oxygen producing plants (mosses controlled early in spring) and a large phytoplankton bloom (uses oxygen and carbon dioxide but does not put much oxygen back into the waters)."

## POTENT POSSUM KINGDOM

Leo Healer, Outdoor Editor of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, gave Possum Kingdom Lake, a popular spot with West Texans, a great plug: "Possum Kingdom fishing is on the upsurge. Big bass runs reported in all parts of the lake. Crappie fishing even better, being the best in the history of the lake. Channel cats are biting voraciously."



## Press Views

### Game Notes

#### PIGEON FATALITY RATE

The Corpus Christi Limited Pigeon Club issued an appeal for hunters to spare racing pigeons, saying more than 1,500 such birds were mistaken for game and shot in Texas in 1954.

#### HAWK HAVEN

Jimmie Burrows, the Kountze schoolboy-naturalist, who won fame three years back for shaming the community that slaughtered migrating broad-winged hawks, reports the lesson has held fast. Jimmie wrote that the hawks were resting "in the pine sapling thicket below our house." "They are shy a little," continued Jimmie. "I guess they remember the last time they stopped here." When the hawks visited Kountze before, the residents mistook the flight as an invasion endangering poultry flocks.

#### LAKE ABILENE RALLIES

Jack Holden, Sports Editor of the *Abilene Reporter-News*, writes enthusiastically about Lake Abilene, which practically dried up during the peak of the recent historic drought, saying: "The lake is in great shape, the water clear and inviting for the fishermen."

#### FORMATION DE LUXE

Anyone in the Panhandle who saw a small aircraft flying formation with three whooping cranes during the migrating season this fall, please be advised that the object without feathers was Pilot-Warden Frank Hamer of the Game and Fish Commission. Hamer reported his experience to Wildlife Biologist A. S. Jackson on landing at Canadian.

Hamer said he met the giant birds

while they were flying southward toward Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where they checked in a few days later. Hamer turned about and flew at a discreet distance alongside the trio to confirm their identity.

#### HUNTER HAVOC

Imagine the shock to a farmer near Port Arthur on finding that a dove hunter had left a pasture gate open with these results: Cattle strayed out upon the highway at night and two costly accidents occurred; one when a car struck a cow and another when a car struck a horse.

#### FIRE HAZARDS

The *Houston Post* editorially chastised careless America for throwing around lighted cigarets and leaving campfires burning, but said jailing the culprits is not the answer. Reviewing the ghastly fire toll to the woods and wildlife, the *Post* suggested: "Apparently more education and more warning signs are in order."

#### SOME PUSHUPS, HUH?

Fred Maly, Outdoor Editor of the *San Antonio Light*, suggests hunters' "spring training" for fall hunting: "There will be hard days when the deer season opens. Why wait for the deer season week-ends to get in shape, because by the time you are in shape the season is over."

#### BRASH BEAST

Bob Ramsey, wildlife biologist for the Game and Fish Commission whose beat is the magnificent Hill Country, reports a Sonora man has a tame bobcat that regularly pulls its rank on the folks. The house-broken beast insists on being first in the bathroom lineup every morning.

#### MODEL PROJECT

A. B. Jolley, Farm Editor of the *Dallas Times-Herald*, described the Kaufman-Van Zandt Game Management Association as a model community project. He cited how the farmers and sportsmen have developed their own well-stocked fishing lakes and plan to improve general habitat for wildlife.

#### SNAKE SAGA

A tenant farmer in the Elgin area complained repeatedly to the Game and Fish Commission that rattlesnakes were about to evict him from his home. Finally, on his day off, Bill Jennings, assistant director of Wildlife Restoration, went out to placate the poor fellow. Bill crawled under the jittery farmer's house and found not one live rattler. He flushed one big rat snake and did find a recently discarded rattler's skin. Bill let the rat reptile live after reassuring the farmer that sparing it would deter the rattlers indirectly since the rat snakes would eat the rodents around the house and thus discourage the big bad rattlers from wasting their time on the premises.

#### SURE-FIRE SYSTEM

Gus T. McMammal, layman wildlife authority, spoke a noble quote after reading about national concern over flabby modern youth. Gus said: "Nothing to it, this getting the soft lads back into shape. Just drive 'em through West Texas. They'd toughen up from the effort of just looking at the far-off horizons."

#### WORD TO THE WISE

Some of the questions at Game and Fish Commission headquarters are piped to Gene Walker, director of Wildlife Restoration. One came a while back from a telephone client, wanting to know the weight of a Chinese ringneck pheasant. Walker explained that since these birds are not native in Texas he wasn't sure, but he thought they weighed between two and four pounds. A little later, another man, rather excited, phoned to challenge the authority: "Those North Dakota pheasants! Why, they'd go at least eight pounds." In the ensuing discussion about game bird weights, the inquirer provoked a hassle about the poundage of young wild turkeys. And promptly lost on that one. Because Walker practically lived with Hill Country turkeys for several years, prepping for his headquarters position, and is recognized nationally as a ranking authority on wild turkeys.



# GUNS

and

# SHOOTING

## SHORT CUTS TO BETTER SHOOTING

**M**OST illustrations accompanying stories in the sporting magazines show the hunter faultlessly attired in the latest hunting fashion. He usually is carrying a firearm that appears to have been custom-made, and like as not, he'll be loaded down with every gimmick ever invented for the hunter.

It follows that the prospective gun purchaser is apt to think that only the finest, latest thing will take a game animal. I confess that I sometimes am a victim of the same thing—but actually, nothing could be further from the truth.

The shooter with limited funds can supply himself with completely adequate equipment. All it takes is a little know-how, and a bit of investigation.

Take deer rifles, for example. It is rapidly becoming fashionable for a deer rifle to be equipped with a telescopic sight. I personally like a scope sight better than any other. But, is a scope sight really necessary? I think not. If one doesn't expect to shoot over really long ranges, a good aperture sight, purchased at a fraction of the cost of a scope, will give surprisingly good results. On a deer-sized target at up to 200 yards, a good aperture sight will permit a well-placed shot. I have put 8 out of 10 shots in a six-inch bull at 200 yards using my 8mm-06 and a Lyman 48 peep sight. This, of course, from a bench rest. Any one of those 8 shots in the bull would have been deadly on a deer, and the other two would have scored a hit. Mind you, I am not a good shot with an iron sight. This is the first time I tried it. A bit of practice would no doubt improve the situation.

How about the rifle itself? Right now, there is a bewildering array of rifle guns available to the shooter. But most of them cost a pretty piece of change. There is, however, a pretty fair supply of good 8mm Mausers 98's kicking around. Almost any sporting magazine offers them in ads. For around \$30, one can purchase one of these rifles. A bit of home gunsmithing on the stock, and a dog-gone good deer rifle emerges. I would also get rid of the equipment sight in favor of a good peep sight. The factory load of a 170 grain bullet shoved along at a good clip makes a good deer cartridge, and if you really want to get fancy, have a gunsmith chamber it out for the 30-06 case. This, of course, brings on hand-loading, but the result is a rifle that is for all practical purposes the equal of the finest factory 30-06, at a fraction of the cost.

One occasionally sees Springfields and Enfields ad-

By JOHN A. MASTERS

vertised for sale. Either can be made over into a nice sporter, but the Enfield requires a lot of alteration on the rear of the receiver bridge. The home gunsmith can do it, but it takes a lot of patience and elbow grease. However, since the purpose of this month's column is to show how to save money, we will assume the individual's time will be repaid by the satisfaction derived from shooting a gun he had something to do with building.

Other guns that can be bought at reasonable prices for conversion to sporters include the venerable 30-40 Krag, the various Lee-Enfield rifles as used by United Kingdom military forces, and some of the Japanese rifles.

The Krag is a good deer cartridge, and requires about as little alteration as any for use as a sporter. The Krag magazine is hard to beat. Just flop it open, throw in a handful of cartridges, and start shooting. This is getting to be a fairly old piece, however, and it will be well to check a Krag pretty closely before buying it.

The October issue of the *American Rifleman* carries a very good piece on the Lee-Enfield rifles. The prospective purchaser of one of these rifles is urged to study this little piece before proceeding.

The Japs, if one of the better milled models, make a pretty good starting point for a satisfactory sporter. I wouldn't recommend going off on the deep end in rebuilding a Jap, but there is one way to do it that results in a pretty good rifle. First, obtain a good 6.5mm Jap rifle, making sure that the bore is in good condition. Then take it to a good gunsmith and have him chamber it to take the 257 Roberts case. This results in a good cartridge known as the 257/6.5mm. The addition of a good receiver or aperture sight makes a very usable rifle. Again, one will have to hand-load.

The .31 caliber Japs are best left alone. The bore is too big for a .30 caliber bullet, regardless of what case the thing is rechambered for, and poor accuracy will invariably result.

Now, a word about hand-loading. There is no question but that hand-loading will reduce the cost of shooting, and will also extend the usefulness of a given rifle. It is neither expensive nor complicated. It will permit shooting a rifle converted to a more useful form (the 8mm-06, for example). One more thing about hand-loading. Even if you do not want to load your own, you can still shoot hand-loads. There are many custom



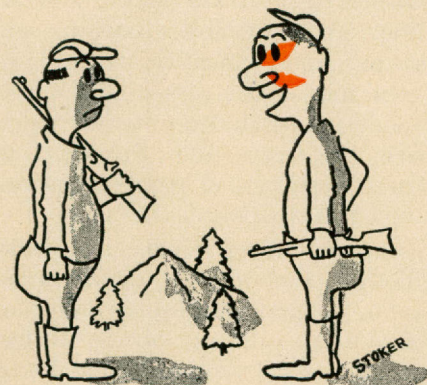
loaders around the country, and almost every good gunsmith these days has hand-loading facilities. Save your brass and have them hand-loaded for another substantial saving.

One way to get yourself a good rifle at a reduced price is to get a good used rifle. Rifles, like cars, are traded a lot these days, and the gun dealer is in the same boat as the automobile dealer. Some really good buys can be found with a little judicious shopping.

First, examine the gun for general appearance. Then, look at the bore. It should be smooth, without rust pits, and the rifling should be clean and sharp. Check the operation of the piece. Look for evidences of rusting and pitting that are too deep to be polished out and reblued. Consider whether the piece is no longer being manufactured (parts may be hard to get if the gun is no longer in production).

Last, if the gun is in apparent good condition after checking these things, have a good gunsmith check the head space. It should fall within well recognized limits. If it does, you may be assured that there is a lot of good shooting left in the gun if all these things check OK. Most guns wear out more due to neglect than to shooting.

These are a few ways to save money. There are others, which one can discover for himself, that will help hold the cost of shooting down. For most of us, that's a desirable thing.



"Did I see any deer? No, but . . ."

## Shootin' Shorts

Once in a while, a new gun or gun accessory comes out that is head and shoulders above anything on the market. Such a gun is the new Browning Double Automatic shotgun. I have given my sample a good workout in the dove hunts I have been making, and I plan to go a bit further in trying it on ducks, comes the season.

The gun is perhaps better made than any shotgun on the market. It functions exceptionally smoothly, and to date, shooting every kind of ammunition available locally, I have had no evidence of malfunctioning. Nothing I have seen in the several years I have been critically looking

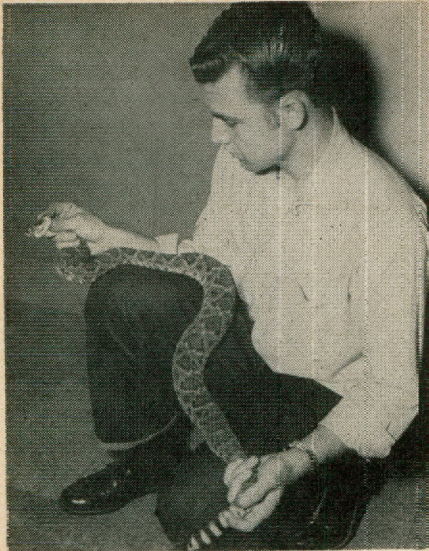
at shotguns can compare with it. Next month, I intend to give the complete story about the gun.

I will have some firsthand dope on 6mm cartridges in an early column. Just about all the specs have been written up in just about every gun column in existence, so I am going to wait until I can give some performance data.

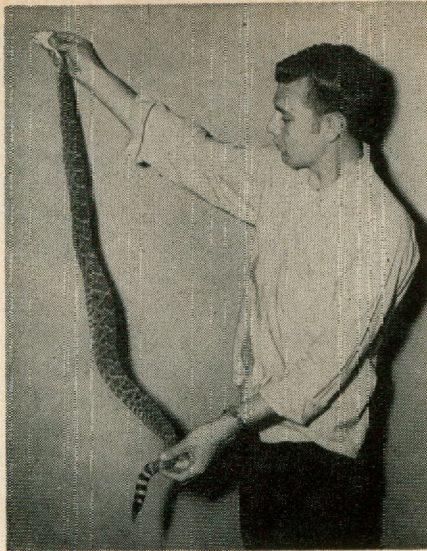
Found somewhat to my surprise that the Model 340 Savage in .222 Remington is an exceptionally accurate little firearm. Mine has grouped as small as  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths inch at 100 yards, with the average 5 shotter just over an inch. Good for a factory rifle.—J.A.M.







David Johnson with sizable western diamond-back rattlesnake. Photos by Clyde Graham.



The fangs of the western diamond-back. It is not unusual to see a snake with more than one set of fangs. As soon as a snake loses his fangs another set comes down, and there are times when you might see one fang on one side and two or three or more, on the other side. All would have venom.

# Take Care of Yourself!

About two years ago this magazine published an article about two Houston boys who searched for, found and captured snakes of all varieties—even the poisonous critters to be found here in Texas (rattlers, corals, cottonmouths and copperheads).

One of these fellows, David John-

son, is now stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, but he still continues his reptilian hobby. Each week he goes home to Houston to feed his pet yellow cobra and two boa constrictors their weekly diet of rabbits, chickens, eggs, rats and other snakes.

David sends snakes to many zoos

in the United States and recently was invited to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

Now that hunting season is here and more people will be encountering snakes during their outings, it might be a good idea to recall what to do in case of poisonous snake bite. If bitten, try to kill the snake. This might be helpful in later trying to determine what *kind* of bite. Tie a handkerchief or belt tightly between the wound and the heart if you have no snake bite kit handy. With knife or razor, cut bite one-fourth inch deep and if you have no bad teeth, gums, sore mouth or ulcers, suck out the poison if the bite is situated where you can reach it. Above all, do not exert yourself. Try to get to a hospital. A poisonous bite will swell in three minutes to an hour, and will have a burning sensation, accompanied by nausea, and vomiting, in the case of hemotoxic venom; or headache, muscular weakness, lethargy and difficulty in speech, with facial paralysis in case of neurotoxic poison.

A good thing to have is a snake bite kit, containing a suction applicator, rubber tourniquet, iodine or alcohol to sterilize cutting instrument, and a razor, or small knife. Most of these kits cost under two dollars. That's a small price to pay for your life.—Shirley Dimmick.

## EXOTIC LIVE GAME FOR SALE

AXIS DEER  
BLACK BUCK ANTELOPE  
SIKA DEER  
WHITE FALLOW DEER



Have interesting, year-round hunting on your own ranch! Stock a few of these unusual imported breeds; create a sensation among neighbors and visitors. All stock suitable for healthy growth and increase in our climate.

Pair \$350; Trio \$550

Free, guaranteed delivery within 100 miles.

DAVID RICKENBACHER, Manager  
RICKENBACHER RANCH  
HUNT (KERR COUNTY), TEXAS





## Things You May Not Know

The lowly starfish has an eye at the end of each arm so he can see in all directions at once.

\* \* \*

The meadow mouse consumes its own weight in food every 24 hours.

\* \* \*

The male seahorse not only carries the eggs but supplies the young with oxygen through his blood stream. Eggs stay in a pouch on his abdomen for 40 to 50 days; he expels them as sea colts ready to swim.

\* \* \*

Our domestic turkey is a descendant of the Mexican turkey which was taken to Europe by the Spaniards in the early 16th century and from Spain continued its travels to England. English colonists brought it to the United States.

## Quail Hunting

NOV. 1 TO FEB. 10  
ON  
VANNBROOK RANCH

A Licensed Shooting Resort

**No Bag Limit on Pen-Raised  
Quail**

Hunting by permit only, which must be secured in advance, at \$25 per gun day. . . . First 10 birds free and \$2 for each additional quail taken. . . . Guide free.

Hunters may bring own dog. We will have a limited number of dogs available at small cost. Not over 6 hunters on 723 acres any one day for safe and good hunting.

Write or phone for open dates

**VANNBROOK RANCH**

J. FRANK VANN  
774 J I

W. M. BROOK  
71 or 156

Box 786

Lampasas, Texas

## Summary of Seasons FISH—GAME—FURBEARERS

**WARNING**—The open seasons listed below are general state laws. Many counties, by action of the legislature, have special laws which differ from the general laws. A digest of Game and Fish Laws, which notes these exceptions, may be obtained from your local game warden, from your gun and tackle dealer, or by writing the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Austin.

### GAME ANIMALS AND BIRDS

**Mourning Doves**—North Zone closed Oct. 15. South Zone opens 12 o'clock noon Oct. 15, closes Nov. 28 at sunset. Shooting hours 12 o'clock noon to sunset. Limits, 10 mourning doves per day, 10 in possession.

**Gallinules and Rails (except Coot)**—Season closed Oct. 30.

**Coot and Ducks**—Opens Nov. 2, closes at sunset on Jan. 15. Shooting hours, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Season closed on black-bellied tree ducks. Limits: 10 coots per day or in possession; 5 ducks per day, 10 in possession, including not more than one wood duck and one hooded merganser.

**Geese**—Opens Nov. 17, closes at sunset Jan. 15. Shooting hours ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Limits: 5 per day or in possession, including not more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies, or 2 white-fronted geese, or one of each.

**Squirrel**—General open season October, November, December, May, June and July. Limit: 10 per day, 20 in possession. Panhandle season, October 1 to December 1, and May 1 to July 1, both days inclusive; limit, 5 per day or in possession. West of Pecos, season closed.

**Bear, Deer, Javelina and Turkey**—General open season November 16 through December 31. Limits per season: 1 bear, 2 buck deer with pronged horns, 2 javelina, 3 turkey gobblers. Panhandle season open on deer and turkey November 19 to November 28, both days inclusive; season open all year on javelina; season closed on bear. Panhandle limits, 1 buck deer with pronged horns, 2 turkey gobblers, per season; no limit on javelina. West of Pecos, season Nov. 20 to Nov. 25, both days inclusive on deer and bear; javelina season Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, both days inclusive; turkey season closed. West of Pecos limits for season: 1 black bear, 1 buck deer with at least one pronged horn, 2 javelina. Note—javelina season open all year in many counties; no bag limit (see Game and Fish Law Digest).

**Chachalaca and Quail**—General season open Dec. 1 to Jan. 16, both days inclusive. Limits: 5 chachalaca per day, 10 per week or in possession; 12 quail per day, 36 per week or in possession. Panhandle quail season Dec. 1 to Jan. 16, both days inclusive; limit 10 per day, 20 in possession; season closed on chachalaca. West of Pecos, quail season Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, both days inclusive; Mearns quail and chachalaca season closed; limits: 12 per day, 24 in possession.

**Wilson Snipe or Jacksnipe**—Season open one-half hour before sunrise Jan. 1 to sunset on Jan. 15; limit: 8 per day or in possession.

### FURBEARERS

All furbearers except Muskrat—December and January.

Muskrat—November 15 to March 15.

### GAME FISH

There are no closed seasons on game fish in Texas (except for special county laws).





Left to right, Bud Jackson of the National Wildlife Federation, Ed Harper, San Antonio, Don Maxwell, Odessa, and Baylor Bell, Corpus Christi, lead discussions relative to the formation of a statewide outdoor club. Right, representatives of clubs throughout the state take time off for lunch.

## Statewide Outdoor Organization Planned

Texas outdoor sportsmen in a statewide meeting at San Antonio September 24 expressed determination to band together to safeguard hunting and fishing against opposing interests.

Representatives from various sections of Texas agreed unanimously to initiate formation of a strong statewide federation of local clubs. This would provide an official voice for all Texas outdoor sportsmen and enable them to present a stronger united front on issues or projects at national or state levels.

To complete organizational procedures, a second meeting was scheduled for San Antonio January 21, and local club representatives and

other sportsmen throughout the state are being urged to attend.

Under the proposed plan, clubs would remain completely independent in so far as their own local activities are concerned. The statewide federation would serve only as a medium to exchange ideas and information or to represent all the clubs in a united front when such needs arise on a state or national basis.

Membership in the yet-to-be-named federation would be open only to local or district clubs and not to individuals.

Delegates voted to seek recognition and membership in the National Wildlife Federation as the official voice of Texas outdoor sportsmen. The new organization would replace the Texas Wildlife Federation, which is being disbanded after several years of inactivity.

"The sleeves-rolled-up" delegates to the San Antonio organizational meeting quickly got to work on the important phases of financing the new group, preparing a constitution, and electing temporary officers.

Committees were named to study financing methods and a workable constitution thoroughly. They are to draw up suggested proposals to be offered at the January meeting.

Elected to serve as temporary officials until the next meeting were Ed Harper of the San Antonio Anglers Club, president; Baylor Bell, of the Laguna Madre Fishermen's Association, Corpus Christi, vice-president; and George Rice, Jr. and J. C. Gordon, both of San Antonio, secretary and treasurer respectively.

Recognizing the importance of an appropriate name, a committee also was chosen to offer suggestions to be submitted at the future meeting.

Representatives of all outdoor groups in Texas are urged and invited to attend the next meeting. Further information may be obtained from the temporary secretary, George Rice Jr., Box 2060, San Antonio 5, Texas.

Committees chosen to make reports at the next meeting were:

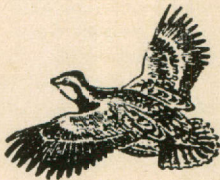
**FINANCE:** J. C. Gordon, San Antonio, chairman; Gordon Boswell, Fort Worth; William Vick, San Antonio; Baylor Bell, Corpus Christi; and Ed Harper, San Antonio.

**CONSTITUTION:** Wilson Southwell, San Antonio, chairman; George Rice, Jr.; and J. C. Gordon, San Antonio.

**NAME:** Fred Maly, San Antonio, chairman; Caleb Glazener, Taft; Roy Swann, Corpus Christi; Kenneth Leatherwood, San Angelo; Wilson Southwell, San Antonio.

-T.M.

### BIG NORTHERN BOB-WHITE



#### Quail

Chukar Partridges  
Ringneck Pheasants

- ★ FOR LIBERATION
- ★ BREEDING STOCK
- ★ GIFT PACKAGES — Quick frozen game birds. Send for descriptive literature.

#### ESKEW BROS. GAME FARMS

Route No. 5, Box 67 Austin, Texas  
Phone 89667

### HUNTERS

Nov. 20 to 25

Blacktail or mule deer plentiful. Ranch opened first time to hunters. 76 miles south of Marfa. Charge, \$50 per gun. Write

F. P. ROONEY

Candelaria Route Marfa, Tex.



**You Should Have Been Here  
Yesterday** \_\_\_\_\_ • Continued from page 8

think, not realizing the trouble is with you. You're so darned tired your timing is off.

The sun's just about to drop behind the western horizon as you finally give up. As the guide starts the outboard and swings the boat you begin putting your tackle away. "Ye gads, did I use that many plugs?" you exclaim to yourself as you begin picking them off the gunwale. Almost every plug in the tackle box has seen service today, and still the stringer is empty. You sort of wish you'd kept those perch that hit your plug. They were pretty big ones, for perch, and they are good eating. And that lonely bass that struck right at the boat . . . if you hadn't been caught off guard you'd have got him. He wasn't a lunker, but he was big enough to keep.

So go your thoughts as the boat cuts through the water on the homeward journey. At last the boat slides into a stall and you step out. "Any luck?" the dock man asks as he looks into the boat. You shake your head in silence. "Well, they don't seem to be hitting today, nobody's done much good," the man says, and then adds, "but you should have been here yesterday . . ." You don't wait for him to continue. You pick up your tackle and walk, with considerable effort, to your car. Beats all how stiff a fellow's legs can get just sitting in a boat.

You slide behind the wheel and start the long drive home. Tired! You're dog-tired, and disappointed too. But as the miles slip by you begin to remember things you hadn't thought of until now. The blueness of the water, the shore birds, the squirrel that barked at you from an oak tree, that thrilling moment when you caught sight of a deer peering at you from behind a bush. Then the bouncing flash of white as he bounded off through the woods. The soft orange of the sunset that seemed to slide right up across the sky tinting everything about you. The complete isolation from all your cares becomes apparent to you now, as you realize that, during the day, you hadn't given a single thought to your job.

## Weekly Television Schedule Set For Commission's Wildlife Program

You—the hunting, fishing, and outdoor enthusiasts of Texas—are invited to visit intimately with "Your Texas Wildlife" in your own homes through television. Scheduled to begin the week of October 31, "Your Texas Wildlife" is a weekly series of 13 films presented as a public service by the Texas Game and Fish Commission.

In the interest of wildlife conservation and as a service to Texas sportsmen, the Pearl Brewing Company has purchased the commercial television time necessary for the showing of this series through the stations listed below.

"Your Texas Wildlife" remains the property of the Game and Fish Commission, and after all television commitments have been fulfilled, the films will be available to clubs, schools, and other organizations as additions to the Commission's current movie library.

The following is a tentative schedule of stations and times, subject to additions or time changes.

Beginning the week of October 31 and continuing for 13 weeks

CITY	STATION	DAY	TIME
San Antonio	WOAI-TV	Mondays	10:45-11:00 P.M.
Amarillo	KFDA-TV	Fridays	10:45-11:00 P.M.
Beaumont	KFDM-TV	*Mondays	10:30-10:45 P.M.
Wichita Falls	KFDX-TV	Saturdays	Following NCAA Football
Midland	KMID-TV	Saturdays	6:15- 6:30 P.M.
Weslaco	KRGV-TV	Thursdays	5:45- 6:00 P.M.
El Paso	KROD-TV	†Wednesdays	6:30- 6:45 P.M.
Austin	KTBC-TV	‡Thursdays	10:45-11:00 P.M.
Longview	KTVE-TV	Fridays	9:00- 9:15 P.M.
San Angelo	KTXL-TV	Thursdays	5:45- 6:00 P.M.
Corpus Christi	KVDO-TV	Mondays	6:00- 6:15 P.M.
Fort Worth	WBAP-TV	Saturdays	5:30- 5:45 P.M.
Galveston	KGUL-TV	Fridays	5:15- 5:30 P.M.
Waco	KANG-TV	Thursdays	10:00-10:15 P.M.
Harlingen	KGBT-TV	Fridays	6:30- 6:45 P.M.

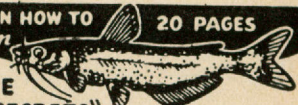
\*First program November 7.

†Will be repeated Saturdays, time to be announced.

‡Will be repeated Tuesdays, 5:45-6:00 P.M.

Back home at last you're asleep before you know it. And when morning comes, all too quickly, you awaken to a day that's brighter than any you can remember. Down at the office folks smile happily in response to the cheery greeting you give them. You start to work and wonder where you got all the energy you feel. You're looking forward to next weekend, and another trip back to Lake Soandso. Maybe this time you'll hit it right, and you won't hear again, "You should have been here yesterday." Wait a minute! You'll fix that.

By working a little harder, maybe staying late a night or two you can get to the lake a day earlier. That's it—you'll really hit into those big fish this time—you'll get there "yesterday."

**BOOKLET ON HOW TO**  **20 PAGES**  
*Catch 'em*

**"TROTLINE FISHING SECRETS"** . . . written by experts.  
How, when, where to set trotline, illustrated.  
Baits, trotline laws, tackle. 50¢ postpaid.

**LAWRENZ MFG. CO.**  
Dept. C, 119 S. Lancaster, Dallas, Texas



Certain were they that the precious seed stock would be massacred and would wind up in the cooking pots just like the native stock had.

But they hadn't reckoned with the New Spirit in Crockett and Houston county. They couldn't comprehend

the impact of a modern, organized effort to erase the shame of the old venison-around-the-calendar debacle.

The school authorities pitched in. The newspapers—The Crockett Courier and Crockett Democrat—and Radio Station KIVY helped spread the story.

The landowners, signed up to close their tracts to hunting for five years while the new stock attained harvestable numbers, each became a committee of one to protect the fleet deer.

The Game and Fish Commission, before and after the stocking program, successfully utilized educational material to aid in the county-wide endeavor. Personal contact was made with thousands of individuals.

A full-time Wildlife Biologist, A. L. Steele, and an assistant, Allan Woolley, were detailed to assist local people in their efforts.

A pen of deer was installed in Crockett itself so young and old alike could see firsthand a family of white-tails, to observe their beauty and agility.

Now, with another year left before the area will be reopened to fall hunting, Houston county has a substantial deer population. In fact, Project Assistant Warden Allen Woolley says the herds may be approaching the saturation point by the fall of 1957 and that an open season will be necessary to keep the deer within the numbers permitted under modern scientific game management techniques.

Woolley described the community cooperation as "absolutely amazing." He said from the very first, there was no sign of raiding the newly stocked herds. He added the astounding fact that they never have found definite proof of any poaching what-

## DEER LEASE

10 SECTIONS

Deer are plentiful and in good condition.

Texas largest whitetail deer.

See or write

**A. A. DOCKERY**

Catarina, Texas



## THE ONLY PORTABLE DUCK BLIND IN THE WORLD! PORTA-BLIND

Two men, dressed for duck-hunting weather, can be comfortable in this unique portable duck blind. It's warm and dry, wind- and weather-proof. The Porta-Blind has heavy canvas covering and flooring over a sturdy metal frame. Carries easily in one hand. A unique hood (window optional) closes for 100% concealment and protection.

Available in olive drab, khaki green, dead grass and camouflage. The Porta-Blind sets up easily in a very few minutes. Besides being a fine hunting blind, it is excellent for use as an ice-fishing hut. Complete, only \$29.95. With window, \$34.95. Camouflage covering, plus \$10.00.

**Especially Designed for Crow and Dove Shooters . . .** and for all warm-weather hunters, the little brother of the standard Porta-Blind has many fine features. Ideal for warm-weather shooting, it has an open front and makes a fine hide-out. It weighs 14 lbs., stands 48" at the highest point. In olive drab, khaki green and dead grass colors.

Complete, with metal frame and canvas . . . . . \$19.95  
Optional, second cover camouflage netting . . . \$10.00

For either model Porta-Blind, see your favorite sporting goods dealer, or order today from

**PORTA-BLIND COMPANY P. O. Box 1758-BP Wichita, Kansas**  
Dealer Inquiries Invited



Perfectly tuned by hunter who has called thousands of fox, wolves, and cats. Why tune and guess—tune again—then guess again? WEEMS CALLS stay in tune because reed is locked in place. **\$3**  
Call is 4" x 1" black walnut . . . . .  
Change of locked reed at any time for 25c.  
Instruction record, 10" 78 rpm \$2



**SQUIRREL CALL**, easiest to operate, guaranteed to call squirrels . . . . . \$1

At Your Dealer or Direct Postpaid

**WEEMS WILD CALL**  
P. O. Box 7261 Fort Worth 11, Texas



ever of the original shipments.

And Woolley gives maximum credit to the information media, such as the newspapers and radio station, and to the school forces, with particular credit to Leroy Favers, supervisor of agriculture education in the Crockett High School.

"I think we cannot give too much credit to the influence the youngsters had on this triumph," said Woolley. "These children got the story first-hand in the classrooms and they were given the answers to take home to the adults. I honestly believe this was the deciding factor."

A. L. Steele, who is the Commission man-on-the-scene, responsible for supervision of the restoration program, likes the juvenile angle also for its substantial promise for the future.

"From the way the youngsters have taken hold, we have no fears of a recurrence of the old-time lawlessness," he said.

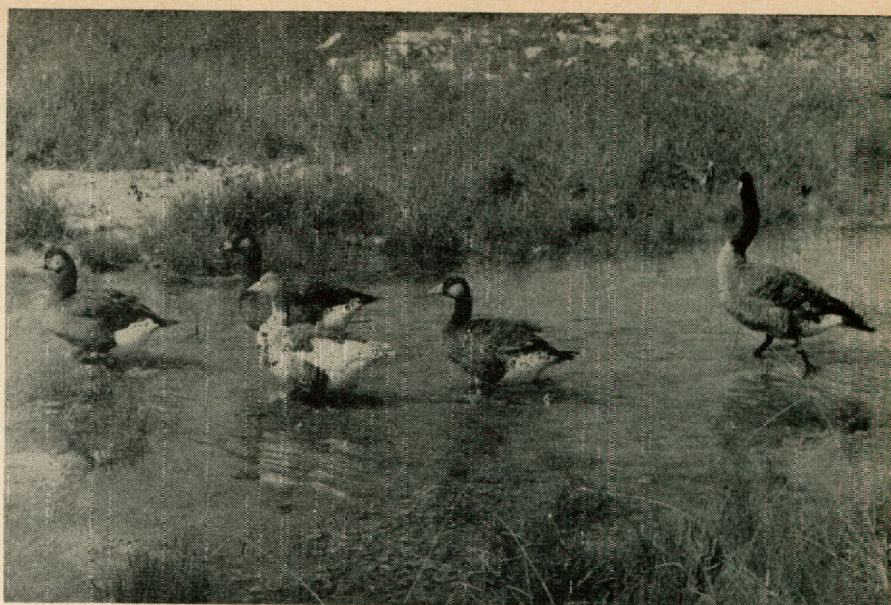
That's the story of a model wild-life conservation project. It's the story that is being duplicated many times in Texas as of 1955. But the Crockett chapter smacks just a bit more of conquest against mighty odds.

## TEXOMA BOATERS FORM SAFETY CLUB

There is a newly organized safety club at Lake Texoma, the Stump and Storm Club. Membership is now about fifty members and the club is growing fast. Safety and courtesy are emphasized and buoys have been set to mark stump areas and channels. Skiers and swimmers are urged to stay within their boundaries.

Some sound advice comes from this club, such as knowing that the white flag is the distress signal, use extreme caution in handling your ship around beaches where children are swimming, and don't be a litter bug.

Members are urged to become good ambassadors not only for their own club but for boating safety and courtesy throughout the southwest.



## Canada Goose Adopts New Life

Mr. Bruno Schulz, of the Take-It-Easy Ranch at Kerrville, has a family of hybrid geese with an unusual background.

About 2½ years ago the mate of the Canada goose was accidentally killed. For months the gander mourned the passing of his mate, and was quite noisy in his mourning. The following spring, however, he mated with a barnyard goose.

Mr. Schulz has a flock of approximately 25 Canada geese which he raised from a pair of geese acquired from a game breeder. This flock would not accept the domestic goose, and a free-for-all fight would ensue when she was near the flock. In every battle the gander would protect his mate, and after many fights and victories they finally allowed her to join the flock. The battles still continue when any other domestic goose gets near the flock, and with the exception of the gander's mate, each species stays with its own kind.

Last spring these geese built a nest and hatched six goslings. Three were destroyed by predators, and three are alive today. The offspring differ from their parents in that the ring on their neck is brown instead of white. The feet are yellow, not black; their necks are shorter; their bodies are darker, and their tail feathers are a brilliant white.

It might be noted that the gander always brings up the rear when they are walking.

The mating of this Canada goose seems to indicate that the accepted theory among sportsmen that Canada geese never mate again when once they lose their mate is wrong.

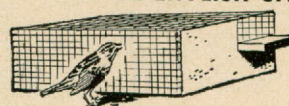
### Leonard Archery Supply

2319 Reagan Dallas 19 Texas

Specializing in fine C sage and  
Lemonwood Bows.

Matched Hunting Field and Target  
Arrows.

### CONTROL ENGLISH SPARROWS



FOGL-  
PROCF  
NEW  
TRAP

Now you can control English Sparrows around your premises when too numerous, with guaranteed "elevator-type" Havahart Trap. Factory built. No resetting, bait lasts for weeks. Humane. Songbirds released unharmed. Low price. MONEY BACK TRIAL OFFER. Write today for free illustrated literature!

HAVAHART 149-N, Water St., Ossining, N. Y.  
Please send me FREE booklet and Sparrow  
Trap price list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Fundamentals**

• Continued from page 15

usable answers. And, of course, research is of little value if the results are not used.

The fact-finding program should be in the hands of competent, well-trained researchers who operate with a maximum of freedom to do their

job and with both a minimum of bias and a minimum of red tape.

Through basic fact-finding programs, some fishery organizations have already been able to greatly improve angling, and to use the license dollar wisely and effectively. All states now have some research in progress. However, in a few of them, "research" is barely tolerated and the findings of the investigators are still largely ignored. This is true in those states where one or both of these conditions exist: (1) the fish (or fish and game) administrators are poorly qualified for their jobs; and (2) the administrators don't want the facts known, because the facts might demonstrate to the public that their programs are unprogressive.

The administrators who don't want sound fact-finding programs

(there are very few of them left) can be compared to the physician who objects to medical research, or to the head of an engineering firm who opposes engineering research!

In those states where fact-finding is secondary or is barely tolerated, we can be sure that the fishery program is a backward one.

**EDUCATION**

The up-to-date fish and game commission has an active and effective educational program. Concepts in fish conservation have been changing rapidly. Fact-finding is pointing the way to "shortening the time between bites." But, we can have modern, scientific conservation only if we have an informed and enlightened public. The education program is an extremely important one for bringing about this needed condition for progress.

**IN GENERAL**

The points discussed above are only a few of those which might be made if space permitted. A reading of the other sections of the "Fish Conservation Fundamentals" will suggest additional ones. There is no simple, fool-proof way of determining whether you are getting a good return for your license dollar. However, the suggestions made here may help you to decide if the fish conservation set-up is up to par.

**Any Photo . . . On Photo Lampshades**

HUNTING or FISHING SCENES, PETS, TROPHIES. Make your lampshades more personal. Use your own negatives or pictures. Priced \$2.45 up, colored in rich oils. Style D shown, four scenes, only \$7.75 from negatives. Prices for using pictures or 35 m.m. slides on request, very reasonable. (Packing and Postage 75c)

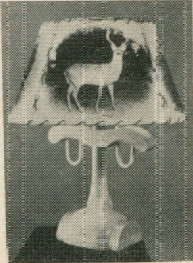


Photo Shade (as shown) . . . \$7.75  
Ox Yoke  
Table lamp . . . \$7.25  
(Packing and Postage 75c)

**CONAWAYS**  
P. O. Box 7261

1707 So. Hackberry St.  
San Antonio 10, Texas



**HOLD  
YOUR FIRE,  
Save the Wire**

**HUNTERS . . .** you'll save telephone lines if you don't shoot at birds on wires or poles.

One stray shot could break a wire and interrupt important long distance conversations.

Thanks for being careful . . . and good hunting!

**SOUTHWESTERN BELL  
TELEPHONE COMPANY**



**THERE'S AN ART  
TO MOUNTING DEER HORNS**



Let us mount your deer horns on a plaque with brown or green bark like finish with touches of aluminum. State Color. Guaranteed satisfaction or money back. Up to 12" Spread \$5.00. 25c per inch for larger spread. Add 75c postage and mailing fee.

Send to:

**MARVIN A. ELDER**

404 S. DeLeon St.

Victoria, Texas



## Buck or Doe?

• Continued from page 6

pears in Figure 2 was a first-time breeder in the 1½ to 2½-year-old class who existed on a sandy range drouth-shy of browse. Even so, there is a great variation in the size and shape of the feet of individual deer occupying the same general area, probably due partially to heredity.

Age, too, makes a big change, especially in bucks. Before a buck mates for the first time, his feet are longer and more pointed. As he gets ready to mate, he paws at scrapes. When he is with a doe in the rutting season, he paws constantly at her. Both activities cause wear on his front feet. Then, too, he carries the weight of antlers and a swollen neck during the rutting season which puts more weight on his front feet than a doe has to carry. This in turn causes more spreading and wear than a doe experiences. This, too, is likely to cause bucks to leave tracks with deeper toe imprints.

The older and heavier his antlers and the more swollen the neck becomes, the more obvious is this wear. This progressive wear is illustrated in Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7.

In 4, the buck was in the 1½ to 2½-year-old class. As a probable first time breeder, his hoofs show little wear.

In 5, the buck was in the 2½ to 3½-year-old class. He possibly was in his third rutting season, and wear on his hoofs is beginning to show.



Barney E. Brooks, proprietor of B and B Trading Company, San Angelo, Texas, got himself quite a thrill on the second day of the Colorado deer season last year. Using a 180 grain Nosler bullet ahead of 74 grains of 4350 in his 300 Weatherby Magnum, Barney dropped the fine mule deer shown in the photograph with a single shot at about 200 yards.

The head has 13 points, and a 33⅞-inch spread. It is currently in the Boone and Crockett Club competition for the year 1954, and could well place high.

In 6, the buck was in the 4½ to 5½-year-old class and thus possibly in his fifth season of rutting and carrying a larger set of antlers and a swollen neck. Wear on his hoofs is quite apparent.

In 7, the buck was an old moss-back beyond the 5½-year-old class. He had a massive set of antlers and a bull-like neck to wield them. This increased weight and his many breeding seasons produced the wear on his hoofs which is so obvious.

Larger and older bucks, therefore, generally have a wider and more round front foot and leave tracks with deeper toe prints than do does. Both bucks and does have smaller and more elongated hind feet. This can be readily seen in Figure 8. In each set of feet, the hind foot appears on the right and the front foot on the left. (A), (B), (C), and (D) are bucks while (E) and (F) are does. The tracks of front feet, then, should be used in any attempt to identify the sex of the maker.

Larger and older bucks may drag their feet to leave marks along their trails. The marks appear as lines,

either in the soil over which the animal passes or in the matter which covers it, such as ground mulch or snow. Drag marks, if present, will appear just in front of and behind the footprint. The softer the soil or the deeper the ground mulch is, the longer the drag marks will be. In snow, the marks can extend from



**ALL-SEASON  
HUNTING**

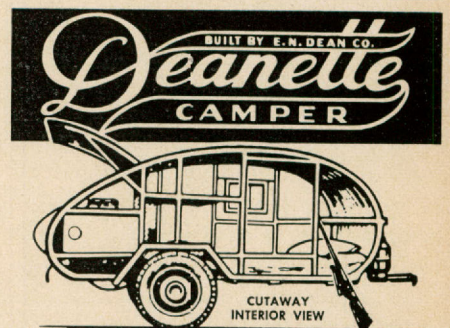
of wild foreign  
**DEER,**  
**ANTELOPE**  
and  
**MOUNTAIN  
SHEEP**

**NO  
CHARGE  
UNLESS  
YOU GET  
YOUR GAME**

on Captain Eddie  
**RICKENBACKER'S**  
fabulous Texas Ranch

Now you can shoot wild game, native to Africa, India, Japan and England—all year around and without leaving the country. Beautiful, spectacular trophy heads. (Also Texas White Tail Deer and Turkey in season.) Only a small number of hunters can be accommodated. Write for descriptive folder and price list.

**R**ICKENBACKER RANCH • Hunt, Texas



**Designed for the SPORTSMAN!**

- Overall length — 10 feet; height — 4 feet; width — 4 feet. Sleeps two people comfortably.
- Standard wheelbase. Weight — 700 lbs.
- Welded steel frame; all skin aluminum which serves as insulation against summer heat.
- Large ice box, 18 gallon water tank, convenient grocery compartment, butane tank and stove, inside lights, tail lights, and clearance lights.
- Awning can be attached to form an extra room.

Write for **FREE** Descriptive Folder and Prices

**E. N. DEAN CO.** 504 E. JOSEPHINE ST.  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



**PHEASANT—BOB WHITE QUAIL—CHUKAR PARTRIDGE**

For

**SPORTSMEN** — Strong Birds for restocking  
**GAME BREEDERS** — Eggs and Chicks in Season  
**GOURMETS** — Frozen Birds at all times

**MAGNOLIA GAME FARM**

P. O. Box 103, Ph. McNeil 48

Magnolia, Arkansas





"You like fish?"

footprint to footprint. Evidence of drag marks is difficult to detect unless the soil over which the animal passes is soft, muddy, or covered with snow. However, an experienced woodsman might detect drag marks by noting disturbances in the ground litter.

Here again, drag marks could be left by sick, weak, wounded, or crippled animals regardless of sex.

For the hunter who is interested in deer sign, including tracks, there is the matter of individual characteristics to consider. Like the fingerprint of man, a deer's foot has individual characteristics. Growth, abra-

sions, and regrowth of the hoofs will alter their size and shape, and leave cracks, breaks, lines, and formations of all kinds on the front, edges, and soles of each hoof. Accidents and wounds, past and present, likewise will create individual features.

The feet shown in Figure 9 are good illustrations. The hind foot of a buck in (A) has shell-like edges to make the hoof concave, while one toe is abraded and shorter than the other one and turns in. The outside toe, which appears on the left, has an oval depression just forward of the sole pad and a circular growth near the edge of the cleft line at about

its center. All would show up in the tracks made by this animal.

The front foot of a buck in Figure 9 (B) has well-formed pads on the soles. However, the inside toe, which appears on the right, has a pad extending forward nipple-like half again as far to form a distinct ledge having a Y-shaped depression on its inner side and a serrated one on the outside which join across its middle to form a saddle. Forward of the saddle, is an irregular circular growth. These, too, would show up in the tracks made by this animal.

All deer walk by stepping with the hind foot approximately in the footprint made by the front foot on the same side. This is particularly true in the case of young deer whose leg length is greater in proportion than body length. The older and larger the deer gets, the more this proportion is likely to become equal or reversed, and the shorter he may step with his hind feet. The same will be true of sick or wounded deer. Slight under- or overstepping by any deer will make the track look larger.

In the same manner, a young animal whose body has not reached its maximum width will walk with little separation between the paths of the feet of both sides. As age increases body width, the wider this separation will become. According to Eugene A. Walker of the Texas Game and Fish Commission, Robert R. Ramsey, wildlife biologist, checked the tracks of an adult doe in November 1953 in Gillespie County, Texas, which had a lateral separation of four inches. The author measured the tracks of a buck in La Salle County, Texas, in December, 1953, which had a lateral displacement of six inches.

The heavier a deer gets, the small-



## HUNTING THE WHITE-TAILED DEER IN TEXAS

By "The Oldtimer"  
Dr. Frederick H. Weston  
writer of the popular  
newspaper column  
"South Texas Outdoors"

## A DEER HUNTERS' "BIBLE"

Over 60,000 words covering every phase of deer hunting in amazing detail

- Nearly 100 superb photos and drawings showing "how-to-do-it."
- A separate subject covered in each of 23 chapters, loaded with authority and facts for more successful hunting.
- Sample chapters—Know Your Game, Selecting a Deer Rifle, How To See More Bucks, Hunting Methods, Trailing a Wounded Buck, Antler Growth, Deer Sizes, Field Dressing, etc.

A useful, entertaining, luxurious gift for others—or yourself. Authoritative information. Valuable tips. Clear, accurate step-by-step hunting directions. Only \$4.95, postpaid.

**Weston Outdoor Publications 604-C MAVERICK BLDG. SAN ANTONIO, TEX.**

## GOVERNMENT SURPLUS

COMPASSES — wrist, liquid filled, plastic case, leather strap, guaranteed. Price \$1, postpaid.

4895 DATA GUNPOWDER. Five pounds, \$4.50, express collect.

## HARRY WIEDE

131 W. Hopkins San Marcos, Texas





At the recent opening of Lake Leon in Eastland County, Miss Yvonne Caldwell of Baird, shown here with a replica of a TEXAS GAME AND FISH Magazine cover, reigned as queen of the event.

The magazine cover in the background, (TEXAS GAME AND FISH, May issue) was one of about ten outdoor sport and recreation magazines, whose covers were painted on tall cardboard boxes. These boxes were upended on a long cattle trailer which served as a stage and promenade for the girls entering the beauty contest. Photo by Warren Burkett, The Abilene REPORTER-NEWS.

er the angle becomes between pattern and the ground. This brings the dewclaws closer to the ground. Heavier deer, then, are likely to leave imprints of dewclaws. Dewclaws on the front legs of bucks are closer to the hoofs than they are on does. Thus bucks, which are normally heavier than does and whose dewclaws are anatomically closer to the ground, are more likely to leave the imprint of dewclaws while walking.

There are many things which change a track of the same deer that the hunter also must consider. They include such things as the type of soil he moves on and its slope; the weather; and whether the animal is walking, trotting, galloping, or running; or is sick or wounded.

A deer walking uphill or on hard surface will make smaller and rounder tracks and will be less likely to

leave dewclaw imprints. A deer walking in muddy or soft soil will leave larger tracks and is more likely to leave imprints of dewclaws. A trotting or running deer, or one walking downhill, will leave larger tracks because the hoofs are spread by shifting weight, and the tracks are made longer and thus slenderer by the sliding momentum. Here, too, dewclaw imprints are more likely to be left. The white-tailed deer is a rotary runner like a fox rather than a diagonal runner like a horse. His feet strike the ground in order as follows: right front foot, left front foot, left hind foot, then right hind foot. The hind feet strike the ground in front of the front feet, all in a relatively small area, usually leaving the imprint of dewclaws. However, the dewclaws on the hind feet are further from the hoofs than they are on the front feet and thus add to the confusion of the beginner by making the rear track appear to be larger.

In an unbiased consideration of these factors it therefore holds that there are characteristics by which, under certain conditions, tracks of does and bucks can be differentiated. By the same token, there are characteristics and conditions which reverse that which is expected. The hunter, then, may apply the expected and assume the tracks he is observing were made by a buck or a doe, as the case may be, but he would do well not to bet heavily on his identification.

A doe may leave a track which contains all that is expected of a buck's track, and a buck may leave one having all that is expected of a doe's. Take the quiz illustration at the beginning of this article for example:

## THREE PAINTINGS CHOSEN FOR COVERS

An invitation to artists to submit paintings for possible use as covers for *Texas Game and Fish Magazine* resulted in the submission of some 80 paintings. From these, three were purchased.

The first, a flathead catfish painted by Clay McGaughy of San Antonio, is presented on this issue.

Others chosen were a collared lizard by Don V. Hague of Fort Worth and a black bass by Jack Shofner of Beaumont. They will be used within the next year.

All paintings not purchased have been returned with the exception of a jaguar painting. The address of the artist is not known.

- (A) is a buck's hind foot.
- (B) is a doe's front foot.
- (C) is a buck's front foot.
- (D) is a doe's front foot.

Each has characteristics expected of both sexes. Over fifty veteran hunters have tried to differentiate them. Not one was over 50% right. Most were only 25% right.

No man, not even the most astute woodsman, can positively and consistently identify the white-tailed deer by its track alone. There are simply too many variable factors which, individually or collectively, prevent establishing a fool-proof pattern which can be applied to deer tracks for sex identification.

### Hunting Lease Information

(Doe Leases)

Gillespie County

**Make Herman Fischer  
Service Station  
Your Hunting  
Headquarters**

Fredericksburg, Tex.  
Texaco

Ph. 244 24 hr. service

### NORTHERN BOB-WHITE QUAIL

Quail for Liberation,  
Breeding, and Table

QUAIL, INC.

Box 169

El Campo, Texas

Phone 62

## fishing squibs

boating hunting outing

Sixteen Full Issues

**Subscribe NOW \$2.00**

MAIL COUPON TODAY!!

Texas and the entire Gulf Coast most informative & interesting Outdoor Mag.

FISHING SQUIBS

P.O. Box 10122, Houston 18, Texas

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_; Send me FISHING SQUIBS for 16 issues, starting with your next issue.

Name .....

Street and Number .....

City and State .....



greater pressure, most as a hobby and not as a necessity for food, but nevertheless, the pressure is real and unless some solution is found, the deer will disappear from our forest, and the great flocks of ducks and geese from our skies. We all know of the tragedy of the majestic buffalo, so let us take greater precaution against pollution of our streams or fishing may never be as good as it once was.

Cover crops and natural seeding must be allowed or future generations may never see a covey of quail running down a corn row or in and out of a hedge.

By the end of World War I, America's timber industry seemed doomed, but selective cutting and reforestation now assures us a perpetuated supply of timber. Will we be as fortunate in perpetuating oil and gas for the future generations? Fellow 4-H'ers, we have a vital part in rural America, a stake in America's future—let us do our part. We may not all be able to replant seedlings to replace timber that is used, but we can avoid the indiscriminate waste of young trees. Maybe we are not in a position to build dams to conserve water, but we can plant shrub and cover to stop erosion. True, we do not yet have the knowledge to aid the petroleum industry in better methods of production and



utilization of our natural gas and oil resources, but we are moving into a period of life where we can study and understand and help.

Conservation is a state of mind as well as an act, and I view with an open mind, man's desire to exploit, to hunt, and to pursue nature as a hunger to be satisfied, and grant him that inalienable right subject to the laws of the land and the limit of the harvest. For me personally I would rather watch a deer play in the shadow of the forest than to kill one. I will build a bird feeder rather than a dead vall. Through increased knowledge let us take on new vision—conservation through education. Conservation means neither abstinence or waste, but wise use.

**Do Your Christmas Shopping**  
for Outdoorsmen at our new location on Asbury or Hillcrest Across from SMU. Or, send for free catalog and order by mail from our unusual selections.  
**COMMODORE'S**  
Camping & Sporting Goods  
3406 Asbury Dallas 5, Texas

**FOR SALE**  
**BOB-WHITE QUAIL**  
**and CHUKAR PARTRIDGE**  
For full information on price and quantities available write  
J. D. LONG Morgan Mill, Texas

**it's here!** **Pied Piper**  
**LONG RANGE**  
• COYOTE AND  
• WOLF CALL

Now! . . . Go after the big fellows with this all-new Long-Range Coyote & Wolf Call!

Uniquely designed to bring coyotes and wolves in close, across large distances, with effortless calling.

Special construction projects sound loud and clear. Ideal for hunting wild predator game in rugged mountains, vast desert regions, unusual terrain. The Pied Piper Long Range Call is most versatile call made, most effective call sold!

Produces sound of natural prey — jackrabbits, cottontails, etc.—with a minimum of practice and a whisper of air pressure! Made and tuned by originator of famous Pied Piper Fox Call. Works anywhere, anytime, day or night.

**Only \$3.95 ppd.**

**NOTHING LIKE IT ANYWHERE**

Especially made for calling coyotes and wolves, but also works on foxes, bobcats, and other game. Long Range Call has open, double-action reed, adjusted to best all-around tone. (Wide variation possible with extra mouth pressure.) Permanent reed won't warp, deteriorate, or de-tune. Call is made of durable Tenite, has black ebony finish. It's a cinch to use, a thrill to hunt with! Only \$3.95 post-paid. Phono record, \$1.50 ppd. Completely guaranteed. Thorough instructions with each call.

**JOBBER AND DEALER**  
**INQUIRIES INVITED**

**HUNTING THE KING OF ALL GAME BIRDS**

**FAST-FLYING**  
**RINGNECK**  
**PHEASANT**

Fully Plumaged and in natural state

- \* No Limit
- \* Hunting from Oct. 1 through Feb. 1
- \* 600 acres of natural cover
- \* Guide and dogs furnished
- \* Early reservations necessary
- \* Overnight accommodations
- \* Northern Bobwhite Quail in covies of six

For additional information and reservations write:  
**HAWKEYE HUNTING PRESERVE**  
Box 27 — Ph. 165 Center, Texas

**A. L. LINDSEY** P. O. BOX 543-NW **ORDER NOW!**  
BROWNWOOD, TEXAS



## Red Heads of the Laguna Madre

Continued from page 7

magnum bored guns, but we always use magnum loads. Standard loaded ammo will only result in a mass of feathers drifting out behind the birds or one that may travel several hundred yards before falling out in the bay beyond recovery distance. The mud in this particular country makes long distance walking a sure impossibility and thus gives a wasted bird. These things we have learned the hard way, so we try to be sure of our bird before bringing the old smoke pole into action.

Another and by far the easiest way to fill the bag with these fast-flying redheads, is to use a blind set up along the edge of the water line along the spoil banks. The hunter can go to a lot of trouble in making a blind of his choice, but the simplest ones have always paid off for me as well as the hard-to-build ones. Most any old-time duck hunter knows the redhead will decoy very easily so a few old blocks will add greatly to your hunting success in this set-up.

My pet idea is merely to take along three or four burlap sacks and four one-by-twos about three feet long. Pick your spot along the foot of the spoil banks and rip open the sacks you have brought along. Drape them over the stakes in a square shape pattern, setting them right at the water line. Then throw out your blocks. A dozen or so at the most is always sufficient. Place them about twenty or thirty yards directly in

front of your blind.

The sacks blend in with the natural coloring of the mud banks, and by getting down low behind them, you are in a position to have lots of action. The birds usually will light in the near vicinity of your blocks if you are not up and at them.

The call is also a great asset here. Do not use the familiar mallard voice call, but one that is a series of guttural sounding noises that you will hear and learn from these birds.

The old bull sprigs give you lots of anxious minutes in this blind set-up. They will not readily decoy to the blocks. They'll come in swinging wide and looking the situation over, making circle after circle. We do not shoot pintails for redheads are our only target on a hunt of this kind. The pintails, or sprigs as some choose to call them, can be killed almost any time or place on the coast, but

we specialize in redheads. The ducks are down there in season and are predominantly redheads, so why not go after the best?

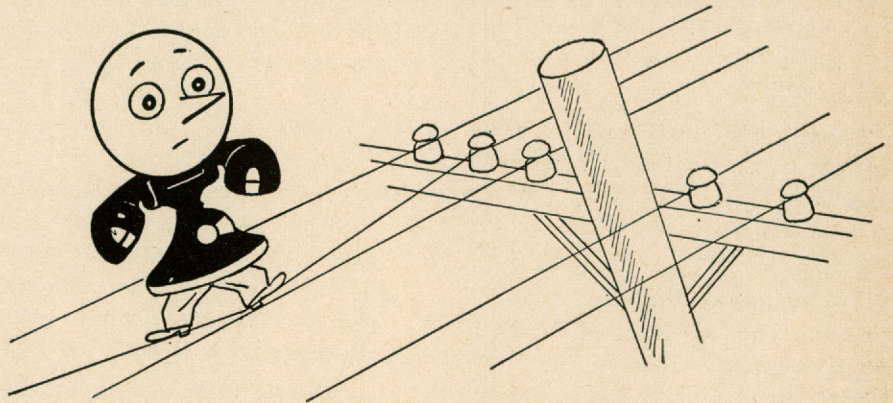
Just be sure you have the right shotgun and heavy-load shells, and don't get in a hurry when they start towards you. That big red-headed rascal is moving along much faster than you think he is, so get way ahead of him in a long smooth swing before touching old Betsy off.



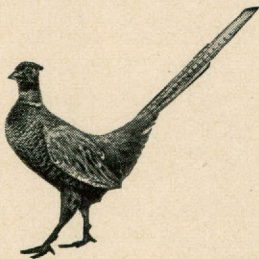
**Mount Your Own  
Prize Antlers  
In 15 Minutes**

Kit includes golden oak plaque, natural lacquer finished with 2 pieces metal casting adjustable skull shield, beautifully designed with antique bronze finish. Can accommodate any size antlers. Screws and instructions furnished. \$5.95 prepaid—no C.O.D.'s please.

**CONAWAYS** P. O. Box 7261  
San Antonio 10, Texas



## PHEASANT SHOOTING



A real old-fashioned pheasant hunt can be yours at COCK WALK FARMS

- Bookings by advance reservation only
- State hunting license required of each hunter
- Season opens October 28
- Overnight accommodations available

For further information write:

**Cock Walk Farms**  
ROUTE 4 • LA GRANGE • TEXAS

## He can't duck

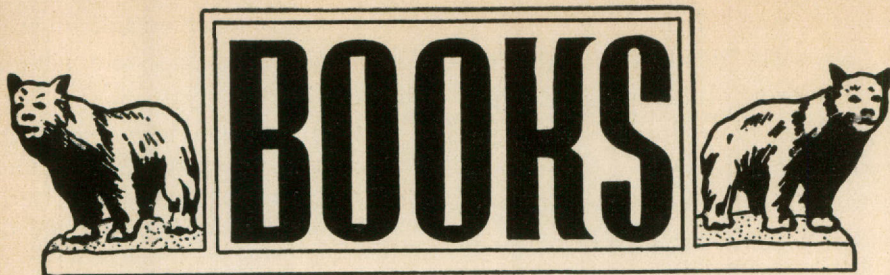
A bird can move before you pull the trigger, but a telephone wire can't duck. Each year stray bullets put hundreds of telephone wires out of action.

That's why we're asking all hunters not to shoot at birds on telephone wires or poles. One stray shot may break several long distance wires and interrupt important calls.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO.







# BOOKS

**SMALL ARMS OF THE WORLD** by W. H. B. Smith. (Fifth edition, revised and enlarged.) 768 plus xv pages generously illustrated with over 1300 photos and drawings. Published 1955 by The Military Service Publishing Co., Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Pa. \$10.

This gigantic volume is a standard reference for anyone interested in small military arms, whether he be collector, gunsmith, shooter, or a member of the military or a law enforcement agency. It is detailed, and the material is world-wide, although, as the sub-title "Basic Manual of Military Small Arms" implies, its scope is limited to military arms.

The valuable historical section, covering 228 pages, is more than history; it also gives descriptions of many important older weapons, cartridges, actions, etc.

The balance of the book is devoted to current military weapons of the 29 arms-producing nations of the world, country by country, including descriptions, photos of most, and cutaway drawings of many.

The author is a world-famous authority on military arms, consultant to the National Rifle Association, and author of many articles and books.

**YOUR SHOTGUN VS. YOU** by Russ Elliott. 117 pages illustrated with caricatured drawings by Lee Davis. Published 1955 by Brown-White-Lowell Press, Kansas City, Mo. \$2.75.

This is an unusually interesting and valuable "how-to" type of book—one so different that on the very first page the author, himself, seems intent on discouraging the reader to buy it! Going

on from that first page, the author approaches the problem of hitting game or clay targets with a shotgun by laying the problem square on the shooting shoulder of the individual.

He offers many helpful tips and instructions, and most of them probably are missing from other shooting books. Tossing all the usual do's and don'ts and all the "scientific" charts and instructions aside, he relies on a lifetime of instructing shooters to provide actual experiences of how other shooters overcame shooting problems.

This easy-to-read, informal book seems to make sense and should prove helpful to anyone interested in hitting more often with a shotgun.

**LURES, THE GUIDE TO SPORT FISHING** by Keith Schuyler. 276 pages illustrated with line drawings. Published 1955 by the Stackpole Co., Telegraph Press Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. \$5.00.

This book is written with the idea that a fisherman should not depend upon any trial-and-error method of finding the best lure to use under the fishing conditions he happens to face. The thought is that the fisherman should KNOW, and the author, who is considered an expert in this field, gives the reader the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

"Lures" is divided into four sections: Lure of the Angler, Surface Lures, Underwater Lures, and Lazy Ways and the Lonely Lures. The chapters in Lure of the Angler deal with fishing as a sport and cover fishing tricks and techniques in general. Chapters on Surface Lures cover dry flies, bugs, and surface plugs. The section on Underwater Lures offers a working knowledge of wet flies, nymphs, streamers, underwater plugs, spinners, and spoons. The

rest of the book discusses such subjects as trolling lures and rigs, jigging lures, and lesser known varieties.

A good, comprehensive book devoted to lures and—more important—their correct use.

**NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPIONS** by William F. Brown and Nash Buckingham. 520 plus xxii pages, illustrated with one full-color plate and nearly 100 black and white illustrations. Published 1955 by The Stackpole Co., Telegraph Press Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. \$12.50.

This fascinating book gives an account, chapter by chapter, of each of the National Field Trial Stakes held since the beginning of this classic in 1896 through 1955. Featured are the winning dog's pedigree and picture and a detailed and colorful account of the competition leading to the crowning of the champion each year.

Also included are sketches of outstanding officials, handlers, and owners through the years. Tables give statistical data to complete the history.

The authors, both outstanding authorities of dogs and field trials and authors of previous books on the subject, need no introduction to bird dog enthusiasts.

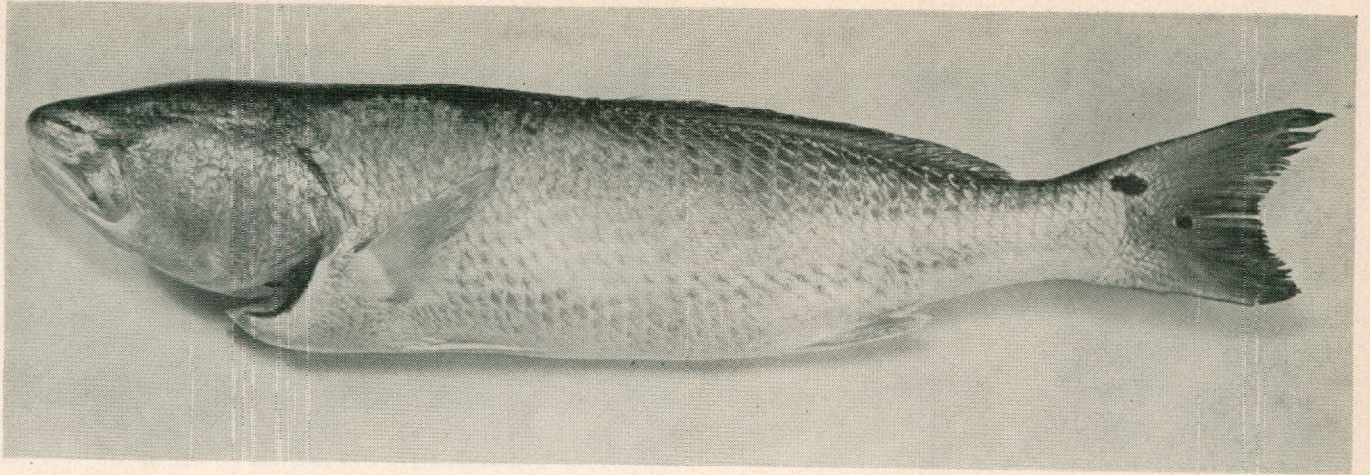
This book, handsomely printed and bound, is sure to be regarded as a standard reference and a classic in its field.

**COUGAR KILLER** by Jay C. Bruce. 172 pages illustrated with photographs. Published in 1953 by Comet Press Books, New York, New York. \$3.00.

A suspenseful account of one man's life spent as a professional woodsman and cougar killer in California. Included in his adventures are stories of his dogs, his knowledge of woodsman's lore, with sidelights on tracking deer, collecting live rattlesnakes, and catching trout with a home-made fly.

This man's account of his own life as one of the nation's foremost cougar killers should please the adventure-minded reader.





Over two feet long

## Eyeless Redfish

... but how did it find its food?

A redfish with no eyes was brought to the Game and Fish Commission's Marine Laboratory, Rockport, on June 21, 1955. It was found in a large shipment of fish bought by H. C. Ware of Riviera, presumably caught in Alazar Bay (a branch off Baffin Bay, which empties into the Laguna Madre). It measured 27 inches long and seemed normal in all other respects. Unfortunately, the fish had been gutted, making it impossible to examine the stomach contents to see how the fish's blindness had affected its feeding habits.

Ordinarily, redfish eat a variety of organisms, including several varieties of crabs, shrimp, and many kinds of fish. The versatility in feeding, or being able to eat mud-burrowing as well as actively swimming creatures, is perhaps responsible for this fish's ability to survive without eyes, since even a blind

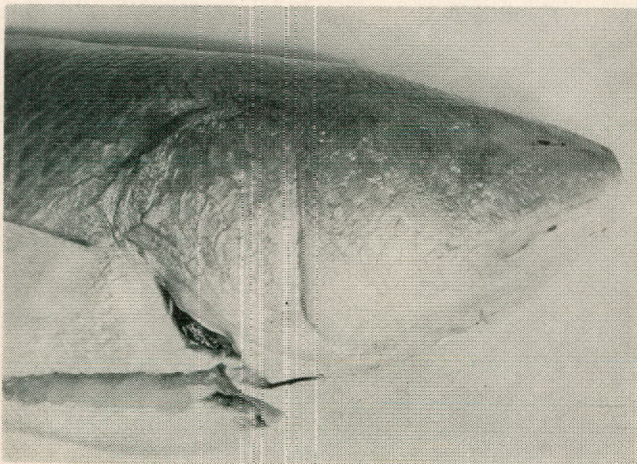
fish would be able to swim along near the bottom, nuzzling in the mud and eating any small animals encountered there.

The photographs show that the scale arrangement on the left side is regular, there being no trace of scar tissue. On the right side, however, there was a peculiar pale area in the region of the missing eye socket.

The absence of eyes could be a congenital anomaly, a pathological anomaly, or a hereditary condition; or the eyes could have been removed physically by a parasite or predator when the fish was very small, the wounds having healed and become externally invisible.

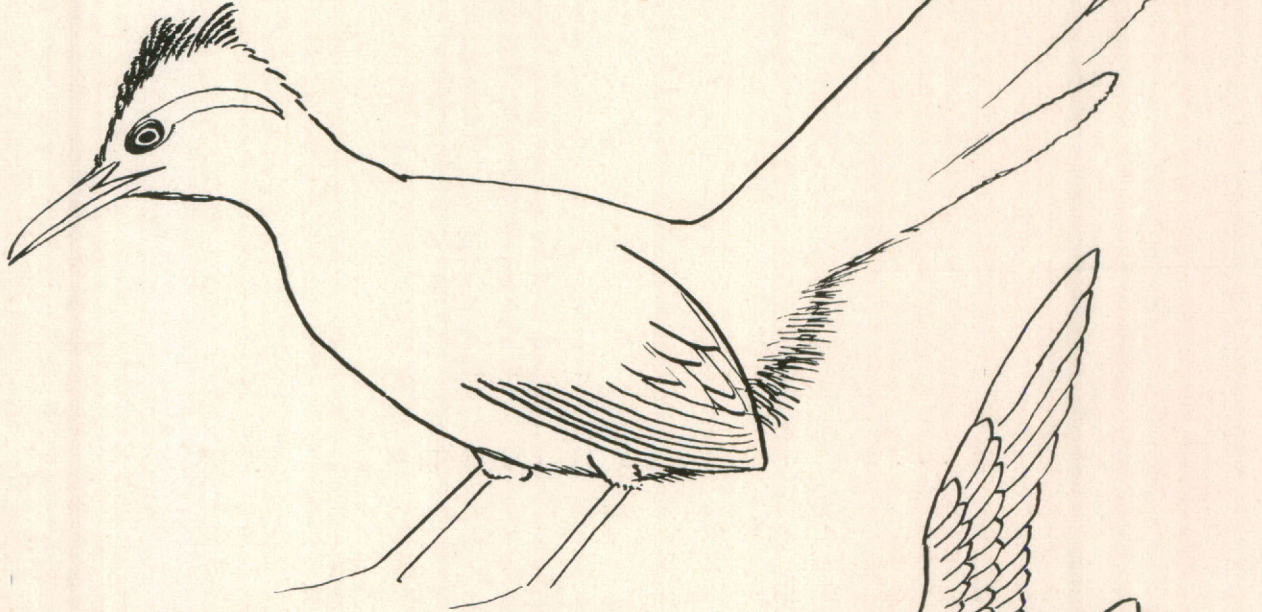
The fish has been sent to Dr. Gordon Gunter, noted marine authority, for dissection and further study.—Pat Pew.

Close view of both sides of the eyeless redfish.

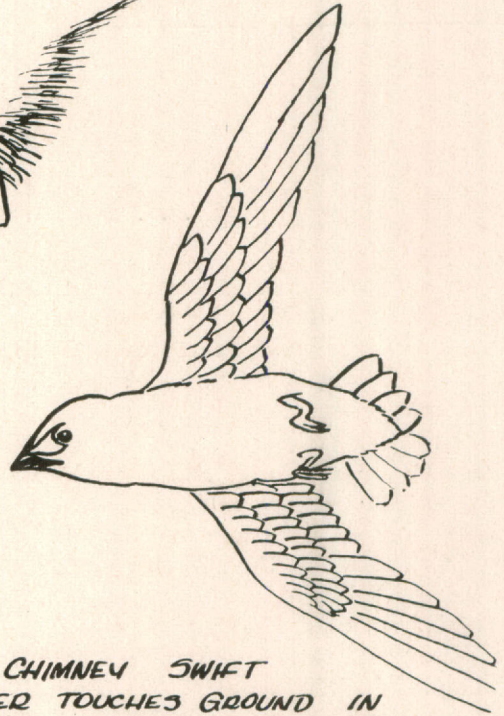




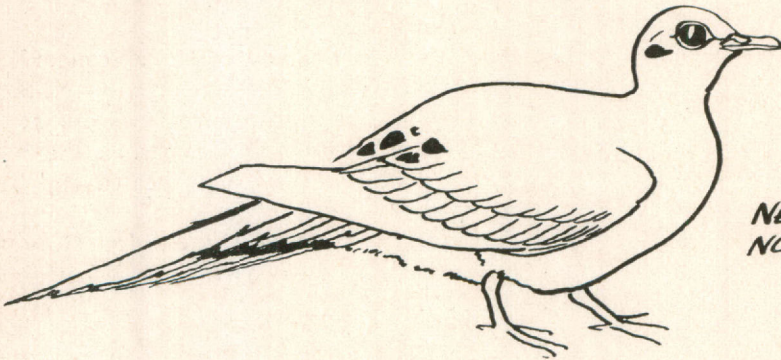
# WALK OR FLY



PRIMARY EXISTANCE IS MAINTAINED  
ON THE GROUND



CHIMNEY SWIFT  
NEVER TOUCHES GROUND IN  
NORMAL COURSE OF LIFE



MOURNING DOVE  
HALF OF LIFE ON GROUND—HALF  
PERCHED OR ALOFT

WOODBRIDGE

## Texas Game & Fish

Published Monthly by  
The Texas Game and Fish Commission

Walton State Building

Austin 14, Texas

Subscription Price—\$1.00 Per Year

To: