

Texas Game and Fish

AUGUST

1964

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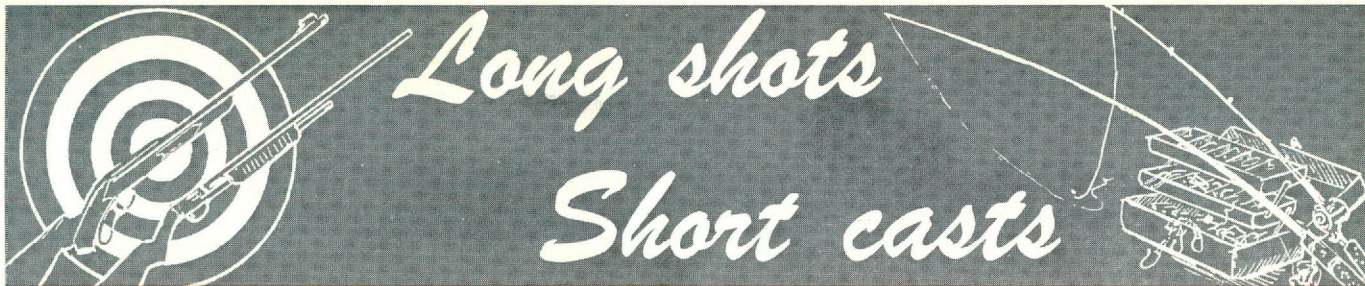
SEP 28 1964

PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE
EDINBURG, TEXAS



Some mornings a feller shouda stood in bed. This early tree frog made such an effort to awake, only to find it's pretty lonely with nothing much else stirring—except the photographer, Al Flury, who's catching him almost napping again.





MEANINGFUL MEMORIAL: The National Audubon Society has announced the establishment of a "Rachel Carson Memorial Fund for Research," in honor of the late noted biologist and writer. The Fund will be administered by a group of distinguished biologists and conservation leaders. Contributions are invited, and will be tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the National Audubon Society and marked as intended for the Rachel Carson Fund. The money will be used to sponsor research into the mysteries of nature, into land-use ecology, and particularly into problems caused by the introduction of man-made poisons into the natural environment. Some of it will be spent to publish and distribute the resultant findings and recommendations.

WRAP UP YOUR TROUBLES: To keep coils of monofilament line or leader material from becoming hopelessly entangled, wrap them with pipe cleaners. Pipe cleaners can also be wrapped around long-shanked hooks to serve as wooly worm flies in an emergency.

SEARCH FOR SLEUTHS: Often the first person to spot the after-effects of pollution is the fisherman. It's frustrating and infuriating to find dead fish floating at a favorite fishing spot. Now, with stronger pollution laws and penalties, something can be done about it. Pollution control officials cannot be everywhere, however, and this is where every sportsman-fisherman-conservationist can be of valuable help. There is a new leaflet for "citizen reporters," which gives advice on reporting fish kills. Entitled "Be a Pollution Detective," it may be obtained from the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, Washington, D.C. 20201.

PINNING THE POISON: A compact instrument for detecting pesticides in food has been developed by a California instrument and research firm, who announced it at a meeting of the American Chemical Society. A fraction of an ounce of suspected food is chopped up, dissolved and injected into the analyzer. Any contamination with insect-fighting chemical is detected and recorded on a chart as a peak. The size of the peak is proportional to the amount of insecticide. The technique is called gas chromatography, but the new gadget has a special detector that is sensitive to pesticide compounds. The instrument can analyze any pesticide, even if it is present only in the parts per billion range. It is not sensitive to other organic materials, which would otherwise have to be removed by messy and troublesome procedures.

CONSERVATION VOCATIONS: High school students and other young people interested in a conservation career will find valuable advice in "A Career for You in Wildlife Conservation." This new leaflet details prerequisites for and opportunities in wildlife biology, management, research, education, information, enforcement and recreation. Single copies may be had free from The Wildlife Society, Suite 615, 2000 P Street, Washington, D.C. 20036. Rates on quantity lots are available on request.

SPACE AGE CANINES: This complex age we live in calls for more and more learned experts, but there are still some problems that are best solved in an old-fashioned down-to-earth way. One of these was the difficulty White Sands engineers had, of recovering missile fragments after a blast-off. Radar tracking systems were not very accurate close to the ground, and details of men were sent out to beat the sagebrush after desert tests. Eventually, missile men found that the most sensitive instrument for finding lost parts is a dog's nose. Now they coat all parts of about-to-be-exploded weapons with Squalene, a shark liver oil derivative, which is almost odorless to humans, but enables the dogs to track them down. Bird dogs are best for the work, as they smell the wind and can pursue a quarry over a mile or more of intervening space. So successful are the dogs that engineers foresee other possibilities, of dogs finding parts of commercial aircraft after crashes, and being used for other special recovery problems that have stalled scientists for years.

—Compiled by Joan Pearsall

Texas Game and Fish

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The Cover



This prize bass is not going to give up without a good battle, and pits every ounce of strength against the adversary on the other end of the line. His last desperate struggle for freedom produces this spectacle of beauty and grandeur.

Painting by Dan Ankudovich.

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AUGUST, 1964

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Cause for Appreciation

LOOK AROUND at beautiful Texas and its expansive outdoors overflowing with game and fish. Count the rivers and streams, the lakes and ponds, the variety of fields and forests, the lagoons, the bays and the beaches along our sprawling Gulf Coast. Be proud, when you consider the wealth of our great state, when you inventory the outdoor storeroom chock-full of game.

No other state in the nation can boast of as large a deer population. We have an estimated 2,200,000 deer. Hunters harvested about 220,000 last hunting season. Texas needs bow to no state when it comes to dove and quail hunting. And our waterfowl numbers are surpassed by few other states when the fall migration begins.

Only Alaska has more land and inland waters than Texas, and hers is covered with ice most of the year. Texans have available for fishing and other water recreation some 4,500 square miles of fresh water. This along with our 600 miles of seashore is reason enough to stand proud.

Texas is one of the few states on the list of "musts" for ornithologists and bird watchers, because of the tremendous variety of birds which

can be seen only in certain areas of the state.

By traveling in different directions from the center of the state a person can see mountains, plains, forests, brushland, hill country, tropical valleys, coastal prairies, coastal inlets, bays and lagoons and the majestic Gulf of Mexico rolling onto beautiful white, sandy beaches. There is no treasure island which can offer more to its inhabitants.

Texas is yours and mine, to enjoy and cherish. There is so much of so many valuable natural resources that we find ourselves unconsciously becoming wasteful and neglectful in our conservation and protection of them. Quite often we are tempted to let the next fellow worry about watching over these resources and natural conditions. Too often when something is diminishing rapidly, because of man's greedy characteristic we want to rush in and grab up all we can while it lasts.

Much in this world can be replaced with the artificial or imitation products of man. But, the natural resources of this world, once destroyed, cannot be re-made except by God. **

THE EDITOR



Deep in the brush country of South Texas is a favorite nesting place of the whitewings. Here a state biologist pays a nest-checking call.

Figuring the Flocks

by TED L. CLARK
Wildlife Biologist

AS SUMMER begins to wane into the hot, sultry days of late August, biologists watch for whitewings to "flock up" and form their familiar fall flights. Few birds can match the colorful white-winged dove in the hearts of wingshooters, primarily due to their habit of forming flights that at times seem to have no end. However, the biologists are training binoculars instead of shotguns on the birds for they are interested in studying, not shooting, and are more concerned with the number of whitewings making up the post-nesting or "fall" population. They also need to better understand the movement of birds both north and south across the Rio Grande River and the factors affecting local movements and fall migration.

Without a reliable technique for censusing the fall population it would be virtually impossible to fathom the mysteries of fall movements of whitewings.

Beginning in 1947, fall flight count estimates have been made on an annual basis. Fortunately, these game birds have the habit of gathering into a relatively few well defined flights, which are first located by ground and aerial reconnaissance. The number of birds forming each flight is estimated by making periodic counts over a certain point. With a knowledge of the birds passing per unit of time at intervals during the flight, it is possible to calculate the number of whitewings making up the entire flight. Counts are usually made as the birds leave their roost site at early morning or some point along their flight path. When flights are several miles wide or when whitewings are leaving the roost site in several directions, two or more observers are employed to estimate the entire flight. To be sure, a margin of error is inherent in any estimate of several hundred thousand birds; however, for many years trends in the population have been reliably determined in this manner.

Following the end of nesting activity, whitewings routinely roost in brushlands, form early morning feeding flights to grain fields, spend mid-day in the vicinity of their feeding grounds, feed again in the afternoon, and return to their roost site before dark. The return to the roosting grounds is usually along the same flight path as the morning flight, but is longer in duration and the birds are consequently more dispersed.

The white-winged dove is quite mobile and it is not unusual for the birds to fly considerable distances from their roost sites to their feeding grounds.

Watering habits seem to depend much on the distance of watering sites from the feeding grounds. Watering periods immediately following feeding activity is the common practice.

Since 1956, the fall population counts have been highest during the period September 1-15, which includes and/or precedes the hunting season. It should be pointed out that there are normally more birds in the Rio Grande Valley during the August 16-31 census period; however, the whitewings are usually not yet in well defined flights and, therefore, are more difficult to census by means

of flight counts. After mid-September, the population normally declines quite rapidly as a result of the southerly fall migration (Table 1).

It will be noted from Table 1 that an increase in the number of birds in the breeding and post-nesting populations does not necessarily guarantee that a large population will be available during the hunting season. The decision on the hunting season is based upon the annual breeding population and not upon the fall population. The reason for this is quite simple; no one, as yet, can predict with any degree of accuracy how many whitewings will be in the Rio Grande Valley during early September. Years like 1960 and 1961 in which we had some of our highest nesting populations have given us our poorest hunting seasons. On the other hand, a low breeding population in 1963 was followed by the largest fall population in recent years. This paradox is reason enough to spur biologists to investigate migration of large segments of the post-nesting season population.

Several theories have been put forth as to the causative factors prompting early southward migration of whitewings, two of which are lack of sufficient food supplies, and

• Continued on page 27

TABLE 1
WHITE-WINGED DOVE FALL POPULATIONS AND
RELATED DATA, 1956-63
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Year	Breeding Population	Post-nesting Population	Population Aug. 15-31	Population Sept. 1-15	Population Sept. 16-30	Population Oct. 1-15	September Hunting Season Dates	Whitewing Seasonal Bag
1956	234,000	474,000	293,300	434,800	No Census	82,300	No Season	---
1957	334,000	785,000	332,000	359,000	312,000	65,100	13, 15, & 17	7.78
1958	245,000	490,000	No Census	300,000	102,000	1,000	14 & 16	5.10
1959	338,000	676,000	278,700	325,000	180,400	10,600	11, 13, & 15	6.92
1960	441,000	882,000	70,000	40,000	No Census	1,000	9, 10, & 11	2.26
1961	592,000	1,185,000	No Census	66,000	No Census	No Census	8, 9, & 10	4.66
1962	301,000	603,000	267,000	308,000	269,000	No Census	7 & 9	7.05
1963	277,000	552,000	427,000	610,000	No Census	No Census	No Season	---

Reservoir of Friendship

by NORREL WALLACE
I & E Officer, San Angelo

A MASSIVE DAM that will drastically alter fishing prospects for many Texans soon will span the historic Rio Grande River 12 miles north of Del Rio. It will back water 85 miles up river beyond the little town of Langtry, where Judge Roy

Bean had his famous court.

Since this great body of water will lie on our international boundary as a joint venture of the United States and Mexico, it has been appropriately named AMISTAD, which means "friendship" in Spanish.

The new reservoir should adequately satisfy multiple interests in both countries by halting flood waters that periodically race down the Rio Grande and its two major tributaries. Stored water will then be metered out to irrigation farmers in



dry desert areas on the lower Rio Grande. With a dependable water supply assured, irrigation farmers can take advantage of long growing seasons prevalent in South Texas, and grow farm crops that will inadvertently provide food for resting waterfowl, resident mourning doves, quail and other wildlife, greatly increasing populations in what was once a dry, vacant desert south of Del Rio. In addition, the newly created lake will provide hundreds of miles of shoreline for outdoor enthusiasts and fishing room for thousands of anglers.

Lake Walk and Devils Lake, on the Devil's River, will be inundated

Huge concrete legs support 230-foot bridge on Devil's River where lake depth will be 200 feet.



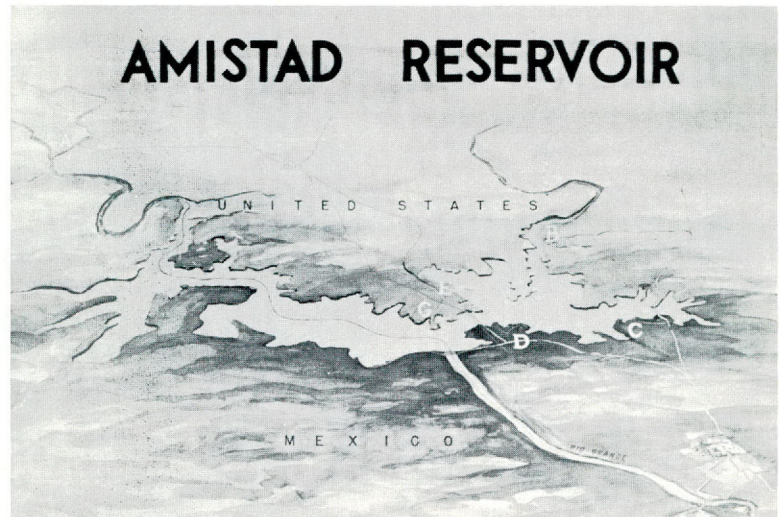
by the new reservoir, dams and all. Water depth under the new Devils River Bridge on Highway 90 will be 200 feet deep when the lake fills. At flood storage level, 137 square miles of desert will be under water, making Amistad Reservoir second only to mighty Lake Texoma in size.

Fisheries biologists who are familiar with the three rivers that will feed Amistad are outspokenly optimistic about fishing prospects. Towering bluffs and ridges that now border the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devils Rivers are pock-marked with literally thousands of caves and depressions that will become productive haunts and spawning sites for catfish, black bass and other game fish. The prized Rio Grande blue catfish, will be "hot spots" for fishermen.

And with hundreds of miles of shoreline, fishermen will have more "hot spots" than they can imagine.

Access to many interesting spots will be limited except by boat, but if the U. S. Government plans are completed, a recreation area of considerable size will enhance recreational prospects on the United States side. Directly across the new lake, Mexico is also planning a Federal recreation area aimed at attracting tourists from both countries.

Fisheries biologists are not premature in their appraisal studies of this vast fishery resource. Stocking such a large body of water will take plenty of advance planning to assure sufficient fish distribution throughout the lake. Where fish



The giant lake will spread over 137 square miles of arid lands, just 10 shy of Rockwall County's 147 square miles. The dam will be just above Del Rio.

which can reach 100 pounds in weight, will be a highly sought game fish in Amistad. Another abundant species will be the white bass which will thrive in the wide expanse of productive water.

Amistad will produce tremendous numbers of fish but extreme depths, sometimes exceeding 200 feet, will add little to the productivity of the lake simply because bottom-dwelling plants and animals, on which game fish feed, cannot grow in deep water where sunlight doesn't penetrate. So in a sense, much of Amistad will be "bottomless" as far as food production is concerned. Shallow shoals and bordering submerged terrain

should be stocked, what kinds, what size and how many are only a few problems facing fishery workers. Water quality studies, possible rough fish control programs and several other research problems should be solved before the lake fills.

Although the target date for completion of the dam is sometime in 1969, skin divers, fishermen, boating enthusiasts, campers and sightseers anxiously anticipate enjoying the clear water, towering rock bluffs and picturesque desert scenery surrounding Amistad Reservoir. Their anxious anticipation is well founded. Amistad could be a spectacular addition to West Texas. **

What Can I Do?

by CLARENCE E. BILLINGS
Superintendent of Education



These very fine suggestions, first printed in the *MISSOURI CONSERVATIONIST*, were compiled by Clarence Billings, supervisor for conservation education, Missouri Conservation Commission. Since so many Texans are asking this same question, it seems fitting to reprint the article in our magazine. There's no limit to the list of suggestions we could make to you who are sincerely interested in doing something for conservation. But, Billings lists 40 good ones to begin with. So—pick one or two and give them a try.—EDITOR



“I KNOW THAT, but just what can I do for conservation?”

The voice at the other end of the line was insistent—even pleading. And the best answer I could give the lady didn't seem to satisfy her.

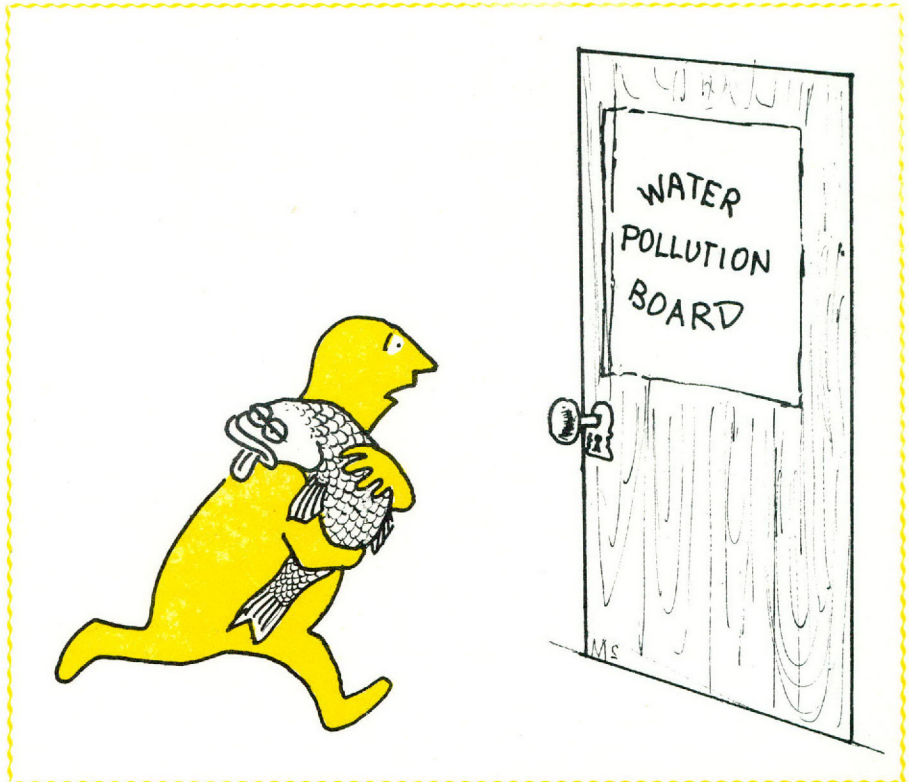
“I wonder if you could give me some information,” she'd said. “I read the *Conservationist* and I read the papers and I have tried to learn all I can about the conservation effort. What I need to know now is, what can I do to help?”

It was a good question, but apparently I didn't give the lady much of an answer, right off the top of my head.

But it was such a good question that my fishing that weekend was accompanied by new ideas on the subject. First thing Monday, I sat down and started a list of things individuals and groups could do to further the conservation effort. My list wasn't very complete, so I called for help from others in the department, and

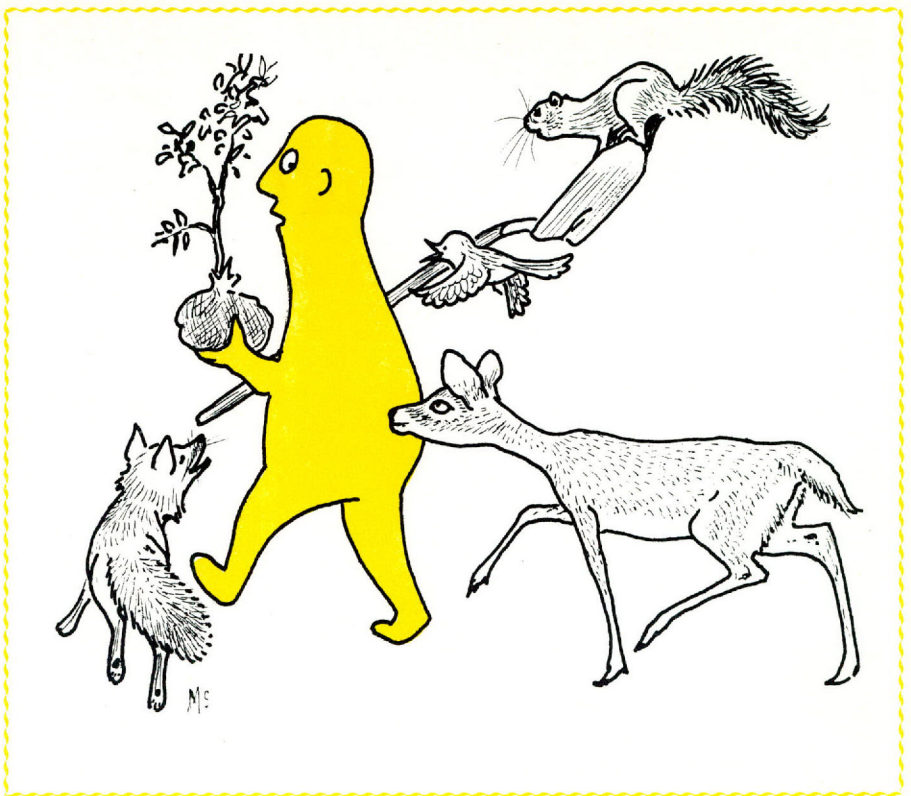
together we drew up quite a list of possibilities.

There was one problem—now that I had an answer for her, I didn't know who the lady was who had asked the question. Perhaps, I thought, since she reads the *Conservationist*, she would recognize the answer if it were printed there.



We decided that, even if the lady with the question didn't see the answers, a lot of other folks would. Here is the list for those who have the same question in mind.

1. Know your conservation agent. Report violations of the wildlife code and report forest fires.
2. Learn the responsibilities and policies of conservation agencies.
3. Report water pollution sources to a conservation agent or the Water Pollution Board and help bring public sentiment against pollution.
4. Learn and respect the wildlife regulations and encourage others to do so.
5. Express to local officials your support of wildlife and forestry law enforcement.
6. Inform your news media of your interest in adequate reporting of conservation matters.
7. Contact businessmen about using conservation slogans on their products' labels.
8. Help conservation projects of local sportsmen's clubs.
9. Be informed on conservation legislation and make your views known to your representatives.
10. Obtain hunter-safety training and train youths in safe gun handling.
11. Plant, or help plant, vegetable cover to benefit wildlife. Obtain seed for a farmer friend and help him plant it.
12. Plant evergreen for wildlife cover, establish brushpiles to improve small game habitat, and discourage destruction of den trees.
13. Encourage development of a nature center for conservation education.
14. Improve woods border habitat for wildlife with shrubs and low vegetation.
15. Clean up a local stream or lake area.
16. Help obtain public access points on nearby lakes and streams.
17. Invite a qualified person to discuss resource management with your group.
18. Promote a school conservation day observance in your community.
19. Establish a "conservation trail"



20. Construct and display a conservation exhibit.
21. Make and distribute litterbags depicting a conservation idea.
22. Help publicize National Wildlife Week.
23. Campaign against burning of timberlands and other cover.
24. Initiate and serve on conservation committees in service and social organizations.
25. Sponsor a "take a kid fishing or hunting" day in your area.
26. Help conservation projects of Scouting, F.F.A., 4-H, Campfire Girls and church groups.
27. Join and support a conservation organization.
28. Help acquire land to be donated to the Conservation Commission for wildlife and forestry development.
29. Provide scholarships for teachers to take summer courses in conservation or to attend conservation education meetings.
30. Sponsor a community or school forest for study of natural resources.
31. Start a committee in P.T.A. to promote conservation education.
32. Encourage a school camping program where children can enjoy the outdoors while learning conservation.
33. Promote adequate instruction of all teachers in conservation.
34. Provide books on conservation for school or public libraries.
35. Create a scholarship or loan fund for wildlife and forestry students.
36. Create a fund to aid students engaged in wildlife or forestry research.
37. Sponsor conservation spot announcements on radio or television.
38. Work for better farmer-sportsman relations by bringing members of these groups together in social organizations.
39. Make available to landowners, "hunting by permission only" signs.
40. Obtain recognition for those doing outstanding work in conservation.

Conservation:

Journalistically Speaking

by CURTIS CARPENTER

TEXANS PROBABLY WERE singing "Outdoor writers are busting out all over," in June instead of the other version of this very popular song. And they had reason to be singing these new lyrics. More national outdoor writers visited the state at one time that month of brides and blossoms than at any other time in the history of Texas. From June 13 through June 28 about 300 of the

It's round-up time in Texas! Austin officials are ready with a welcome for out-of-staters arriving to register for the AACI conference.

nation's top journalists on the outdoors criss-crossed the state. They camped at Austin and McAllen.

From June 14-17, the American Association for Conservation Information held its Annual International Conference at the magnificent Terrace Motor Hotel in Austin. The theme for this year's event was "I&E In The Space Age," the initials being short for Information and Education.

Mayor Pro Tem Travis LaRue filled in for Austin Mayor Lester Palmer in welcoming the group to

the Capital City. In the process, he gave some history of the area noting the beautiful outdoors, the wildlife and many other attractions which make Austin such a picturesque city.

In a short talk during the opening session, J. Weldon Watson, Executive Director for the Parks and Wildlife Department, pointed out the importance of conservation information people. "You, ladies and gentlemen, are one of the main parts, one of the main segments for the success of these departments, because you

Photo by Paul Hope



assist and help in creating the public image of the department in your respective states. This is one of the most important things, to get the story over in the area of conservation and wildlife preservation and at the same time create an image for all the public of our work and departments," said Watson.

Will E. Odom, chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, in a talk following Watson's, re-emphasized the importance of I&E personnel. Odom reminded the members, "The service you people perform in the information and education department, is probably the most valuable function of any department in the state departments for conservation. It is strictly through the information which you disseminate, and the accuracy through which you accumulate and disseminate it, that the public image of your department is presented to the people of your respective states."

On Monday morning, June 15, many of the nation's top conservation information specialists — magazine editors, news writers, audio-visual production supervisors, photographers, education extension workers—were hard at work in Austin trying to uncover space age problems concerning conservation information production and discover solutions for handling these problems. They looked at their "vapor trails" over the past decade or so. Triple keynote speakers (Dwight Rettie, U. S. Department of the Interior; Russ Neugebauer, National Wildlife Federation; and James R. Harlan, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare) described the activities of I&E people from where they sit.

The speakers noted changes that have taken place in the past 10 years or so. Both tape and motion pictures were used to illustrate the talks by these three "old timers" in the business. It was revealed that although modern events have created many critical problems, the techniques in handling them basically have remained the same. Jim Harlan returned to the early 40's when the conservation information organization was just getting started. He pointed out that the association's fight for second class mailing privileges for conservation magazines did



Admiration from north and south of two borders is evident in this congenial moment of the AACI conference. Pat Whalen, Information

Supervisor from Ontario, Canada, seems to take to that ultra-Southern San Antonio hospitality.

much to give AACI the strength and pride it enjoys today.

Harlan played a taped interview with Mike Hudoba, describing the battle fought by the then youthful organization and established it as one of the great victories of AACI. On tape, Hudoba, Washington Editor for Sports Afield Magazine, reviewed the fight for congressional action step by step. "In conclusion," Hudoba pointed out, "conservation isn't a big national issue, it starts in somebody's back yard, it starts on somebody's back gallery."

Russ Neugebauer, by using as an example the organization of the I&E setup in Wisconsin, drew a picture of the problems and conditions as far back as two decades. He read some material produced by Ed Hein, entitled "Conservation Education Means Unlearning Bunk." Hein is Press Publicity Man for the Wisconsin Conservation Department. "Conservation and education nowadays is mostly a matter of trying to correct wrong ideas," says Hein. "Everybody used to believe those ideas until conservation turned scientific," continued Hein, "and proved that they were wrong. And now we've got to unlearn the bunk before we can learn the facts, and that is twice as tough."

"I think we will have to agree," said Neugebauer, commenting on how it was, "ten years ago or so the major change that occurred in the whole pattern was that many of the fragmented activities (of I&E) were all brought into one cohesive department."

The third speaker in the triple keynote address, Dwight Rettie, said, "We've got to keep kicking ourselves to make sure we never think we're doing it perfectly. We've got to remember that if conservation I&E is to do its job it must be 20 years, 30 years and more ahead of the problem, not even a day behind. We haven't kept that pace with fidelity during the past decade." Then, to illustrate this, he said, "It took a gentle but courageous woman to wake up even the conservation agencies to the problems and dangers of uncontrolled and indiscriminate use of pesticides. Rachel Carson used our data to do it—why weren't we waging that fight from the beginning? Some of us who may have grown a little soft in the gleam of our recognized successes, have got to step out and remember that conservation is controversial. President Kennedy reminded us that controversy is the hallmark of healthy changes. Change is coming, we've



A Lone Star State welcome from the brewery of the same name is given by its PR director, Gen. Jack Gordon, who also tells about Hall of Horns. Lone Star hosted AACI group in San Antonio.

got to stay ahead of it, not up with it." And so, the temperature of the conference began to rise, and it was to remain high for the duration of the workshop sessions.

During a session entitled "I&E Sets a Course for Future Goals," three important Texans: Dr. Clarence Cottam, director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation at Sinton; William M. Gosdin, assistant director for parks, Parks and Wildlife Department; and Henry J. LeBlanc, president of Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas, enlightened those attending the conference in the area of research, development and wise use of our natural resources.

Dr. Cottam, well known for his many efforts in the field of conservation, gave the information specialists a glimpse of resource research problems conservation scientists can expect in the future. He listed several areas where more research is needed today. "Water," he exclaimed, "is the number one problem in western and southwestern states and probably, only to a lesser degree, in every state in the Union. That there are so many problems associated with it (water) would seem to indicate in itself that there is need for much research in this field."

As examples to illustrate this serious situation he said, "So water can

be used and reused there is a great need for research." Then he continued to explain, "There is a shortage of water. By 1978 we will use 600 billion gallons per day, if we can find it. A Senate committee said in a report that by 1980 there will be a critical shortage of water in 8 of 22 river basins."

The Welder Foundation Director, recognized as one of the great authorities on pesticides, praised the Present Review Panel on Pesticides of America for the research it has conducted and the recommendations it has made. "The panel has recommended expanded research — fact finding and monitoring — to gather the necessary facts," said Cottam. "I quote the panel now, 'Any new pesticide compounds proposed for registration be rigorously evaluated,' which they have not been in the past."

He startled the audience with his description of a fish die-off which occurred at the mouth of the Mississippi River. "Most of you probably have read or heard someplace about the tremendous die-off of fish that occurred at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Ten million fish died in this one area. During a laboratory examination, it was discovered that nearly all fish killed had one-half of one part per billion of endrin in their blood. In a laboratory test, fish which

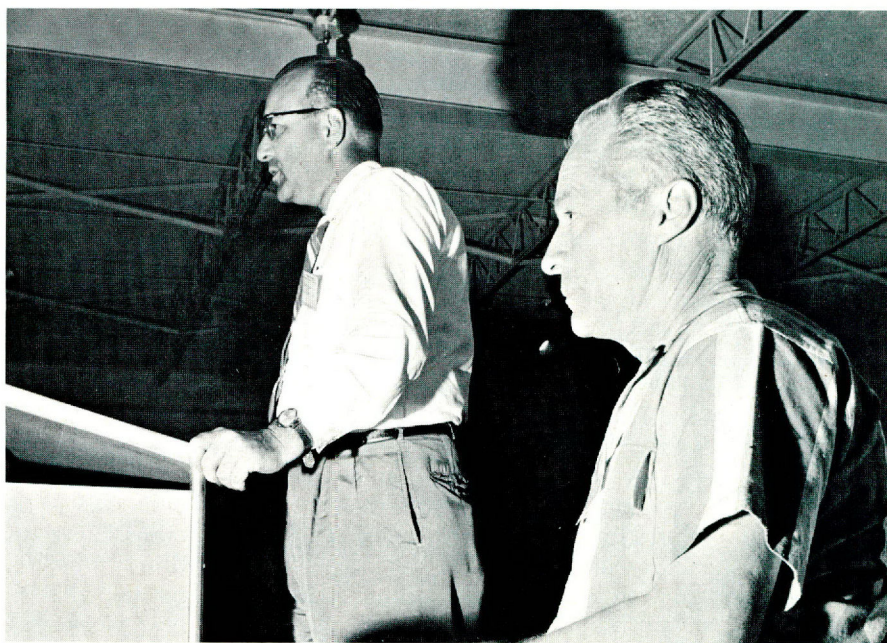
had no contact with this poison were placed in water containing that amount, one-half of one part per billion, if you can imagine anything so infinitesimal, of endrin.

"When a fish got that much in its blood, that fish was dead. This certainly should stimulate our thinking." Then with a very serious tone to his voice he continued, "How long will it be until we have a real kill of fish — many times that at the mouth of the Mississippi? The next time when it occurs, will it be fish, ducks or will it be human beings? I think we ought to take another look at the situation."

Members of the American Association for Conservation Information left the session better aware of some problems they must deal with in the days to follow as they attempt to keep the public informed about conservation research.

Mark Gosdin, an authority in the development of Texas Parks, through a slide presentation, gave the workshop group a chance to see the many problems in the development of a good parks system. He pointed out that similar problems are encountered in the development of most other natural resources—for public use.

In conclusion, Gosdin said, "My son, a recent graduate in Park Administration at Texas Tech, wrote a paper in a seminar and he entitled



Richard Stroud, Executive Director of the Sports Fishing Institute, Washington, D.C., strikes a serious note when talking to the OWAA group in McAllen, on stream pollution. Attentive and thoughtful in the foreground is Wally Taber, the well-known outdoor lecturer and author.

his paper, 'Birds Do Not Sing In Cages.' Let us think a moment," he continued. "Can man, like other creatures, live, be happy, develop culture and knowledge and produce in a dull and dreary environment? We must expand our horizons, wake up our creativity and make our lives and the lives of the public whom we serve, more worth living tomorrow than it was yesterday."

Henry LeBlanc, dynamic president of SCOT, spoke as a true layman with a determined dedication and interest in the conservation, preservation and restoration of our natural resources. "While vying for space along our coastline, we must recognize the habitat destruction caused by man in his real estate developments," said LeBlanc. "It is quite possible that we are losing an important fisheries potential in our bays by blocking off fresh water, erecting bulkheads, dredging channels and slits, depositing spoil and fill and otherwise destroying natural nursery grounds which are so important to shrimp, trout, redfish and other marine forms."

Turning from his ideas about what I&E people can look forward to in the future, he made a suggestion for obtaining the kind of information the layman wants and needs. "Maybe we should remind our researchers and biologists, that their findings and conclusions should be made public as soon as they are convinced that they have found one answer to a problem," he said. "There seems to be a desire on their part to get all the answers before they make a public statement. Research information that remains in the files, as far as I'm concerned, is wasted energy."

In conclusion he reminded the conservation information specialists, "This is the space age. We're thinking big—we build big. In the conservation field we must cut the cloth to fit the pattern that has been set by other agencies—or we'll fall far behind. We have lots of catching up to do. We need research—we need more factual information from you and much more publicity—let's tell the story to the people."

At McAllen, June 20-27, 237 national outdoor writers gathered for the 37th Annual Outdoor Writers Association of America Conference.



Photo by Jim Thomas

Now this is something worth coming for—Honorary Texan certificates from the Governor himself. In McAllen, writers Jim Dee of Connecticut, organizer of an annual contest of outdoor skills, and Illinois' John Zervas, of "Outdoor Fishing," receive the honor from Gov. Connally.

They headquartered at the beautiful Fairway Motor Hotel and luscious Holiday Inn Motor Hotel. McAllen's modern, spacious International Civic Center just next door to the two hotels was the site for all business sessions. It was an excellent choice for such a special convention, with Mexico just a few miles drive to the south.

Outdoor writers from nearly every state in the Union, from Canada and Mexico attended the conference. Many of the top writers in the nation were on the workshop program. The theme for this year's workshop was, "Do It Yourself Outdoor Writing Tricks."

Throughout the week, many of the nation's hunting and fishing journalists cast their lines into the water of Texas, both fresh and salty, and recorded what they saw on film and note pads. And, they caught numerous fish varying from freshwater largemouth bass on Falcon Lake and lakes near Laredo, to trout, reds and large deepwater game fish off the coast of Port Isabel and Port Mansfield.

Governor John Connally was speaker of the evening during the OWAA Annual Banquet, Thursday

evening, June 25. He talked about Texas as an outdoor paradise, emphasizing the growth of the state's facilities, such as water and seashore. Speaking specifically about Padre Island he said, "It will become one of the most important winter recreation spots in America. Those of you who will come back from year to year soon will notice the great expansion of all facilities on the island. It is due for a greater and faster development than any other resort area on any coast in the United States."

Then returning to one of his favorite subjects, conservation, he said about the island, "But most of the island will be preserved in its natural state—one of the most beautiful, cleanest beaches in the world."

Pointing out how water has attracted Texans to the outdoors he said, "It is interesting to note that while one American out of 24 owns a boat, one Texan out of 13 owns one."

He talked about exotic game species. "We are experimenting on new wildlife species in new areas. Last year we had our first open season in the Panhandle for Aoudad sheep.

• Continued on page 28

AIR AID

by L. D. NUCKLES
I & E Officer, Rockport

THE PARKS and Wildlife Department carries two men on the payroll as "Airplane Pilot, Conservation" who are becoming increasingly important as the functions of the Department become more complex.

Although these men are trained game wardens who have attended the game warden school at Texas A & M University and their work is often of vital importance in law enforcement, they seldom, if ever, arrest law violators. They are the highly trained pilots who fly the two Cessna 182 airplanes belonging to the Department.

These planes are designated as law enforcement tools, but their usefulness extends into many other fields. The planes have a wide range of visibility, and they can carry fairly heavy payloads with a relatively high cruising speed and economy of operation. They are completely equipped for instrument and night flying even though used primarily during daylight hours at low altitudes and at considerably slower speeds than their 160 MPH cruising speed.

In law enforcement work they are sometimes the "eyes" of earthbound game wardens. The officers on the ground will move into an area in their cars and notify the pilot by radio that they are ready. At over 100 mph the pilot can then search out a maze of roads looking for illegal hunters. When the pilot sees a car that he has reason to suspect, he can quickly guide one of the game wardens to a convenient location to intercept the car.

Illegal netters in salt water have found that game wardens in fast outboards or air boats and the patrolling airplane make an unbeatable combination. Even though out-law fishermen are not in the area, their nets can be seen from the air and confiscated by wardens in boats. Thousands of feet of illegal nets are turned over to the custody of the courts each year because of the sharp eyes of the conservation pilot. These nets can, with the courts' permission, be turned over to research units of state supported colleges and universities. During a year this can add up to considerable saving in educational costs. Fresh water lakes

and streams are worked in the same way.

District conservation chiefs find the planes useful in aerial reconnaissance of areas where they plan systematic, large scale, law enforcement work. After they have driven and flown over the area, they can take a map and locate the strategic points where men must be stationed in order to accomplish the desired results.

Another phase of law enforcement in which the plane stationed at Rockport has been found invaluable is that of oil pollution in salt water. Whole bays can be checked at a glance and any trace of an oil slick on the water can be traced to its source and reported to wardens below.

New uses for planes in the field of biology and wildlife management are being found every day. In both marine and fresh water the pilot with one observer can take "instant" fishing boat counts in bays, lakes and streams. These counts, coupled with spot creel census checks being made by biologists and game wardens on the water, make it easy to



Photo by Paul Hope

Flying Warden, Jim Palmer, right, hands bagged walleyes to Harmon Henderson at San Marcos Fish Hatchery. Palmer flew fish in from Iowa.

determine the fishing pressure on any given body of water.

Schools of fish can be located and identified from the air so marine biologists may move in and trap, net, or catch them so they may be tagged and released. Fish tagging is an important phase of salt water research.

Inland fisheries biologists have recently worked out a method of transplanting small fish by air that has proven invaluable when long distances are involved. The fish are placed in a two gallon plastic bag containing about a gallon of water. They are hopelessly overcrowded, and could live only a short time this way under normal circumstances, but all the air is then exhausted from the bag and replaced with pure oxygen. The plastic bag is placed in a cardboard carton and insulated with an inch of styrofoam. The fish are then ready for their trip.

Young redfish were recently transferred from their coastal home to

Red Bluff Lake near Pecos in this manner. In a short four hours they were moved from the Rockport area to Red Bluff with an extremely high survival rate. Over 160,000 walleyed pike fry were brought by air from a hatchery in Iowa this spring to take up residence in the Possum Kingdom and San Marcos hatcheries in Texas. An attempt will be made to raise these tiny fish to fingerling size, two to three inches, then stock them in some of the deeper lakes of the state.

Some aquatic plants, like water hyacinths, form such a dense mat that boats cannot enter, thus the biologists must take to the air in order to evaluate the results of vegetation control work.

The planes have long been used in the census and trapping of antelope in West Texas (see PRONGHORN PROGNOSIS, T. G. & F. Sept. '63). Census of other wildlife is becoming a routine job for these airborne wardens. Aerial deer counts

have been conducted in the brush country of South Texas for the last two years. This is done at an altitude of 100 feet and a speed of 80 mph over a predetermined course.

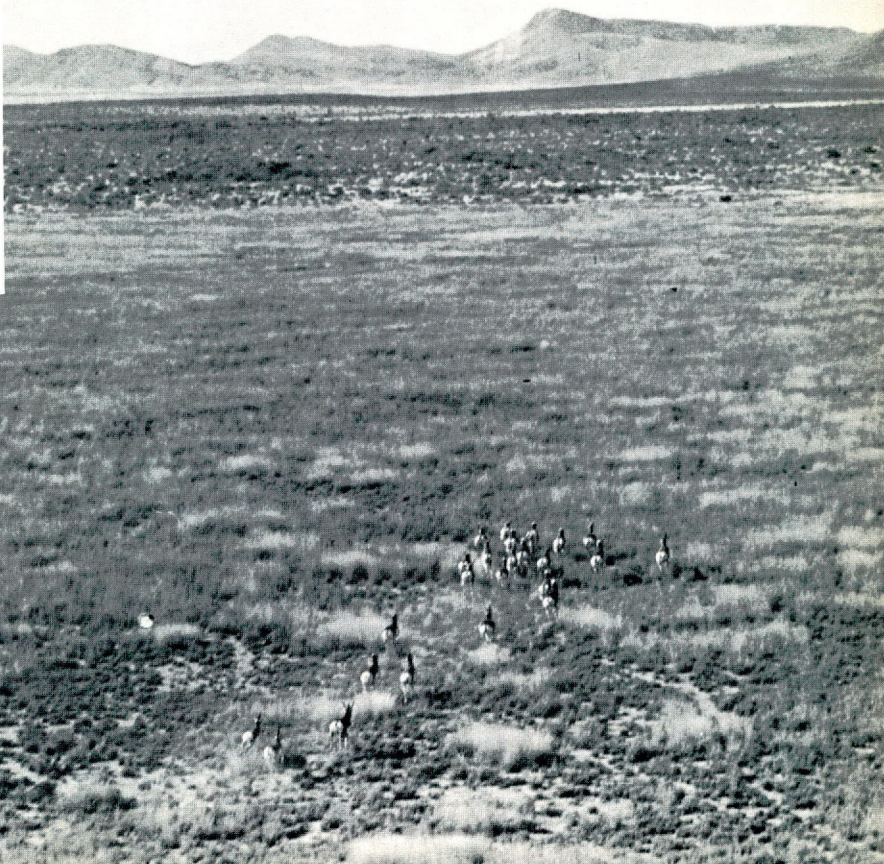
The observer, usually a biologist, has a marked-off section on his window through which he observes. This section, at that altitude, allows him to count all deer seen in a strip 100 yards wide. The pilot can devote all his time to maintaining an exact course as mapped, correct altitude and speed, calling off check points as they are passed and noting weather changes which might affect visibility.

The observer records every deer seen as to time, location and sex. This is usually done on a tape recorder. The observer also records the type of habitat, i.e., brush, improved pasture, root plowed or field, any javelina, large flights of doves, unusual number of quail or anything else that will add to the biologists' knowledge of the area. The census lines are laid off every 10 miles north and south and every 10 miles east and west. A great many more flights and much more data is needed, however, before this can be analyzed

• Continued on Page 30



Biologist flying with warden in pilot's seat makes count of antelope in Trans-Pecos area.





INTERSTATE FISH FLY



FEDERAL FISH hatcheries of Texas have furnished nearly two million bass for stocking Lake Powell, in western Colorado on the Arizona-Utah border.

Shipments of the fish from Texas began late in April and were concluded in May, with two loads of approximately one million bass each. They were flown from Texas to the new \$200-million lake and released by a low-flying plane into the water below.

The gigantic planting was under the supervision of John C. Gatlin of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Inter-mountain Aviation furnished the Curtis-Wright C-46, especially equipped with four 500-gallon tanks. They had independent releases so the contents of the tanks could be released from the air separately.

The first flight was from Hondo and the second from Fort Worth.

The \$9000 cost of the flights was shared by the Bureau and the Utah Fish & Game Department.

A previous planting was done in 1963 when several million rainbow trout from western hatcheries were dropped into the lake, along with a million Texas bass.

Lake Powell, now reaching its carrying capacity, is designated as one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world. It is backed by the Glen Canyon Dam across the Colorado at the Arizona-Utah line. Presently the lake is nearly 200 miles long, backing waters into deep canyons and over wide expanses of the western desert. Located in the Rainbow Natural Bridge monument area, it will attract millions of visitors for sightseeing as well as fishing.

And when bass are caught, they will be from Texas or off-spring of bass produced in Texas hatcheries.

♦♦

It's raining fish on Lake Powell, Colo. In this up-to-date way, the fish from Texas soon settle down to new lakes surroundings.

These special clients need and get the best of attention. Hatchery Manager Russell Hornbeck of Oklahoma cools water to 52° prior to loading airborne fish.



by L. A. WILKE



Photo by Jim Thomas

Nocturnal Rattler Raid

by CURTIS CARPENTER

IT WAS a big rattler. Under the bright beam of the flashlight we could just barely make out the snake coiled up against the brick tank filled with well water from a nearby windmill. "Let me at him," shouted Hal Swiggett, "these blamed things aren't going to wait around for us."

Hal broke loose like an escaping bear and charged the surprised diamondback. Before it could get its buzzers buzzing Hal hooked it

around the middle with his snake catcher and dragged the rattler away from the tank.

"Now if you guys want pictures," he reminded Jim Thomas and myself, "just let me know when you are ready to fire so I can be prepared. This is a very alive snake. It's hard enough trying to catch one with my bare hands without being blinded by flashes."

Jim and I agreed not to pop any

bulbs directly in his face as he reached for the snake. We were after an unusual story and we didn't want to lose either of our main characters.

Hal is quite a herpetologist. He has a regular serpentarium at his home in San Antonio where he is studying and photographing several species of snakes. One of his favorite pastimes is catching snakes. When I heard how he did this, with

bare hands at night, the story adventure was on.

We chose as our site a ranch just outside McAllen where rattlers were supposed to be as "thick as cactus spines." It was during the recent outdoor writers conference in that beautiful city. Some of the writers had never seen an honest to goodness Texas rattler so Hal decided it would be a display of true Texan hospitality if we could bring a few live ones in for the journalists.

The rattler beside the tank evidently was asleep or it was trying to be hospitable, too. Not one rattle did it make as Hal pinned its head to the ground with the hook and reached down with his hand. He slid his hand behind the snake's jaws and clamped down on its upper right between the eyes with his forefinger. With an instant motion, Hal dropped the stick with the hook on it and grabbed the snake by the tail. With a worried smile he said, "Now shoot your pictures—but hurry it up, this guy may wake up any time, and

believe me he's plenty strong."

About that time the snake decided outdoor writers are just like all the rest, and flexed its muscles. Hal held on, finally bringing the snake up against his chest and bearhugging it to keep it from working free.

We opened a special snake cage Hal had slipped into the car. He deftly dropped his victim in the box, dusted off his shirt and trousers, and said, "That's how it's done. Now let's see if we can find another one."

Not all of the four snakes we caught that night were as well-mannered as the first one. However, none of them were as vicious as the average rattler. Hal thought at first it was because the snakes were ill or shedding. But a quick glance indicated the critters were healthy and wore tight skins.

As Jim and I parted company with Hal, so we could cover more area, I remembered what I had learned as a boy growing up in the Rio Grande Valley. Rattlers will usually congregate in areas where there is

available food such as rats and mice. Rats and mice, knowing snakes love the taste of their flesh, remain in cover that offers best protection such as prickly pear and thick thorn bushes.

As the rodents search for food at night they wear trails through the brush and cactus. Snakes will find one of these little rodent expressways and lie in wait just off the side. When a rat comes racing along, Mr. Rattler simply injects some venom into its veins and the rodent drops in its tracks.

One of the first things Hal looks for when he hunts snakes at night is some thick pear patches. He likes to use a light with a wide beam, preferably a headlight, so he can see the snake as it tries to escape from the hook. A spot doesn't offer enough light radius.

We learned this when we tried to capture the last diamondback of the night near McAllen. Hal spotted the snake. "Keep your light on him," he



So long as he keeps heading in a straight line he's a free snake. Hal Swiggett, a master catcher, maneuvers the rattler into a manageable coil. This calls for nerve and a steady hand. The snake hook is used to hold down the head, and withdrawn slowly to be replaced by correct hand grip.



advised. "Don't take it off him, whatever you do." About that time the snake, blinded by the light, slipped out of the hook and slithered toward Hal.

Hal jumped back, coming between the snake and the light. For a few moments the snake was lost in his shadow. "Get that light on him!" screamed my partner. "Move around and get the light on him!" But I couldn't move around. We suddenly had noticed the wall of pear on both sides. Our snake was lying in a trail right in the middle of a jungle of spiny cactus.

I finally flashed the light between Hal's legs. He instantly grabbed the oncoming snake with his hook and flipped it from him. It landed some two yards down the trail and headed away from us. When we caught up with it, the snake was in a more open spot, but still trying to escape fame. Hal moved around in front of it while I stayed behind keeping the light on the snake. "Now keep it on the big boy or we're going to lose him," said Hal. I did just that, trying to keep a safe distance from the snake at the same time.

After what seemed an hour, but was more like two minutes, Hal pinned the snake's head to the ground, then carried it off, head in one hand and rattles in the other. "Now where's the car?" he asked. I explained to him we had walked quite a distance. "I hope I can hang onto this guy until we reach the box," he moaned. He did!

This type of snake hunting is not for amateurs. As a matter of fact, snake hunting isn't for amateurs at all. Hal has hunted snakes for years and uses the reptiles for research. He knows snakes and respects them.

It was a most unusual hunt. We accomplished all our objectives. I got my pictures, so did Jim; Hal caught some more snakes for his research and we were able to show writers from all over the nation some honest to goodness Texas rattlers.

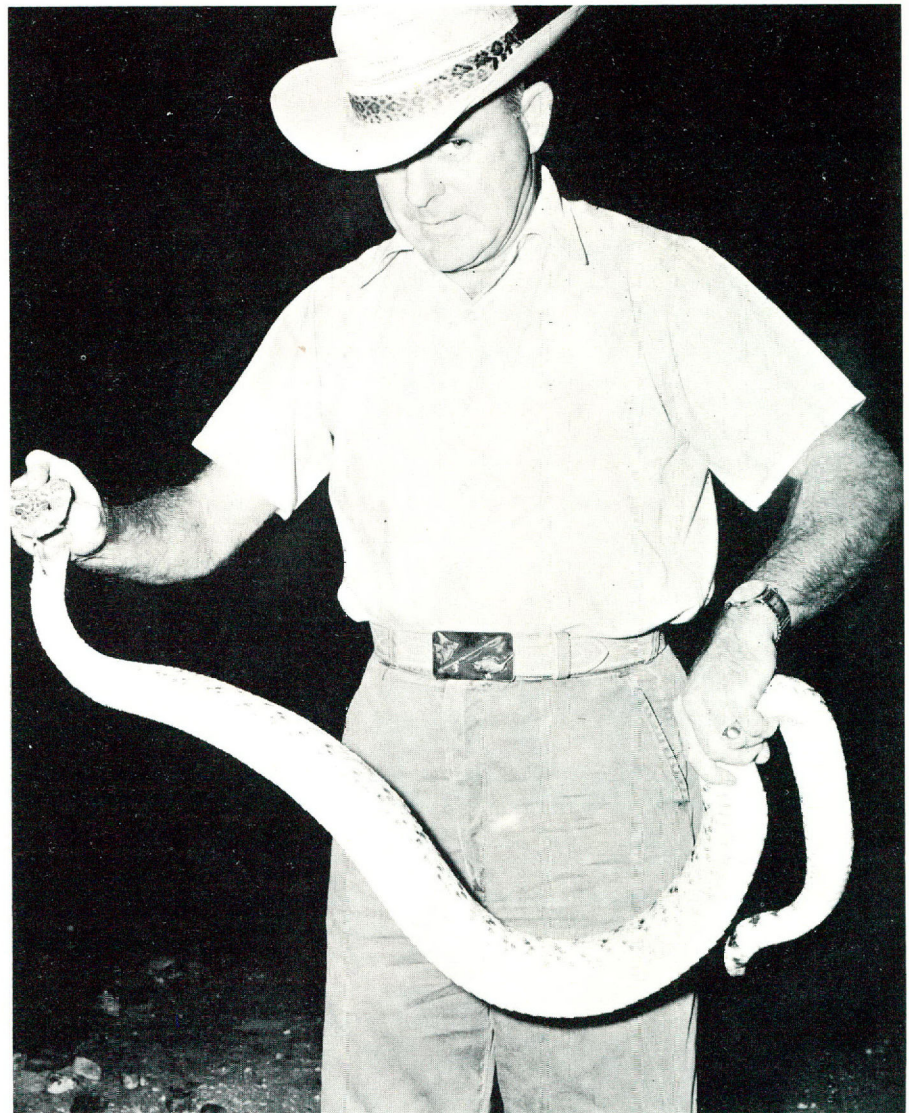
Hal still hasn't figured out what was wrong with the diamondbacks near McAllen. Only two of the four put up any kind of a struggle and not one of them rattled very loudly. "The only reason I can offer," sug-



The big rattler appeared to be cooling itself amongst some cold, wet rocks next to the tank. "Let me at him," shouted Hal, "These blamed things aren't going to wait around for us."

gested a McAllen resident, "is that when we let the word out that the Outdoor Writers of America were coming to the Valley, and that all

residents should exhibit sincere Texas hospitality, these danged rattlers got carried away and just plain forgot themselves." **



There's plenty of fight in this one but he has met his match. Hal Swiggett, demonstrating his winning hold, gives every indication of being very well able to handle the situation.

Canine Care

by J. D. ROBERTSON

WITH THE FALL of the year approaching, hound owners begin to yearn for the cool nights, and the sound of mountain music ringing throughout the woodland bottom. In many cases, the summer months have presented problems that hinder the night hunter and his pursuit of the woodland varmints. It is this time of year that the hound owner should begin to prepare his dogs for the coming season.

A dog that has been kept in confinement all summer and fed heartily will be in no shape for a hard chase. Certainly, physical fitness and conditioning play an important part in a hound's ability to keep up with the game he is pursuing. All too many dog owners expect their dogs to display the stamina and sharpness they remember from last season's hunts. The hunter that fails to recognize some important facts about conditioning may actually never experience top performance from his dog. Study a well cared for and conditioned dog in the woods and you will marvel at this intricate piece of machinery that seems never to tire or break down.

One of the first things I consider very important is a periodic worming. Good kennel management will help keep your dogs from getting worms, but a periodic worming costs so little, it is advisable as a precautionary measure.

There are several commercial preparations on the market that can be used, but you should carefully check the label to be sure the brand you are using is effective against the type of worms your dog has. Some wormers are effective against roundworms only, and do nothing to rid your dog of the dangerous hookworm or tapeworm. Most veterinarians charge very little for worming a dog, and in this way you can be sure of the job, especially if you are inexperienced. Many times the gums of a dog will appear to be of a very pale color instead of a very healthy red when it has worms.



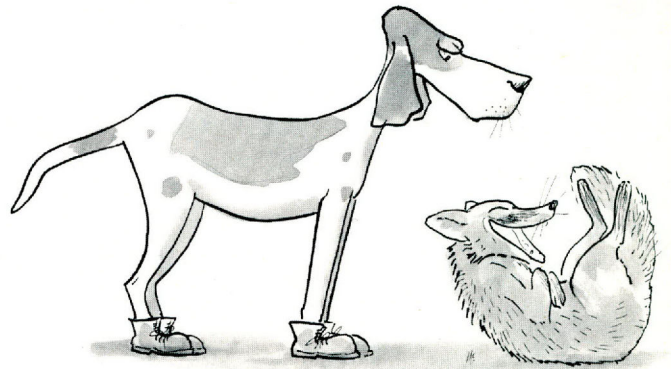
Dog owners who live in coastal areas should be especially watchful of the dreaded heartworm. Medical science can now cure your dog of the heartworm if the condition is caught in an early stage of development, and a twice a year check is the best insurance. Remember, some dogs cough when they have heartworms, and some do not. Coughing is a common symptom, but not a specific one.

Another major problem of an unworked dog is long toenails. I have seen dogs that were hunted in this con-



dition and could hardly walk the following day. Toenail clippers made especially for dogs costing \$2 or \$3 will do the job nicely, or you can have your vet handle the job for you. Ordinary shears seem to split or crush the nails, causing pain and bleeding. After the nails have been trimmed and the dog is hunted, the constant running keeps the toenails worn down naturally.

Tender-feet is a common early season ailment, and



is to be expected. There are preparations on the market for toughening the pads, and many bird hunters use dog boots to take the place of seasoned pads. Personally, I find there is really no substitute for actual outings to toughen the feet thoroughly.

I do, however, like to check the feet of my dogs for cuts after hunting them, especially in the early part of the season. Iodine and mercurochrome are common items found in most homes and they serve nicely to treat cuts and scratches of the feet. Once again, however, mother nature provides for her creatures, and a dog's constant licking of a wound can do more good

• Continued on page 25

WE FELT like pioneers as we cleared the underbrush and scrub growth to make way for our campsite on Lake Mathis. We felt like pioneers, too, on awakening in the early morning in nature's own garden to the music of birds and the delectable aroma of the outdoors. There is no better tonic for tired, tense nerves than a walk through the woods, eyes open, ears alert, to observe the creatures of nature at work and play. Being city dwellers, we had almost forgotten what an exhilarating experience this can be.

After our camp was completed, which consisted of moving in a trailer house and building on a large screen porch to accommodate our family, we were ready to relax or explore as the occasion dictated.

Our campsite, being situated on a large ranch which is part of a Game Management Association, gave us an excellent opportunity to study wildlife and to appreciate, firsthand, the values of wildlife conservation. The rancher leaves patches of grain unharvested and provides protective covering for nests and wildlife. There are white-tailed deer, turkeys, javelina, quail, doves, rabbits as well as bobcats, foxes, coyotes and rattlesnakes.

We were in for an education. There were so many birds we could not identify that we armed ourselves with *A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas*, by Roger Tory Peterson. Now, our smallest grandchild can name all but the rarest birds. We keep a check list of the birds that come to call at our feeders and play in the bird bath.

Occasionally, we have a rare experience. This summer, for example, we had a ringside seat as two roadrunners, or paisanos, made their nest in a tree not 20 feet from our porch. They chose a tree in which a Mexican Love Vine was growing, and among its tendrils and flowers they made their nest of sticks, dried grass and twigs. They spelled each other like clockwork while sitting on the eggs, and after the young were hatched it was a king-sized job for both parents keeping the young

ones full of grasshoppers and other insects. At times they would go together to forage for their young. One paisano would flush the grasshoppers out of the tall grass while the other one ran along the clearing ready to nab the hoppers as they landed there. At first, the roadrunners looked alike to us. We learned to tell them apart when we noticed the cock had two bright orange patches on either side of his head, that showed when he raised his crest feathers.

We were asked so many questions about the white-tailed deer surrounding us that we had to research the species. We were informed by the rancher that as early as 1938 whitetails were very scarce in this area. A game management program was initiated which accounted for their comeback, and which at the present time affords good hunting each season.

Since there are javelinas on the ranch, we cautioned the children about them if they should come upon a band while walking in the woods. When inquiring from the ranchers and oldtimers about the habits of these wild pigs, we got as many glowing and varied tales as one might expect about an animal that is classified as big game, has a ferocious appearance, large tusks that can rip and tear and maim and, in some instances, can weigh fully 50 pounds on the hoof. One authority said a band of javelinas, or collared peccary, put him up a tree and kept him there most of the day, snorting, ruffing their hackles and milling around until they finally tired of the game and went their way. Another oldtimer said the only way to hunt the wild pig and be on the safe side is to don all the protective gear known to man and then stay home.

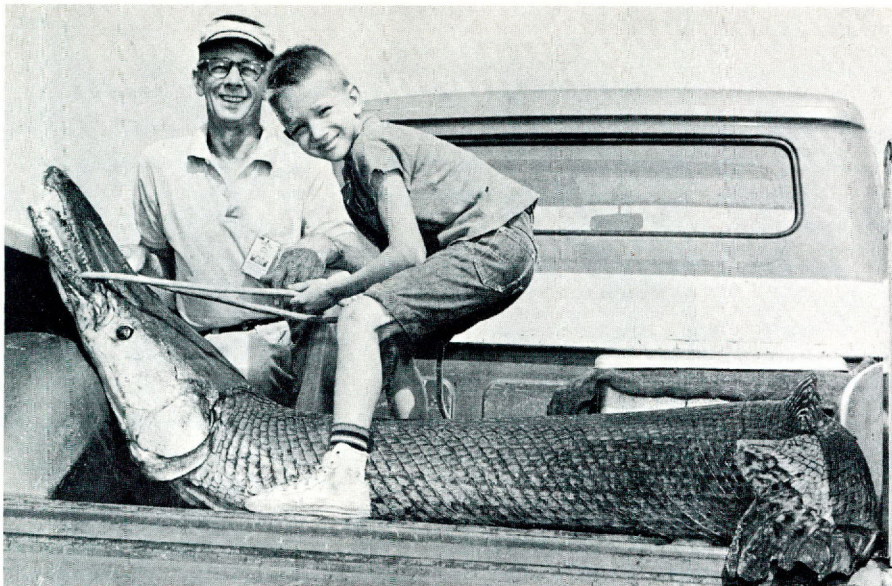
Peccaries, I found, are omnivorous, eating cactus, nuts, roots, fruits, insects, worms, reptiles, toads and the like. They run like blazes, and when angered, emit an offensive odor from glands atop their hips. They have four-hoofed toes on their front feet, three on the hind ones. Only two states have open season on the javelina. These pigs avoid people and only wish to be left alone. I feel the same is true of most dangerous beasts found on any continent. My point was proved, somewhat, when my 12-year-old grandson came unexpectedly upon a band with quite a few young. Remembering what he had been told, he stood perfectly still, at the same time measuring the distance to the nearest tree, for safety first. They snorted and raised their hackles, and one old sow ran toward him, but when he remained motionless, she decided he meant them no harm and they ran off into the deeper brush. The boy, however, lost no time in getting back to camp; now he has another tale to add to the many fascinating ones on the collared peccary, or wild pig.

Our camp has taught us many things about wildlife and the importance of proper wildlife management. And not the least of these is that wildlife is one of our state's great natural resources, and it is a heritage of which we can be proud. But the greatest joy comes when we take out children who have never seen a wild rabbit, let alone wild turkey, deer, javelina and many other species that we, who are fortunate enough to live in a state with an abundance of these things, often take for granted. **

Moving In On Nature

by I. W. BIGLER

Caddo Gargoyle



A length of 25 inches for a gar may not seem in the Texas tradition, but when the measurement is taken from the gills to the nose, that's a different story!

The gar is considered a living fossil, whose ancestry dates back to prehistoric times. This 170-pounder, caught in Caddo Lake by M. T. Braudaway of Marshall, probably has both ancestors and children right there, and sportsmen may be overlooking some downright interesting

sport. Many a story has been told of giant gar taken from Caddo, the one topping them all being about a fish that weighed 500 pounds alive which was caught in a net there in 1907. The world's official record on rod and reel was a gar weighing 279 pounds, hoisted from the Rio Grande in 1951. **





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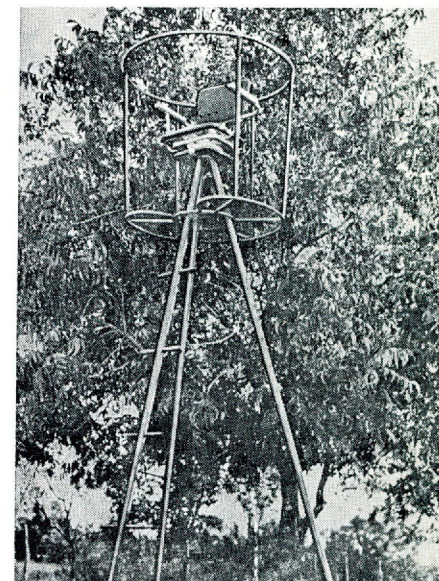
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201 W. 40th San Angelo, Texas

GUNS



By L. A. WILKE

SINCE ITS introduction nearly a hundred years ago, the Model 94 Winchester has been a favorite of Texas hunters. It was originally made in two models, the rifle and carbine. Only the short gun survives today. At first it could be purchased in several calibers, including the .25-35 which is no longer made. Today it is available only in the .32 special and the famous .30-30. Ballistically, they are about the same.

Although the carbine has been modified slightly, in general appearance it is pretty much the same as ever. Millions of them have been sold and millions of them are still in use. For shooting brush and Hill

country deer the 94 is all anyone needs.

Lawmen were instrumental in making the little saddle piece famous. Although the Model 95 lever action was used primarily by some of the early day Texas Rangers, the .30 carbine never lost its prestige. And most Rangers today still own one.

Now Winchester has "antiqued" the Model 94, in the .30 caliber only.

The "antique" version only resembles the original gun in size and shape. It is an engraved model, not dreamed of when a man's life or the success of his hunt depended upon a good gun.

Winchester says the decision to introduce the Model 94 antique was based on evidence of the shooting public's growing interest in American frontier traditions, folklore and firearms.

... and Shooting

This Month: Model 94

The "antique" model has a case-hardened receiver with a scroll design and brass plated loading gate. The saddle ring on the left side of the receiver is gold plated.

"Although outwardly an antique, the special Model 94, like the standard version, incorporates a number of modern improvements designed to increase its strength," Winchester says. "Through the use of special alloys, which offer several processing advantages over conventional steel, it has been possible to produce a substantially stronger receiver. A new locking bolt with larger, squared-off studs does away with the problem of the round studs digging into the lock runways and contributes to more efficient sliding action."

There are many other improvements in its locking system. The stock also has been redesigned to eliminate the shad belly on the under side.

The gun still retains its 20-inch barrel and holds seven cartridges. The over-all length is 37½ inches and it weighs 6½ pounds. The price is just under \$90.

It is an attractive gun from every standpoint, but as I look at my own original 94, which once was carried by a Texas Ranger, I shed a tear for the old model which still shoots like new.

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The first experience of the C. T. White Ranch of McCulloch Co. with commercial hunting was so satisfactory both in hunter success and personal relationships additional pastures are now offered. Only on an exclusive pasture basis reservations at \$100 per gun for the entire season are being accepted on pastures accommodating as few as four hunters and as many as ten. No meals, lodging or camping facilities provided but campsites are numerous. Contemplate Commission setting same limit in 1964 as in 1963 which was three deer with at least one being antlerless. Prefer hunters inspect before making reservations.

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DOVE SEASONS SET

THE REGULATIONS for the coming mourning dove and white-winged dove season as promulgated by the Parks and Wildlife Commission are:

The North Zone mourning dove season opens at noon September 1 and runs through October 30. Shooting hours are from noon until sunset. Bag limits are 12 per day and 24 in possession.

The South Zone mourning dove season opens September 26 and runs through November 24, except in counties having a special open season on white-winged doves where the season will close on November 20.

White-winged dove season will run two consecutive weekends, September 5 and 6 and September 12 and 13, opening at 2 p.m. and closing at sunset in the following counties: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culberson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy and Zapata.

The North Zone comprises Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon,

Dogs perform better when cared for.
Canine Care ————— *From Page 21*
in many cases than medication.

These are just a few of the precautions to be taken in preparing a hound for the hard work that lies ahead. A person who can work his dogs throughout the summer months can avoid many of these problems. Don't be too harsh on a dog that doesn't perform right for you, especially if you know the normal hunting pattern of the dog. Chances are there may be something wrong. If a man understands and cares properly for his dogs, they usually perform much better for him. **

Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches and Shelby Counties and counties north and west thereof. All other counties are in the South Zone.

Mourning doves may be taken also during the special whitewing seasons. Bag limits will be 12 doves per day and 24 in possession, but only 10 per day may be whitewings and only 20 whitewings may be in possession at any time.

The Department also announced regulations for some of the other

migratory game birds. Rails and gallinules (except coots) may be taken from September 1 through October 20. Shooting hours will be from sunrise to sunset. The bag and possession limits will be 15 in the aggregate.

Woodcock may be hunted from November 27 through January 15, from sunrise to sunset with a daily bag limit of five (5) and a possession limit of 10. The season on Wilson's snipe or jacksnipe is from November 27 through January 15 from sunrise to sunset. Daily limit is eight (8) and possession limit is 16. **

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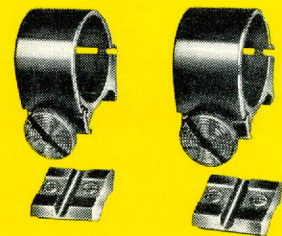
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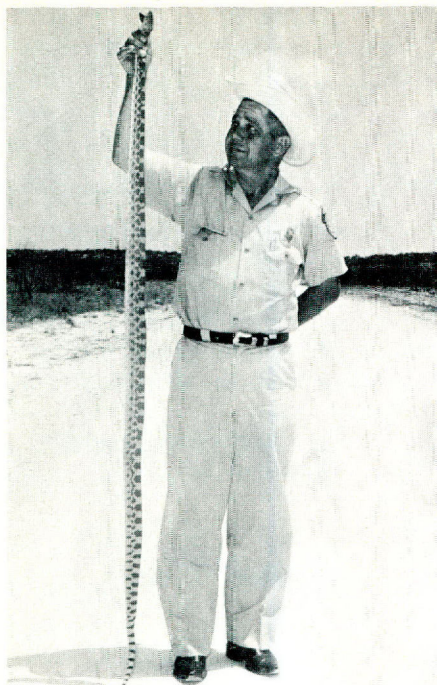
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What Others Are Doing

by JOAN PEARSALL



No need to stretch this one! Game Warden Nolan Johnson demonstrates an authentic tall tale, with the bull snake he found dead four miles north of Sonora. It measured six feet, eight inches, with diameter of seven inches. These snakes do reach six feet, but are rare over seven. They kill rats, gophers, other rodents; mate in spring; young appear in the fall.

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THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY: In Iowa, a fisherman followed a truck from the federal trout hatchery for miles, hoping to spot its destination. It finally stopped—at an airport where the fish were loaded aboard a transport.

GOOSE SENSE: During a hailstorm last summer, the manager of a refuge in North Dakota observed and effect of falling hail on a flock of Canada geese. He was amazed to see that more than half the birds held their necks and heads pointed skyward, streamlining themselves and safely deflecting the hailstones.

TROUT TREAT: Nebraska is teaching its trout to bite on flies. Nebraska game commission engineers have devised a machine which attracts bugs to a high frequency black light and then projects them into the water as food for trout. The state's fishermen have complained that trout do not bite on flies anymore because they are fed pellet food while at the hatcheries. An abundance of bugs can thus be used to help feed the trout and cut the cost of raising them in a hatchery. Bugs seem to have some nutritional quality that commercial pellets lack. The machine, which weighs slightly more than 10 pounds, is set upon two floats which ride atop the water. Buoyancy is maintained through the use of durable plastic foam attached to an aluminum frame.

TOP PRIORITY: A killdeer laid four speckled eggs right in the path of a new four-lane highway, south of Akron, Ohio. Workmen marked the nest by warning signs, and carefully detoured the heavy road-building machinery around the spot. They held off pouring concrete in the area until the eggs were hatched.

WISE DIRECTION: Governor John W. King of New Hampshire has asked state agencies to stop

using DDT as a pesticide, and also urged towns and landowners who spray to follow the state's example and use approved insecticides of a less accumulative nature. Said the Governor: "The accumulating effect of DDT, a long-lasting hydrocarbon derivative, is becoming a threat to our sport fisheries, birds and wildlife, not only in New Hampshire but throughout most of the United States and Canada. Continued use of DDT could completely wipe them out."

SCALES KEEP THE BALANCE: Fish have replaced insecticides in a campaign in Durban, South Africa, to fight its summer mosquito menace. Ponds, lagoons and other likely breeding places have been stocked with fast-multiplying tilapia fish, which eat mosquito larvae. The municipality has saved money on its insecticide bill, and the fish have supplemented the diet of the needy in nearby townships. The tilapias are such prolific breeders that the city health department found it necessary to decrease the number in a seven-acre pond at a sewage-disposal farm. Two hauls of nets yielded 900 pounds of fish.

PEST BAN: Dieldrin and aldrin, two widely used chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, came under fire in the British House of Commons last March. The British government has accepted recommendations of an advisory committee that "certain important uses of aldrin and dieldrin" be curtailed. Fertilizers containing aldrin, products for garden use containing aldrin or dieldrin, and dips or sprays for sheep containing either pesticide will be withdrawn. Other uses of these chemicals and of DDT will be reviewed again at the end of three years. The government order will be carried out initially through voluntary cooperation but possible legislation is being considered.

Maize is important to doves.

Figuring the Flocks ————— From Page 5

cold, wet weather in the Rio Grande Valley during early fall. These theories seem to have the greatest number of disciples.

Food in the form of domestic grain, chiefly milo maize, has for many years been of utmost importance to the large post-nesting population of whitewings. Since the mid 1950's there has been a trend by Valley farmers to grow early maturing grain which is harvested in June and July.

Farmers seldom plant a late crop of grain and usually rainfall is insufficient to result in a second crop of regrowth grain. Thus, for the most part, whitewings are dependent upon waste grain or stands so poor they do not warrant harvesting. Serious food shortages for whitewings have developed in the falls of 1956, 1958 and 1960; however, only during 1960 was there a mass exodus of birds from the Valley prior to the mid-September hunting season that could possibly have been attributed to a scarcity of food.

Another popular opinion for early mass migration of whitewings has been that they are responding to cool, wet weather. Cool, wet northerners in early fall did move into the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 1956, 1957 and 1958. During each of these years a major portion of the post-nesting population remained in the Valley through mid-September.

The greatest exodus of birds out of the Valley occurred in 1961, the year that Hurricane Carla struck the lower Texas coast in September; however, most of the whitewing population had already migrated south by the end of August. August of 1961 did have above normal rainfall in the Valley, but minimum temperatures were in the mid 70's and food was abundantly available.

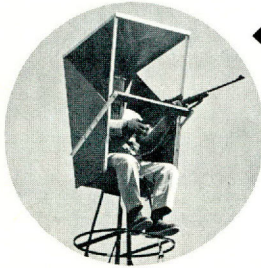
In summation, the factors affecting the fall movements and migration of whitewings have long perplexed biologists. To relate the fall migra-

tion to weather or food supply is probably an oversimplification of a very involved subject. Too many gaps remain for biologists to draw conclusions at this time; nevertheless, the research will continue in an effort to gain more secrets of the fascinating whitewing. **

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Conservation: Journalistically Speaking

From Page 13

These prized specimens were transplanted from Africa, and they seem to be thriving in the Palo Duro Canyon Area. Similar experiments are underway to restore bighorn sheep in the mountains west of the Pecos."

Governor Connally touched on exotic fish research. "Just recently we found that the salt water redfish could survive—even thrive—in fresh water containing an insignificant amount of salt. This opens wonderful opportunities for one of the most popular and delicious fish.

"On this point, I want to remind you that we have a universal fishing

license in Texas costing \$2.15. It is for residents and non-residents and covers both fresh and salt water fishing. When you come to Texas you don't have to pay \$5.00 for a five-day license."

In conclusion he said, "We are proud of what we have, we try to recognize and do something about our problems; we are grateful for our opportunities."

Now, the outdoor writers of this nation are back in the fields, along the streams and coastal waters, gathering information for their reports to the public.

Judging by the expressions and comments of the writers attending both conferences, Texans can stand proud of the many dedicated, interested Texas Outdoor Writers who invited AACI and OWAA to hold their conferences here, and then got behind the planning and production of the successful events.

Both conferences were voted very successful. Those attending the AACI Conference in Austin indicated the Texas conference, in both programming and hospitality, was the best ever held by the organization anywhere in the history of AACI.

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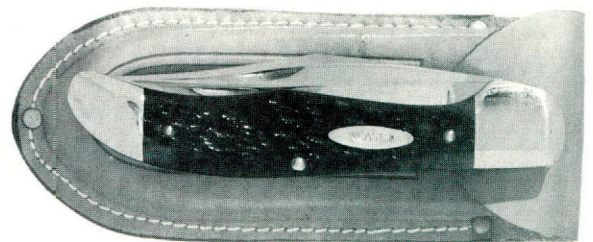
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Texas

Tackle Talk

by CURTIS CARPENTER

A QUESTION that keeps popping up during my travels is, "What is the most dependable bait for fish, the live-natural or the imitation-artificial?"

The natural bait will win out over artificials in most instances for the total number of fish caught, but not in the size of fish taken. At times a fisherman will catch more and larger of some favorite game fish species on artificials than on natural baits such as minnows and shrimp.

I use artificials most of the time. Usually after a few experiences with live bait, I'm back using those imitation replicas again.

The last time I went trout fishing, I wasted a whole morning feeding perch and golden croakers shrimp before I discovered the trout preferred a Bingo lure in a blood-red color. My fishing partners and I landed several small trout on the live shrimp we had been using, but the first half dozen specks taken on the artificial weighed more than all the shrimp-produced fish. And—the excitement of snagging and landing speckled trout on artificials is so much greater that it shouldn't even be compared with live-bait fishing.

The same can be said for fresh water fishing. Most largest bass caught in Texas are taken on artificial lures. Here again, the excitement experienced catching bass in this manner is so much greater it shouldn't be compared with that produced by live bait.

Not too long back, I was fishing with Jackie Hewlett, an excellent guide at the Cottonwood Resort on

Granite Shoals Lake. We were using Pico Pops and Splashniks, two fine, dependable topwater lures produced in San Antonio. We were casting right up next to thick moss banks growing along the shore, and working our lures back in short, fast jerks. Jackie made a cast over a fence row which was inundated when the lake was built. He started working his lure up next to the shore. About six fence posts out a two-pound bass lunged at his Splashnik and flipped it some two feet in the air. When the bait splashed back in the water some eight posts out, Jackie continued working it with short, fast jerks. The same bass slammed the plug again, knocking it over the fence. Just as it hit the water, the fish knocked it again. Before my guide finally nailed that energetic, determined bass it had chased the lure,

socking it repeatedly for some 15 or so feet.

Now, a guide isn't supposed to enjoy fishing, what with so much of it day in and day out. Nevertheless, I can guarantee you that Mr. Hewlett had a ball. This kind of fun can't be had on natural baits.

We went fishing that night, however, for white bass. For this we turned to minnows. And it proved to be exciting. I doubt if we could have caught a mess of fish using artificials that night. Whites can be caught in most lakes at night with minnows. Jackie takes many parties during the summer when the blacks are not hitting. It just goes to show that both baits will produce; it's just a matter of fun. ♦♦

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statistically and accepted as a standard procedure.

This past season has seen very successful aerial counts of Atwater Prairie Chickens on the coastal prairies. These counts formed the basis for a scientific paper by two distinguished South Texas biologists concerning the dwindling prairie chicken range and possibility of this fine game bird's becoming extinct.

A complete aerial count of the

waterfowl wintering on the Texas Coast has been standard procedure for the past several years.

Another use for this most versatile of tools is in the field of white-winged dove management. During the open season, concentrations of hunters are located and an aerial count is made of all hunters' cars in that area. Spot checks by wardens on the ground disclose the average number of hunters per car. One foot

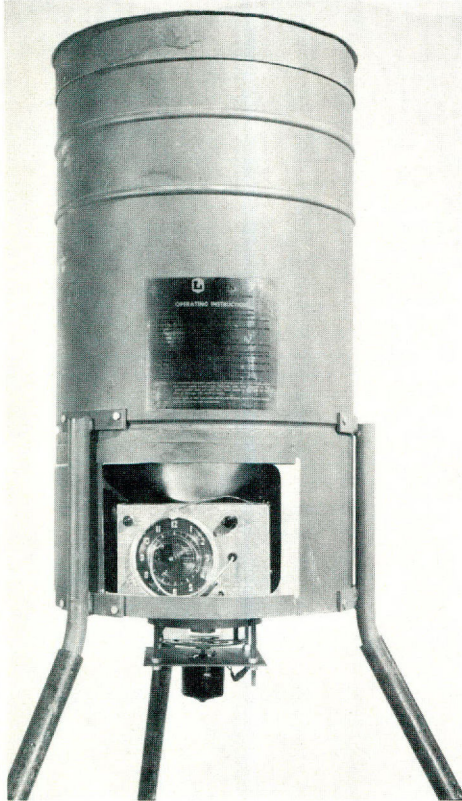
from each bird killed, clipped and put in a paper bag by the hunter and dropped at unmanned check stations, gives the biologist the data needed on average hunter bag. Thus, the biologist can arrive at the hunting pressure in any given area and the approximate number of white-wings killed during the season.

Statistics prove that, when properly utilized, these planes operate at less cost per mile traveled than an automobile. This is true, of course, only when the plane is busy most of the time. The cost of using a plane skyrockets when it is allowed to sit idle in a hangar.

The two men who participate in this great variety of activities, although game wardens fully qualified to do a game warden's work anywhere in Texas, are highly skilled specialists whose training enables them to do an outstanding job with any functional specialist of the Parks and Wildlife Department. In one day they may work with marine biologists, movie photographers and patrolling game wardens. These specially trained men have proven time after time that, under certain conditions, they can do a job in half a day that would take 10 men a week to do on the ground. Many jobs are done as a matter of routine that would be impossible to accomplish other than by the help of the flying game wardens.

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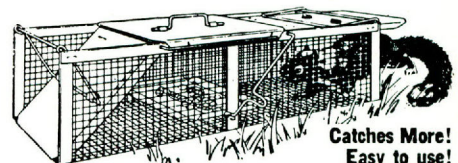
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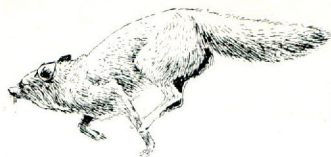
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Salty Treat



Editor:

These King Mackerel were caught last summer from a charter boat at Port Aransas. The biggest weighed 32 pounds. Total catch was 48—we estimated this to be about 500 pounds.

The man to my left, Ray Knaack, was visiting from Kansas City, Mo., with his son and a friend. Needless to say, they were well pleased with their first trip to Texas.

Clifton (Salty) Saltzgeber
Corpus Christi

(That was really showing those folks from Missouri! Hope you can do more in the line of this good neighbor policy.—Editor)

Einstein's Law

Editor:

If the Parks and Wildlife Department is trying to discourage a lot of people in Texas from indulging in the sport of hunting, they are very likely to succeed with their present trend.

I have just finished reading the brochure "Hunting in Texas 1963-1964," which gives the hunting rules and regulations for the state, and it is enough to cause the average hunting type citizen to go take a good shot of red-eye. One is convinced after reading this choice bit of work that if he picks up a firearm during the coming seasons and goes hunting, there is bound to be at least one law he is going to break no matter what he does. Texas, it seems, is still under the feudal system in which each county is a separate kingdom and the laws in each "kingdom" vary according to some guy's whims. There are areas where some individual laws are warranted, I am sure, but there is no rhyme or reason behind too many of these laws. Over most of the

state, a handgun is illegal as a deer hunting weapon and the bow and arrow is not. Not only is the bow and arrow legal, there is a special deer, turkey, and javelina season set aside for it. This is fine, except that it penalizes the handgunner severely, and that there is no sound logic behind it. No logic of any kind as a matter of fact. Even the legality of hunting game animals with a handgun varies from one county to the other; this defies reason, and this is but one of the many inconsistencies in our present hunting laws.

So, the boys that put this hunting brochure together have quite a job to unscramble this miserable mess of uncoordinated hunting laws that we have. How do they do it? They start off by putting it out a month late and some of the hunting seasons have already begun. Also they leave out about twenty counties to make it interesting. Then they put it out with enough mistakes in it to make a person shudder, and after all this the brochure winds up about as easy for the average guy to understand as Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

In all seriousness, there has got to be a better way. It is becoming apparent why more and more of Texas hunters are spending their time and money out of state. Texas should lead the other states in having sensible hunting laws and the conveying of them to the people, *not* trail along at the tail end.

George S. Ochsner
Midland

(We are always glad to have honest opinions. There is indeed room for improvement. At the moment, we can only give assurance that these problems are being worked on.—Editor)

A Night's Work



Editor:

Enclosed is a photograph of myself (right) and James Knight, with one night's

catch of eight flathead catfish and one blue cat. These fish were caught at Lake Mathis on trotlines, using Rio Grande perch for bait. The four largest fish weighed 38, 36, 36, and 24 pounds. The total weight of these fish was 165½ pounds.

I would like to know if the approximate age of a flathead catfish can be determined by its weight.

Michael Krzywowski
San Antonio

(According to a reliable authority, the vertebra of the catfish is marked by annual growth rings similar to those that determine the age of trees. By examining the cross-section of the vertebra, the age of the fish may be ascertained. Whatever their age, that's a tasty looking cat line-up you have there.—Editor)

Rock Springs Award

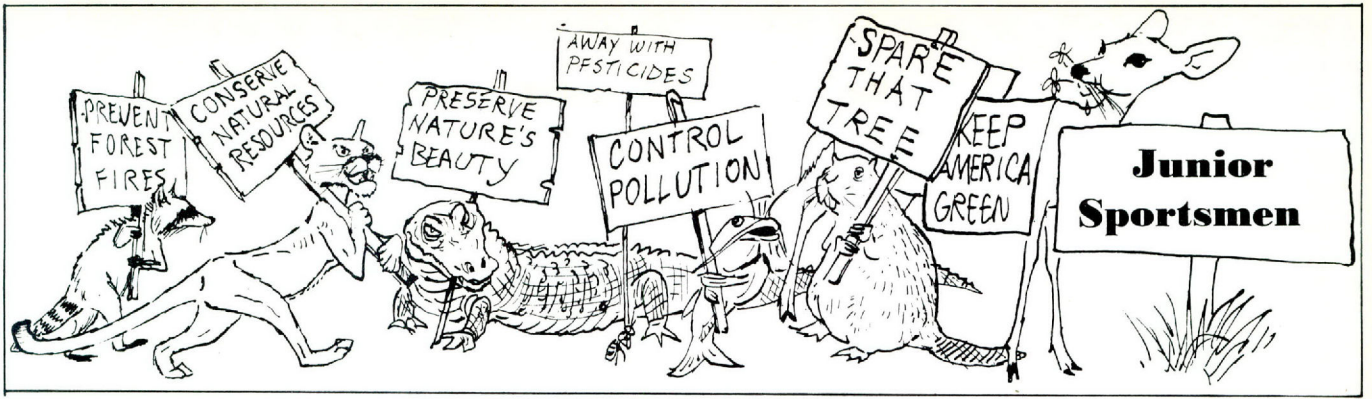


Editor:

Last hunting season, the Chamber of Commerce in Rock Springs gave a trophy to the man and woman killing the largest buck. Enclosed is a picture of Mrs. T. W. Hibbert, Jr., of Houston, with her winning trophy, which she killed on our ranch near Rock Springs. The buck dressed 124 pounds, had a 21½-inch spread with 13 points. This was Mrs. Hibbert's second year to hunt. Needless to say, the entire hunting party was mighty pleased. It was a beautiful buck.

Mrs. R. I. Reid
Woodville

(Thank you for letting us know about Mrs. Hibbert's success. We wish her continued good hunting.—Editor)



Winning Essay

by JOAN PEARSALL

Canal Cat

The following essay by Diana Inez Dozier, a Seabrook sixth-grader, was the winner in a contest sponsored by her school P.T.A. We are happy to print it, and congratulate the young authoress.

LET'S FACE IT. We have a problem on our hands. It is our natural resources. In order to appreciate them, we must learn to keep and protect them from rapid destruction, which is taking place across our nation today.

We have wasted much of our precious and valuable natural resources. Much of it due to thoughtless persons who care nothing of the beauty and prosperity of our country.

We cannot blame it all on the pioneers who left campfires still aglow, and perhaps ruined a whole forest. And we certainly shouldn't blame ourselves. Or should we?

Practically every woman owns a washing machine, and a lot of people own dishwashers and clothesdryers. Each of these machines deposit waste materials. Usually these waste materials are dumped into the nearest body of water. There they are left to kill water animals and to make it unsafe for personal pleasure.

Many people hike into the woods with shovels and come out with a small tree to put in their yard. If left, that tree might have grown larger and larger. It might have been used for making matches, houses, paper, or for prevention of erosion.

Seems strange, doesn't it. That a person who may very well love and appreciate his country's natural resources might do something like this. Of course, he means no harm, and we know this is usually the case. But these things must be taken into consideration.

We must find some way to win the losing battle of air and water pollution. We must find a way to prevent more forest fires. Nature gives us many things, and we have not the right to destroy them.

I have seen boys with guns shooting birds, and animals such as squirrels and rabbits. There is no harm with this, as long as there is a limited number, and that the

animals are not just left in the woods to rot. But sometimes, this is just the case. They shoot them for the sport of it then leave.

Who is responsible for such actions as these? I have asked opinions of people who are informed on things like this, and I, myself, have drawn a conclusion.

To me, the parents are mainly responsible, for it is they who should teach their children the laws of nature. I think, also the school and the P.T.A. play an important part. We all should be more concerned about our wildlife and how our natural resources are being used. For it is we who are wasting them, and it is we who should join the battle against the useless destruction of one of the most prized possessions our country has — our natural resources.

We must do something, and there is something everyone can do. Write and complain to your congressman about air and water pollution. Attend conservation meetings in your community. But, most of all, know and obey your safety rules while in the woods, or near the water.

Wildlife Poem

Wildlife I love

They were sent from above
 They gallop around on our land
 And then shot, down to the sand
 They drink from our lakes
 They drink from our seas
 They eat from their enemies
 And steal honey from our bees.
 The bear, for instance,
 He runs around all day
 Just for fun
 Just to play.

Now you know about the wildlife I love
 That were sent from above.

Rebecca Johnson
 Houston



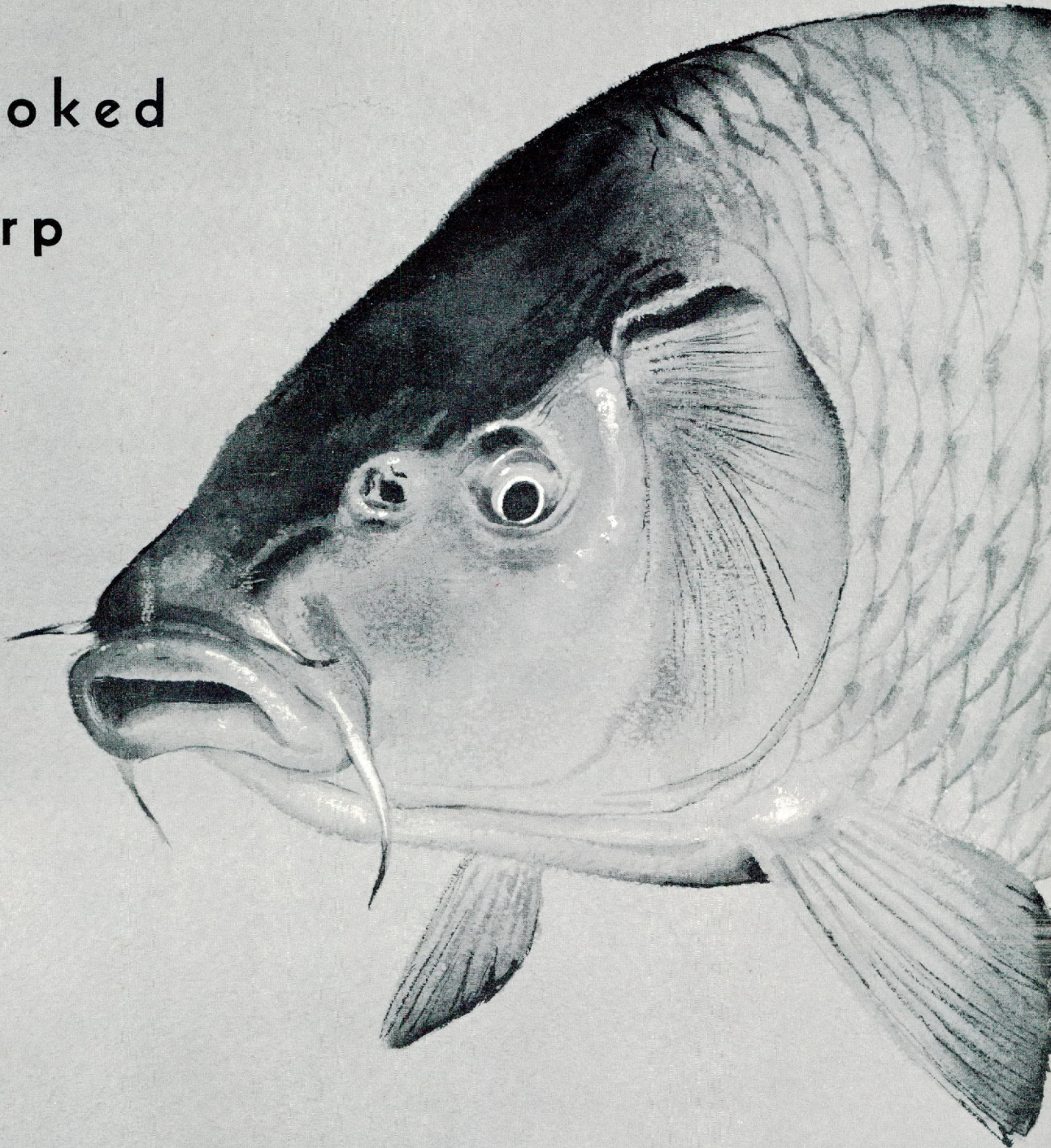
Editor:

I am sending a picture of myself and a three-and-a-half-pound blue catfish. I caught it on a trotline in a canal near my house. A few days later I caught two more which weighed two pounds and a channel catfish which weighed two and a half pounds. I enjoy your book very much and think you are doing a good job on letting people in Texas know what's going on.

Bobby Hanson
 Beaumont

(How nice it must be to have such good fishing practically at your back door. Your kind remarks are very encouraging, Bobby. We hope you'll continue to enjoy our magazine, and your fishing.—Editor)

Cooked Carp



When it comes to carp, there seems to be no middle ground. Folks either love them or hate them. If you have heard that carp taste like wet mattress stuffing, try this unusual method of cooking.

Start with a carp no larger than six pounds and one that has been taken from a clean body of water. River carp tend to be firmer than their lake-dwelling brothers.

Skin the carp and cut into 2-inch pieces. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and place in oiled earthenware baking dish. Cover with a generous handful of whole, mixed spices. Add a cup of mild vinegar and bake in moderate oven (325°) for one hour.

For carp stew, the ingredients are 4 pounds of filleted carp, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound bacon, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped onion, 1 cup tomatoes, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt, and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon sugar. Fry the bacon in a dutch oven or small kettle until crisp. Then add other ingredients and simmer for 45 minutes. Serve with crisp corn bread and buckwheat honey for a real treat.

—Outdoor Nebraska