



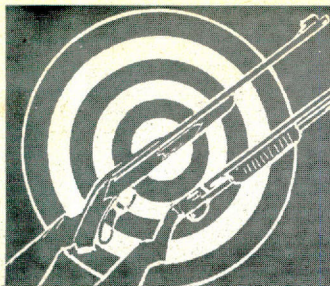
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# Texas Game and Fish

OCTOBER 1964 20 CENTS

Getting bait for trotlines is a serious matter, but Joe Wilson of Hearne expresses exuberance at the same time. His dad was on hand with the camera at Carancahua Bay.





# Long shots Short casts

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**THE WATER WORKS:** A report of water conditions at 122 points on this country's interstate waterways has just been issued by the U.S. Public Health Service. The 900-page publication consists mainly of data collected from each of these stations and evaluates findings on synthetic organic chemicals such as insecticides and pesticides, as well as findings on radioactivity, plankton populations, bacteriological analyses, trace elements and other characteristics of water. Copies of the publication (633 Revised) entitled: "National Water Quality Network--Annual Compilation of Data 61-62" are available from Room 3427, Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

**DON'T BE DOWNCAST:** There's no such thing as a "bad" cast. Even when a cast goes astray or drops short, retrieve the lure just as carefully as you would a perfect cast. A hastily retrieved plug may temporarily spoil the fishing in the immediate vicinity. Besides, an errant cast may still induce a strike. And when you catch a fish, remember where. If a particular hole or undercut rock produces a lunker, try the spot again. Often another big fish moves into the same place.

**RECREATION RESUME:** A new booklet by the Dept. of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation summarizes Federal programs which provide outdoor recreation assistance to states, their subdivisions, private individuals and organizations. Types of assistance involved are credit, cost-sharing, technical aid, educational services and research. Entitled "Federal Assistance in Outdoor Recreation," it is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, for 20 cents.

**DOGGONE GOOD:** Take along a wire corn popper on your next camping trip. It's great for roasting hot dogs. You can roast several at a time, and they won't lose their delicious juices as they do when pierced with a stick or fork.

**TO TOTE A MOTOR:** When transporting an outboard in an auto, inflate an old inner tube, tie it together in several places, then lay the motor on it. It won't shift and will provide a fine cushioned ride.

**HIGH CLASS:** The world's tallest living thing is a 367-foot high coast redwood tree, located about 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean in northern California. The giant was discovered earlier this year by a team of foresters and naturalists employed by the National Geographic Society. This new highest tree is not the largest in volume. That honor belongs to the General Sherman Tree, a different species of redwood located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nor is it the oldest of living things, its estimated age of 700 years being well below the age of 5,000 credited to its California cousin, the bristlecone pine. The new king of the forests is of the *Sequoia sempervirens* species which grows in a 400-mile coastal belt up to the Oregon border. It is a valuable commercial species, logged from the days of Russian colonization in the 1820's, but 91,000 acres of the larger old growth stands have been preserved along major highways. Its inland brother, the *Sequoia gigantea*, is a non-commercial redwood found only in state and national parks along a 260-mile range of the Sierra.

**MEMORABLE MEMO:** Secretary Stewart L. Udall, in a significant memorandum to all assistant secretaries and heads of bureaus, has directed the Department of the Interior to set an example which others can follow in the discriminate use of chemical pesticides, pointing out the standards of the department in the use of pesticides should be higher than any others. He said: "It is essential that all pesticides, herbicides, and related chemicals be applied in a manner fully consistent with the protection of the entire environment. ...when there is a reasonable doubt regarding the environmental effects of the use of a given pesticide, herbicide, or other chemical, no use should be made."

# Texas Game and Fish

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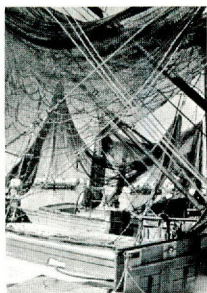
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## The Cover



That beauty and utility need not be strangers is eloquently shown in this typical scene of shrimpboats at port. As well as delighting the eye, these boats figure importantly in the economy of the state, shrimping being the largest Texas fishery industry. See related story on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October meeting.

Photo by L. A. Wilke.

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OCTOBER, 1964

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# An Open Window

**T**HE OUTDOORS is a big open window. What a hunter does in the field each year is usually witnessed by at least one other individual. Many times, it's a youngster who has been taken along to learn the sport of hunting. And a youngster can learn unsportsmanlike aspects of hunting just as easily as he can the right ones.

This gives every hunter two very important reasons to watch his conduct this next hunting season. First, most individuals can pick up bad habits. And when these detriments to character are repeated they soon become second nature without the person ever noticing a change. By disregarding the 'accepted rules of good sportsmanship, he loses sight of the fact he actually is poaching or being wasteful. And when he is confronted with reality by an officer of the law, the individual resents being forced to face the truth. He has unconsciously convinced himself that what he is doing is not wrong.

Suppose a youngster, or even another adult, is observing the actions of this hunter. It's logical to assume that if someone is watching, he more than likely will be tempted to take up the same bad habits. This is reason number two why every hunter should mind his "field manners."

What's the protégé going to say when he gets caught in the act? Field manners may not seem important to a hunter until something drastic happens. Who can say why game wardens are shot each year as they try to enforce the laws of the land? Perhaps those who pull the triggers have been misled by the careless actions of others, or the persuasion of an uncontrolled tongue that constantly degrades the laws and threatens those who are pledged to enforce these laws.

As you plan your hunting trip this year, review good hunting manners. Generally it requires only the use of simple, common sense and courtesies. Maintain respect for others in the field and for the laws which are intended to protect the rights of all citizens. Make up your mind that you are going to set a good example for those who may be watching you, regardless of age. Teach someone to respect the rights of others and he'll show more respect for you. \*\*

THE EDITOR



# DOZER SPARE THAT TREE!

by DAVID BEATIE

**I** WAS WATCHING two bulldozers push timber in a river bottom. One dozer in a few minutes uprooted a live oak that could have been older than the constitution. Birds and animals were moving out of the area. Squirrels were scampering away from doomed trees which sheltered their winter food store. Doves were flying toward the river and deer had abandoned favorite bedding and feeding grounds.

Questions arose: how many farm and ranch acres are being cleared of timber and brush in our own county? In the state; in the U. S.? What is happening to wildlife? What is being done to offset the daily loss of wildlife habitat?

Here are some of the answers.

In our own County of Parker, Texas, 3,921.5 acres in 1962 were cleared under the Agriculture Conservation Program, Brush Clearing (ACP B-3). One and one-half million acres were cleared in Texas (1962) under the same program. These totals are only for that clearing of brush and timber, under one practice, on which the Department of Agriculture made payments. They do not include ACP diversion terrace, dam, pond and other

projects which frequently require some timber pushing.

This acreage total (clearing) does not include that dozing which landowners undertook on their own financial responsibility. Many landowners will clear maximum acreage under the B-3 program, then, at their own expense, doze additional land. This additional acreage, according to a conservative estimate, would add some 1,500 acres to the B-3 county total. The annual county clearing rate thus has been some 5,500 acres during the past few years—for farming and ranching alone.

Under the ACP "Controlling Competitive Shrubs" practice, the cleared land must be put in permanent pasture. It cannot be used for planting temporary pasture or for cultivation of crops. Furthermore, under this program only three trees per acre can be left standing—and that's not many trees. Not many trees when we consider wildlife utilization and demands.

Not only do live, and dead, trees provide dens and nests for wildlife; they also provide valuable food in the form of nuts, berries, and fruit. Acorns alone are a major food for

squirrel and deer, for quail and turkey—to mention only a few. Much of the underbrush, vines and small trees provide indispensable berries and fruit for all wildlife.

In our own section, Coastal Bermuda is becoming a favorite permanent pasture grass. Much of the land cleared is sprigged with this new type Bermuda—a seedless grass. Although highly nourishing for cattle, it provides no food whatsoever for birds. Too, under favorable conditions Coastal will choke out other grasses and weeds that produce seed for birds.

On this 550-acre farm, where I watched two dozers level the trees, 260 acres had been in cultivation. The other 290 acres were cleared—only pecan trees were spared. Much of this 290 acres was ideal habitat for wildlife of all kinds. There was food, cover, and water available in maximum proportions. The cleared land will be sprigged with Coastal which provides little in cover and nothing in food for wildlife. Since it does not seed out, it will be ideal cattle range but meager pickings for birds and animals.

Wildlife was retreating to a heavily

wooded strip along a creek near the line fence. This plot, too, has been dozed.

Timber pushing is becoming a popular practice in Texas. In 1962 1,557,000 acres were cleared in this state under the ACP B-3 program alone. This was more than half of the total B-3 clearing done in the entire country. Under the same ACP practice 2,290,000 acres were cleared in the U. S. on a cost-sharing basis. Texas, of course, is a cattle-producing state but it also is noted for its abundance of wildlife.

Milk production provides the largest single revenue for the farmers of Parker County. Many of the dairy farms—along with some of the small cattle ranches—are overgrazed. This means a minimum of food and cover for wildlife. A long drought in the 50's, coupled with heavy grazing, created a situation which had an immediate effect on wildlife.

Brightest spot on the wildlife horizon, however, is the increasing emphasis that the Soil Conservation Service places on wildlife preservation. This trend is illustrated in two—of several—bulletins published by the Department of Agriculture: "Making Land Produce Useful Wildlife," and "More Wildlife Through Soil and Water Conservation."

These two bulletins list wildlife requirements and outline procedures whereby the farmer can provide wildlife essentials: food, cover, and water. Whether the farm is strictly row crops, pasture, or a combined operation, preservation of wildlife can be insured through prescribed procedures.

Briefly these practices are listed as: stripcropping, pond construction, field borders, windbreaks, hedges, tree planting, pasture improvement, woodland protection, range improvement, watershed protection, marsh management, and "odd area" (wildlife plot) development.

One bulletin pertinently points out "the community of living things on a farm or ranch has an abundance of helpful kinds of plants and animals and a low number of the harmful kinds. It has a *biologic balance* favorable to man's interests."

Nature keeps wildlife in balance but when this balance is disturbed by



Planned wildlife corner where three acres of woods were left unmolested. Windrow was not burned, but maize, perennial sudan and sorghum alum were sowed for use by the native wildlife.

excessive land exploitation, it's up to man to provide remedies.

When we first moved to the country, I destroyed most snakes that came into the yard or garden. Then we had an infestation of rats. Now I eliminate only the poisonous snakes (copperheads chiefly) which invade our yard. If a non-poisonous snake wants in the hayshed to feed on rats, I open the door and let him in.

Greatest boon for wildlife in our section has been the development of "odd areas" recommended by Soil

Conservation Service. These "wildlife plots," particularly on brush-cleared, or heavily farmed, areas now provide vital sanctuaries for wildlife. They may be developed plots or timber-and-brush areas left untouched; but in either event they provide essential food and cover—and frequently, water. They help maintain *biologic balance* beneficial to both man and wildlife.

One soil conservation technician told me that wherever land was cleared his agency urged that appro-



This river bottom tract, left as is, would provide maximum food and cover for wildlife. Mast, berries, seed and fruit are abundant and water is nearby, creating an ideal setting.

priate areas be left for wildlife. And more than half of the landowners in our district are following the recommendation. This procedure is vital where land is cleared and permanent pastures are developed. The best permanent pasture grasses—down here—do not provide wildlife food.

The conservation field man showed me an aerial photo of a small ranch where development of wildlife plots was underway. On 358 acres four wildlife plots had been set aside. Plots were scattered to prevent heavy predator toll. In addition to food and cover already available on these plots, millet and grain sorghums will be sowed. With water available, these four plots contain the three wildlife essentials.

Soil Conservation Service includes biologists who work with landowners and other conservation agencies. Grasses and legumes recommended by these biologists include: brown-top and Japanese millet, grain sorghums, sudan, cow peas, soy beans, lespedeza, sesame, blue panic, and weeping love grass. Not only does this vegetation provide wildlife food, it also provides livestock grazing and helps conserve the soil.

Wildlife biologists suggest another consideration. Wherever game birds and game animals thrive, there also multiplies wildlife common to that section. Controlled commercial hunting in many states has resulted in game increase. It also has been beneficial for wildlife generally.

In our own section the principal native plants and grasses that provide seed for birds—as well as livestock grazing—are: Johnson grass (imported but now widespread), sand love grass, lespedeza, wild clovers, viney mesquite, deer vetch, purple top and switch grass. Ragweed, Russian thistle, bull nettles—obnoxious to the farmer—dove weed, Indian currant, sumac, black haw, red haw, wild grapes and wild plums are additional sources of wildlife food.

Few plants provide as much in food and cover as the oak tree—and it flourishes in most of our states. In the south, particularly, the live oak, with its winter foliage and acorn crop, is a godsend to wildlife. Although slow in growth, its tenacious

sprouts and saplings create dense thickets which preclude growth of desirable vegetation. Live oaks occupied much of the land that has been cleared in our own section.

But acorns are a major food item for many animals and birds—even songbirds and ducks will eat them. However, acorns have an adverse effect on cattle; and many ranchers want their range free of dense oak growth. One solution, of course, is fencing off woodlands for wildlife plots—a practice recommended by Soil Conservation Service.

Even after land is dozed, the landowner can still provide food and cover for wildlife by leaving a few windrows intact—rather than burning. Undisturbed plants will thrive in these windrows and produce many seeds; the piled-up logs and brush create dens and nesting areas. In many instances the windrows serve as a terrace for holding soil and water.

“Farms and ranches,” according to soil conservation bulletin No. 175, “make up 59 per cent of the land in the U. S.” Housing, industry, business and highways would account for the bulk of the remaining 41 per cent. National forests, parks, and game refuges—which are concentrated in the western states—would account for a relatively minor portion of this 41 per cent—our two newer states excluded. Thus, under prevailing conditions, the farmer-rancher, controlling 59 per cent of the land, is a vital factor in preservation of wildlife.

“Nearly all of the 1,850,000 farmers and ranchers cooperating with soil

conservation districts,” according to bulletin No. 175, “have applied at least one practice helpful to wildlife.” As more land is consumed by industry, housing and highways, the farmer-rancher role will become paramount in wildlife preservation. “At least one practice” will not be sufficient to insure perpetuation of American wildlife.

Operating on the theory that “You can have wildlife on your land and have a better farm or ranch because of it,” Soil Conservation Service encourages and helps the landowner preserve wildlife. Many ACP cost-sharing practices—though designed primarily for soil conservation and agricultural production—create secondary wildlife benefits. Thus the landowner receives financial as well as advisory aid.

The average citizen, too, can help: by supporting legislation based on careful conservation of wildlife; by urging state and federal purchase of additional land for refuges, for forests and parks; by active participation in organizations whose goal is conservation of soil, water and wildlife.

Sportsmen, particularly, by leasing land for hunting and fishing, can make it profitable for the landowner to encourage wildlife propagation.

Everyone can help by practicing conservation in his own outdoor activities.

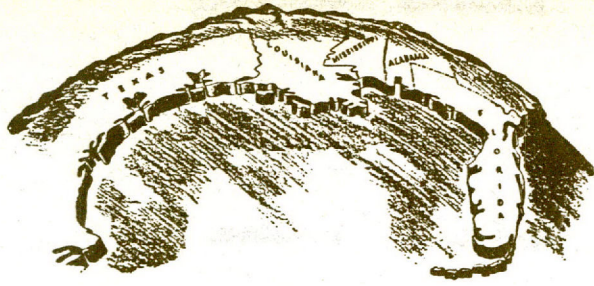
Each of us—directly or indirectly—has a stake in the lands of the future. And land, without wildlife, is a biological contradiction. \* \*

Ideal wildlife habitat being cleared prior to Coastal Bermuda sprigging. This grass provides little cover and no food for wildlife.





# Gulf



# States

## Marine Fisheries Compact

by TERRY LEARY  
Coastal Fisheries Coordinator

**T**HE FERTILE waters of the Gulf of Mexico annually yield about 1.4 billion pounds of commercial marine products to the fisheries of the United States. The commercial fishery landings in the five Gulf states now comprise about 29% of this nation's fishery. Sport fishing, too, is big business in the Gulf area. Texas saltwater sports fishermen alone spend over 100 million dollars a year on this pastime. Items of a comparable nature dealing with the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico will be discussed at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries at Brownsville, October 15 and 16.

The need for a Gulf wide compact of states to assist in the development and utilization of the fisheries was recognized in 1946, and the ground work for such an agreement was laid. At the request of the Gulf States the Council of State Governments drew up a model compact which was then authorized by the United States Congress and adopted by the legislatures of the five states bordering the Gulf: Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The purpose of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact, thus created, is "to promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico, by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries and the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause."

The Commission created by the compact is composed of three mem-

bers from each of the five states. The present chairman is a Texas Commissioner and member of the State Legislature, Representative R. H. "Dick" Cory from Victoria. Director is Mr. W. Dudley Gunn, whose headquarters are located in New Orleans.

Although the chief function of the body is advisory, its primary research agency is the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating with the conservation agencies of the various member states. Through exchange of information at the regular semi-annual meetings, a major step forward has been taken in shrimp research in recent years. This ad-

vance was made possible through coordinated studies and unified effort together with the prompt and free flow of data among researchers.

Since the three commissioners representing each state is composed of a member of the State Legislature, an interested citizen appointee of the Governor, and the administrative head of the state's department of conservation, much exchange of management, as well as research, principles likewise occurs at the sessions. Governmental agencies and legislative bodies thus become more familiar with the needs of the expanding industrial and sportsfisheries. \*\*



The Commission is composed of three members from each of five Gulf Coast states. From left to right, Texas members J. Weldon Watson,

Richard H. Cory and Virgil Versaggi, view a shrimp publication with W. Dudley Gunn.

**I**N *THE Book of Birds*, published in 1934, the National Geographic Society reported:

"We are now faced with the near extinction of the sandhill crane, which has been reduced to a pitiful remnant of its former population even in the far corners of its extensive range."

The same writer would be amazed today by the sensational come-back of this unusual bird which now can be seen in huge flocks, feeding in marshes or fields from the tropic lands of Florida to lichen-rich tundras of Northern Alaska.

Eighteen years before the National Geographic Society's book was published, officials of the United States

and Canada, concerned by the plight of this interesting, valuable bird, which had provided sport for hunters and an allurements on the dinner tables of America, negotiated a treaty giving it full protection. It made a painful struggle for the first two decades, but demonstrated a greater potential for survival than is possible with less hardy and adaptable species.

These potentials were two-fold: First, the crane is essentially an open country bird; and second, it is one of the wariest creatures of the wild. Cranes feed on waste grain and other seeds, and supplement their diet with snakes, frogs, crayfish, lemmings and other creatures that inhabit the edge

of marshes. They usually feed in flocks and always have a sentinel on guard. If danger approaches, they take off in a fast running stride that propels them quickly into the air.

Their threatened extinction was not brought about by the destruction of their habitat, but by hunters who ruthlessly and systematically stalked them with rifles, shotguns, pistols and bow and arrow.

During the 45 years they have been protected, their identity as game birds, like the wild turkey and the goose, had been forgotten by most people. They have been classed with the great blue heron, egrets and other large species that feed exclusively along the shores of

# SANDHILL

# SALUTE



This pair, photographed on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of the whooping cranes, appear to be rehearsing for a ceremonial dance routine.



by CASH ASHER

Sandhills, like all cranes, have unusually long legs enabling them to wade fairly deep water and tall grass. Being extremely wary, the big cranes actually are walking watch towers.

marshes, lakes and streams. In the early years of this century, roasted or fried crane was often featured at banquets or in leading restaurants.

There are three forms of sandhill cranes, but they are so similar in appearance and habits that they cannot easily be distinguished in the field. They are usually grouped as one, except by ornithological experts.

By 1960, the population of what is known as the lesser sandhills became so great in western Texas, eastern New Mexico and Alaska that an experimental hunting season was opened from January 1 to January 30. This regulation continues in ef-

fect. Approximately 2000 birds were bagged by hunters in 1961.

A greater sandhill crane weighs around 12 pounds, but, when well-fed, up to 15. The lesser variety is three or four pounds or more lighter. The meat is tender, somewhat like a mixture of turkey and goose. They are one of the largest birds seen in Texas. They have a wing spread of six to seven feet, compared with the seven and a half-foot spread of the whoopers. In color, they are gray, verging toward the rusty sometimes, and, like the whoopers, have a smooth red crown on their heads.

One of their distinguishing fea-

tures is the dance they stage during the breeding season. But these picturesque ceremonies are performed sometimes during fall and winter, apparently for amusement. What the actual relationship of the dance is to mating has not been explained by ornithologists; for even after mating occurs and nests are constructed, the birds can be observed curtsying and hopping in a unique fashion. They have been observed on barren hills in small flocks staging what resembled an old-fashioned barn dance.

They usually nest near bodies of water, seemingly for the convenience of the young which do not learn to fly quickly. The nests, elevated a foot or more above the water, are built of reeds and sticks. The young birds stay close to the nests until they are nearly full grown and able to look after their own needs.

Thousands of the cranes inhabit the 800,000-acre King ranch in Texas in the winter, and others are found in habitable areas all the way from the Rio Grande to the northern edge of the Panhandle. They leave their southern range during March, April and May and return in September and October. They have been reported in Cuba and Southern Mexico and on the steppes of Northern Asia.

In flight the cranes carry their necks straight out, instead of folded as do the great blue herons. When migrating, they fly in long lines or in V's like geese, calling loudly gar-oo-oo, gar-oo-oo, a cry that carries farther than the call of migrating geese. And, for conservationists and hunters alike, it is an arresting voice in the aviation-tortured skies of North America. \*\*

**T**HE WHITE-WINGED dove in Texas faces an uncertain future as a game bird, although it may not be readily apparent. The present population of whitewings is only a thin shadow of the millions which occupied the lower Rio Grande Valley as late as the 1920's. The reason for the drastic decline in whitewing numbers is simple: *the lack of sufficient nesting cover to support a substantial breeding population on a sustained basis.* Over 95 per cent of the former native brush nesting habitat has been cleared for cultivation. Fortunately whitewings adapted to citrus nesting cover, but twice in recent years (1951 and 1962) severe freezes have virtually eliminated this source of nesting habitat.

At the present time there are less than 6,500 acres of native brush habitat available for whitewings in the Rio Grande Valley. If the total acreage of native brush utilized by the birds were all prime nesting habitat, the future of the whitewing as a game bird would be much more secure. Unfortunately this is not the case. Approximately half of all

brush-nesting whitewings are presently concentrated on less than 25 per cent of this native habitat. In other words, approximately 75 per cent of the brush-nesting habitat is of poor quality and must be considered marginal.

The acceptance of citrus groves as nesting habitat was hailed by conservationists concerned with the white-winged dove as an extremely fortunate development. In past years, up to 75 per cent of the total whitewing population has nested in citrus. Indeed, were it not for citrus nesting cover, whitewings may have been removed from the game list long ago. The simple fact is, that present available brush habitat is incapable of sustaining a huntable population. This point is abundantly clear when we consider the four closed seasons since 1950. There was no whitewing hunting season in Texas during 1954, 1955, 1956, and 1963. The closed seasons were a direct result of the freezes of 1951 and 1962 which destroyed virtually all citrus nesting habitat for periods sufficient to drastically reduce the

productivity of our whitewing population. Under present conditions, citrus is vital to a continuance of whitewing hunting.

Some will ask, "If it is citrus that is so important as nesting cover, why all the concern about native brush habitat?" Stated as simply as possible, brush *must* be available following destruction of citrus to hold a nucleus of a whitewing population until the citrus groves have had a chance to recover. Bear in mind that citrus trees are not used to an appreciable extent as nesting cover until they reach a height of approximately 12 feet and possess a densely foliated crown. Following freezes, if replanting of citrus is necessary it will be about seven years before the new groves can provide whitewing nesting cover. Even if replanting is not required, it usually takes one to several years, depending upon the

# Doves

Photos by Curtis Carpenter

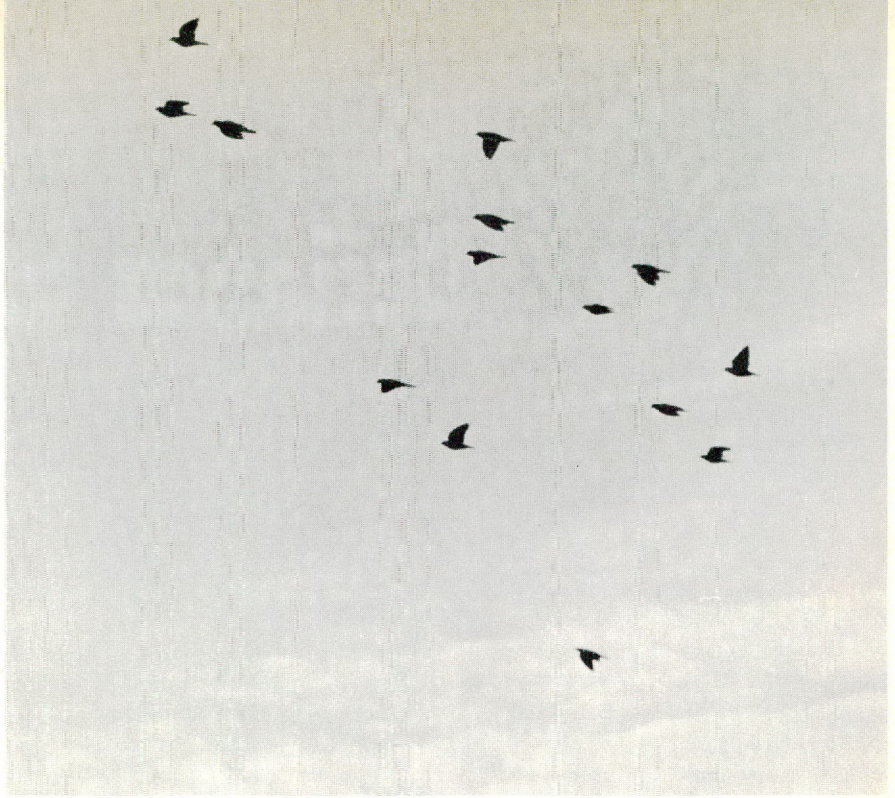


extent of damage, for the trees to recover sufficiently to provide nesting cover for whitewings.

Others are asking, "Why worry about holding a nucleus of broodstock birds in Texas when it is well known that there are large numbers of whitewings in Mexico which might come over to Texas?" Current studies conducted by the Parks and Wildlife Department indicate this just does not happen (see *Birds Across the Border*, T.G.&F., April 1964). Whitewings do, on occasion, come from Mexico in fall feeding flights, but they are not birds that raise their young in Texas. It is imperative that we maintain an adequate broodstock in Texas if we expect to perpetuate whitewing hunting in this state. The best method of accomplishing this is to preserve through purchase or long-term lease, certain tracts of native brushlands which presently represent choice nesting habitat.

To say just how much acreage in brush is needed to perpetuate hunting would depend entirely upon the

quality of the brush and the manner in which it was managed. It is possible, however, to estimate the number of birds necessary to make up the nucleus population. Efforts should be aimed at providing brush habitat capable of supporting 200,000 nesting whitewings. Approximately 2,500 acres of native brush in four tracts is presently assured of perpetuation. Three of these tracts, the Longoria and Voshell Units of the Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park are held by the Parks and Wildlife Department. The fourth of these areas, the Santa Anna National Wildlife Refuge, is held by the federal government. These brushlands vary in nesting quality from very good to poor. In their present condition, these tracts are, at best, capable of supporting between 75,000 and



# Time for Decision

by TED CLARK  
Wildlife Biologist

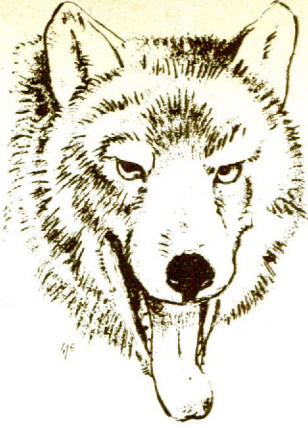
80,000 nesting whitewings. The application of certain development practices could improve the quality and consequently the carrying capacity for nesting birds on these areas.

Further acquisition of native brushlands would be most prudent. The purchase or long-term lease of approximately 1,000 additional acres of quality brush nesting habitat would in all probability go a long way toward accomplishing the goal of assuring habitat for 200,000 whitewings.

The alternative to outright purchase of existing native habitat is the reestablishment of brush-nesting cover through reforestation. This is not as farfetched as it might at first seem. The Parks and Wildlife Department has been experimenting with just such a scheme on a small scale since 1960. The object of the

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# Defiance to the Last

by W. D. PLEASANT

**A**FTER reading "The Will to Die" letter to the editor, found in *TEXAS GAME AND FISH* September 1963 issue, W. D. Pleasant was reminded of a wolf hunt he took part in as a boy. Here in his own words is his story:

I back-tracked and re-read the Judge John Fuchs' story. ["Echoes of a Swan Song" June 1963.] You can put me down as backing up the Judge's story over Mr. Householder's theory.

The judge actually saw a wolf "scared to death," whereas Mr. Householder's wolf was found dead. No one saw the latter wolf die, so his death and manner of dying is just a theory. There is also evidence of poison at hand which could have caused his death.

The enclosed picture will show you a wolf, stiff in rigor mortis. He died in this position, standing up, with eyes wide open, just as he turned his head and saw the hound pack arriving, and before they even touched him. Note the wolf's size in comparison to the Walker hound, fifteen feet away in the foreground, licking a cut paw.

We moved down to the "Pass" (Sabine Pass) just after the end of World War I and in those days into a sparsely settled locality, consisting of a few scattered farm and ranch houses and trapper's camps. The country was rather wild, with an abundance of game, wildfowl, furbearing animals, and the bothersome pest—"old Lobo"—the wolf.

We didn't dare "turn in" at night without first locking up our pigs, chickens, young calves and any other small animals or we'd be aroused, like the time our old bird-dog "Vick" took the screen door down getting into the house away from the wolves. The next morning we found five of our six English Call Ducks decapi-

tated and scattered for a quarter of a mile down the road. We never found the other one. These ducks roosted under our house.

The following hunt took place in Jefferson County in September, 1924, in the salt grass country bordering the Gulf of Mexico about 15 miles west of Sabine Pass on McFaddin's Ranch. I was 16 at the time and my father Ed Pleasant (deceased 1957) was winter range foreman for the Broussard-Hebert Ranch. He truck-farmed in the summer months.

We jumped this wolf about a quarter of a mile back of where this picture was taken. He headed west. My father (in white jacket in the picture) followed the hounds, and put me (boy at right) on key point, which was about two and a half miles behind the hounds and just in sight of him, so I could get his signal and relay which direction the wolf travels to the hunters on the back trail.

A wolf always runs a circuit in the form of a horseshoe loop, when pursued, always heading back to his starting point. This wolf made about an eight mile loop (16 mile total) and when he turned, my father signaled me south toward the beach or gulf. I set my course at right angles to the loop, full tilt, for half a mile when I sighted Mr. Wolf. I couldn't turn him to the beach because he wanted to cross a pond behind me to wet his sore feet, which always seems to give a tired wolf new energy, pep, and speed. Usually when a spent wolf has a chance to wet his feet, he will outrun the weary hounds and horses and get away.

Henry Martens—to my right in picture—and Dave Garret—hands on head of wolf—were waiting back of the pond and managed to turn him south, with the help of Dave Johnson—in chaps—who was flanking

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This dead wolf with his eyes wide open appeared so much alive that we hog-tied him, for appearance sake, put a rope back on his neck and held him up for this picture. Reading left to right: Ed Pleasant (deceased), Dave Johnson, Dave Garret, Henry Martens and myself. In the background is Teal Jones, keeper of hounds for the pack's owner, Bob Alexander.

**S**WISH, TWANG, WHAM . . . or however an arrow sounds to a whitetail buck as it misses and buries itself in the ground just below his ribs and Mr. Unpredictable jumps mightily forward, stops, turns around and looks back to see what made the noise! This happened when I made my first attempt at bagging a buck via the archery method.

Several mornings in September were spent looking over the piney woods deer country in a county that was scheduled to have an open season during October for archers. An archer I was NOT (and still am NOT) but having arrived at a point where a target hitting a bullseye backed against baled hay had become monotonous, the next step was to try for a buck without the usual .243 or .270.

Knowing that deer movements are subject to change as the weather changes and feeding grounds are changed in the fall coolness I could only hope to pick a natural run for building a tree stand.

Aware that my shooting range was limited to about 40 yards, I chose a large pin oak tree to make the stand close to the convergence of an old logging road and what we call a cow trail. Several short two-by-fours secured across the lower massive limbs and some boxing boards made a substantial platform 15 feet above the ground. From this stand my view northwest along the cow trail was clear for 60 yards. Due east, between the two large limbs, my maximum shot would be 35 yards toward a solid yaupon thicket and I theorized that any deer heading south would use the tram road.

The first two weeks of October were warm and dry with no activity on the part of the deer although tracks around my stand indicated that it was being used at night and was a main thoroughfare to their feeding grounds. After a shower and a little cooler weather every track in the trails indicated the rut had started and now was the time to take to the tree stand.

About 4:30 one afternoon I climbed the spikes driven into the tree trunk and made myself comfortable on the board seat. An arrow was nocked and 10 minutes hadn't

# Bucks and



# Bows

by JOHN A. KITZMANN

passed when a nice eight-point buck emerged from the thick yaupons a hundred yards north on the tram road and "jog-trotted" out of sight.

Ten minutes later, a loud commotion in the brush to the west caught my attention. A doe crashed out of the brush, stood broadside in the cow trail for a minute, then dashed for the brush between the cow trail and the tram road. Suddenly a

beautiful buck exploded into view and ran to a point just short of the trail and stopped behind two large oak trees with only his flank exposed. There he stood for 15 minutes, which seemed like an hour.

By leaning forward I could see an eight-point rack that was fully 14 inches wide and failed to curve inward at the tips; he would have been a worthy trophy with a rifle and doubly so with a bow and arrow. I was grateful to him for acting like a statue for all this time, for it gave me an opportunity to get over the chills that had seized me although the temperature was in the high 70's.

Finally the buck turned to the north and moved away. Since I am not in the habit of letting bucks which are in range walk out of my sight without at least trying to tag them, I drew the 50-pound bow and turned the broadhead loose. The arrow slammed into the ground just below his ribs. This is how our story started and to continue, Mrs. White-tail moved out of the cover and started south along the tram; she suspected something and walked jauntily past the opening to the east and was soon out of sight and mind.

Now, the buck came walking slowly down the tram in the direction taken by the doe. I said, almost aloud, "Step past that tree limb and I'll let you have it!" He not only stepped out past the limb but stopped! I promptly plowed another arrow into the ground just below his ribs! He performed again by jumping sideways and retreated a few yards and I'll admit I rattled all the acorns in the tree trying to get another arrow nocked. While this was going on he stood looking directly up toward me through the dense leaves and twigs.

He apparently failed to recognize the danger because he politely started forward to give me a third whack at him, that is until he came close to the arrow sticking in the ground. I am sure his supersensitive nose picked up human scent and told him to leave the scene by way of the yaupon thicket, which he did.

There were no regrets, for I enjoyed every minute of the hunt and actually observed this buck longer than any other—ever. \*\*



The author's son, Garth, poses with John Stradley and a beautiful mule deer trophy taken on the

highly productive Gage Holland Ranch. Guide's job is made easy because of rancher's efforts.

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## Be Well Guided

by JOHN MASTERS

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**A** GUIDE is as good as his training and experiences make him. But, just as important, no guide can be any better than the country he operates in, and certainly no better than the hunter, and the hunter's equipment. How much influence can you, the hunter, have on these factors? I believe, perhaps, if you can see some of the primary *cares* of a guide, you will be better prepared

to *feed* him the things he needs to help you have a more successful and enjoyable hunt which, believe it or not, is his primary aim.

To begin with, you select your own equipment, the country you hunt in, and the equipment you take along. You, of course, have nothing to do with the guide's training and experience, but you have everything to do with your own ability. In the

interest of brevity, I will confine my remaining remarks to what I believe are concrete, valuable suggestions directed at helping you get the most out of your guided hunt.

Let's start with equipment. First, you **must** be comfortable. Take adequate clothing and bedding, first aid supplies, spectacles, binoculars and *your licenses*.

Decide on your rifle and sighting



equipment, then select ammunition appropriate for the game and country. Next, and I can't overemphasize this point, *sight the rifle in with that ammunition*. Practice until you know what your gun and the load you have selected will do. Know where the bullet strikes at 100, 200, and 300 yards. Then when your guide says "Trophy class head at 250 yards," you'll know where to hold.

Let your guide know what sort of head or animal you want. He undoubtedly will be familiar with the sort of heads your area affords, and will have a fair idea of where it is to be found. But he won't know when it's in sight unless you tell him.

Last year, on the Gage Holland Ranch out of Marathon, I guided a man who had come all the way from the West Coast to get a trophy class mule deer. I showed him some 30 bucks before he finally was satisfied. He had all the time in the world to shoot. I guessed the range at 175 yards. He snuggled down into a firm sitting position, and squeezed the shot off. A little buck some 50 yards further up the slope went down, and the trophy buck watched calmly as we struggled up the slope to the downed one. Later conversation revealed that the hunter had held 18 inches over at 175 yards with a 264 Magnum sighted in six inches high at 100 yards! There was no possible way for me to know he was holding high, and he went home disappointed.

Another hunter, seeking a buck with at least 12 points, hunted hard with me three days, passing up head after head until about an hour before too late to shoot on the third day. Then he clobbered a fat six pointer, informed me that he had decided he'd had his money's worth, and went home happy.

Both cases are of the type that will give a guide ulcers.

Keep this in mind. *The guide's business is to keep you happy*. He wants you to get what you came after, but the best he can do is show it to you. In that final instant as you squeeze the trigger, the success of his entire effort is in your hands.

What do you expect from a guide after he has shown you game and you have killed it? He'll gladly do the job of field dressing, and will

without protest wrestle your game to the meat pole. But he would appreciate your help with the heavy part.

What about tipping? Personally, I find it repulsive. I'm paid for the job. Your satisfaction is the only reward necessary. I have more or less graciously accepted money, because you really have no alternative, but I would much rather have a simple thanks, or perhaps a letter when you reach home. Or if you must, find out something your guide can really use (knife, scope, ammo, a good hunting cap) and send it to him later. Somehow, money changing hands puts a guide in the servant class, which he is not, to the wise hunter; rather, he is a valued hunting companion whose time and experience is devoted to your hunting success, often to the almost total exclusion of his own hunting.

Perhaps the most memorable of

my guiding experiences was getting Pop Abbott a trophy class antelope. He'd given his previous head to his grandson, and was on what his doctor had told him was his last hunt. After four days, we finally got Pop a good solid 14 incher, but because of the time, I had to settle for a nine-inch head in the last two hours of the season. About a month after the hunt, the postman brought me a package containing a hunting vest, the gift of a man I had thoroughly enjoyed hunting with. I have never seen Pop again, but our relationship was perfect from my point of view.

To summarize, choose your equipment and learn to use it. Let your guide know what you want. Lend him a hand wherever you can. And think of him as a hunting companion rather than a servant. Do these things, and you'll find a maximum effort on his part. Your satisfaction is the only reward he really covets. \*\*



Sully Sullins of Midland, right, and Gage Holland, center, with an unusually fine mule deer buck taken on the Gage Holland Ranch near Marathon. The author guides on the ranch, one of finest for muleys.

**D**EEER HUNTERS are taking to the field in increasing numbers each year. Good game management has been responsible for a deer population in these United States that is greater today than it ever was during the days of the pioneers. This, in spite of the fact that each year finds more hunters in the field and a corresponding increase in hunting pressure. Many hunters who will be hunting deer for their first time this coming season probably have hunted small game and birds before. However, it takes many years of actual field experience to become a safe and successful deer hunter. Being a good "paper shot" on the range is not enough.

Deer are found in varying numbers in most states today and the areas where they range vary from swamps to mountains. Texas has many types of terrain and hunting techniques vary according to the area. The "old timers" gained their skill and knowledge of the hunt through years of experience. Without attempting to cover all the angles, I believe the following general hints and suggestions will help reduce the time it takes you to become a safer and better hunter and thereby enjoy the personal satisfaction that comes from a successful deer hunt.

**Hunt With A Partner:** For obvious reasons it is always better to hunt with a partner than to try to go it alone, *but* you should choose your partner with care. It is not necessary that he be an old timer, but it is important that you both be compatible. Most hunts last for several days or more and just because you enjoy a weekly bridge or golf game with him is no assurance you could stand each other's company for a week or so.

**Pick Out The Best Possible Area:** Check with other hunters, sporting goods stores, gunsmiths and State agencies to find out where the most likely areas are and don't wait until the week before the season opens. Make a pre-season trip to the area, if possible, and look over the lay of the land. Check for deer signs and try to determine where they range, where they water and what routes they usually travel. These preparations should enhance your chances of a good kill, on opening day at

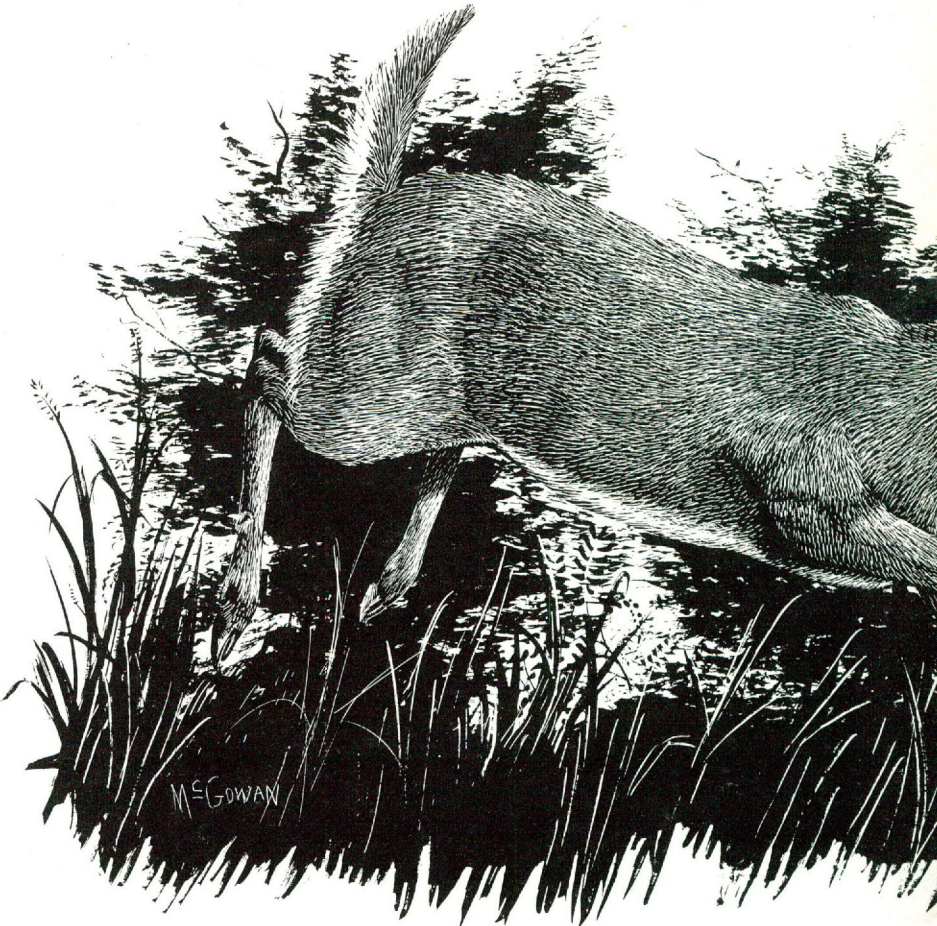
least. After the first few days of the season the deer will get spooky and be "where you find them."

**Choosing Your Camping Equipment:** Choose your equipment with care whether you prefer a tent camp, pickup camper, trailer or a nearby motel. Don't buy a lot of equipment you could well do without. On the other hand, don't leave out items necessary to your comfort after a hard day afield. Make a week-end camping trip during the summer as a "trial run" so you can check out your gear under conditions similar

to those you will encounter on your hunt.

**Clothing:** A good rule to follow is to have clothes for four kinds of weather; (1) hot and dry (2) hot and wet (3) cold and dry (4) cold and wet. If this is done you won't be caught short in any kind of weather. Remember, it's better to have it than to wish you had it. Extra shoes or boots are a must. They should be of the rubber cleated type with rubber heels. Leather heels and soles are noisy and there is always the ever present danger of slipping on rocks. Avoid heavy and bulky cloth-

## ***Hints for You***



ing. For your warmth, you can depend on the new synthetics or foam insulated or down garments. These offer much more comfort whether you are blind hunting or on foot.

Unless State laws require otherwise or the area is overrun with hunters, it is best to wear neutral colored clothes. In any event, it is a good idea to sew a large square of fluorescent red cloth to the back of your hunting jacket. This is the type of cloth usually used as danger flags by highway crews and it can be readily seen, even in dim light.

A bright red or yellow cap should

always be worn, the color used should depend upon the area being hunted. A yellow cap is good in open areas but is a poor choice in wooded areas adorned in autumn foliage. I, personally, don't care for the fluorescent red caps. While it is true they are easily seen, I have found that the reflection is also quite visible to the game whereas cloth caps are not so noticeable.

**Rifles and Ammo:** Pick out the right tool for the job to be done. While the .30-30 is hard to beat for brushy country and close shots it is hardly the gun for open or semi-open country where the shots may be 200 yards or more. A .30-30 starts dropping fast after 100 yards. Those long shots need a flat-shooting, high-velocity, scope-sighted gun. A .30-06 with 150 grain SP bullets is a good all around choice. Check with your gunsmith for his recommendations on guns and ammo.

Carry a "back up" second rifle, if possible. It's very frustrating to be miles from nowhere and have a firing pin or spring break or a case rupture in the chamber or some other malfunction impossible to repair in the field. Some hunters make up a small packet of a few parts most likely to be needed and carry them instead of a second rifle.

**Sight In Beforehand:** Every gun should be sighted in by the person who is going to use it. No one else can do it for you. Once your rifle is sighted in correctly it will remain so unless it is accidentally dropped or bumped hard or is improperly packed in your gear. If you can't carry it in a gun rack in your car, wrap it up in your sleeping bag.

Go to the range before you leave on your hunt. Be sure to fire ammo you are going to use on the hunt and don't change it! Different brands and bullet weights, whether they be factory or hand loads, will vary with the same sight settings. It may seem expensive to use for sighting in but it could mean the difference between a clean kill and a clean miss. Before you go to the range, practice dry firing with an empty shell to cushion the firing pin. Soon you will get the knack of knowing where the bullet would have hit and you will get used to the trigger pull on that rifle.

Use the steadiest means of aiming available and sight in on a small bull paper target at 25 yds. regardless of what distance shots you might expect to have on your hunt. The average trajectories on most high powered rifles is such that if you center the black at 25 yards the bullet will strike about 2½ inches high at 100 yards; be back in the black at 20 yards; and be about 4 inches low at 250 yards. This is close enough for hunting purposes as the vital lung and heart area on a deer is about 10 inches square. If you do have to try a longer shot all that is necessary is to hold a little high. By sighting in at 25 yards you can hold steadier on the black as the element of human error is minimized at this distance.

Fire three shot groups and make the necessary corrections until you are getting a small group in the center of the black. Then fire a few groups at 100 yards at a regular 100-yard target for a final check. Make any fine or minor adjustments necessary remembering that the shots should strike about 2½ inches high at this range. Be careful in making these final adjustments as a change of only 1/64 inch in your sights will change the point of impact 6 inches on a 200-yard shot.

I once saw two hunters trying to sight in at 300 yards at their camp on the day before the season opened. While one was shooting the other would stand off a way and then check the target and call the results back to the other one with a walkie-talkie. After about 40 rounds they had messed up their scope adjustments so much it was absolutely impossible to tell where the next shot might go. You just can't hold close enough for offhand sighting in shots at this distance. They finally had to give it up as a bad job. They only succeeded in spooking all the game in that area. After a week of hunting they left with one deer between them and it had been shot up so badly I doubt they were able to salvage a ham and front shoulder. No telling how many animals were crippled or wounded, to die later.

**Choosing Your Blind:** Do this before the season opens, if at all possible, whether it be an artificial blind

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or a natural promontory where you can conceal yourself while commanding a good view of a likely area. It is a good idea to be as high as practical for the area you intend to hunt. Air currents are usually rising in the morning as the ground warms up and are descending in the afternoon as it cools. Deer seldom look up and it is unlikely that they will get your scent if you are high. As you will want to be in your blind before daylight be sure you lay out your route so you can find it in the dark on opening day.

If you are hunting a mountainous or hilly area, chances are you may be easily winded due to the altitude. The trick in making any climb easy is to take very SHORT steps and to climb at an angle by zigzagging back and forth instead of trying to make it straight up. This way you won't have to lift your feet so high and you won't be exerting yourself so much. Stop and rest often before you get winded. As you pause, look back over your back trail, and you'll never get lost. Things look quite different when you're backtracking. If you come to a gully, go around the head of it rather than to go down and up again on the other side. Don't lose what altitude you have already gained. Watch your footing closely in rocky areas.

Plan to be at your site before daylight on opening day. In the dark of the moon deer will feed during the daylight hours unless disturbed. During the full moon they will feed at night and bed up during the day. If you have picked out a good spot stay in it all day. The greatest movement of deer is right after daylight and again just before dark. But as the hunter pressure increases the deer will be moving most anytime. It's a good idea to stay in your blind and let the other hunters get them moving. Sooner or later that big buck will come by your stand.

**What To Carry:** The day will be easier on you if you will travel as lightly as possible. Avoid carrying a knapsack heavy with food, gear, etc. Your rifle and ammo in itself will get heavy soon enough. A small flashlight, a few candy bars, a roll or two of mints or fruit flavored lifesavers, a couple of sandwiches in a jacket pocket, a mesh game bag,

a length of stout nylon cord, a sharp hunting or clasp knife, a few clean rags, a police whistle, extra ammo and a small canteen of water should suffice. In open country you should also have a pair of light 6-power binoculars or you can use your scope for scanning the area.

The flashlight is necessary in getting to and from your spot in the dark. The game bag keeps out flies and dirt after you get your buck dressed out. A 25-foot length of 250 pound test nylon cord is useful in raising your rifle (unloaded of course) into a tree blind and for hanging up your deer after you have dressed him out. The rags are used to wipe the blood out of the cavities after dressing out, and for flagging the area so you can return to it for your kill. The police whistle might be worth its weight in gold if you ever need help. Shots and cries for help could go unnoticed or unheard but a police whistle is a foreign sound in hunting country and will be sure to attract attention.

**Opening Day:** You're in your blind and ready to go. Avoid moving about and making any unnecessary noise. Keep a sharp lookout by slowly scanning the area. Turn your eyes rather than your head. Watch the trees and bushes and the open spots will take care of themselves. The deer are naturally cautious, especially the bucks, and will stand for many minutes looking over an open space before venturing out into it. One will usually appear suddenly out of nowhere. DO NOT shoot at a moving bush or a sound! You may kill another hunter or livestock. BE SURE IT'S GAME, BEFORE YOU AIM!

When game is sighted your blood pressure and breathing will increase as the excitement of a possible shot makes your heart jump. If it doesn't, you have no business out hunting. This is called "buck fever" and it affects the novice and the old timer as well. But the "old timer" has learned how to keep it under control.

When you determine it is legal game, try to judge the distance and wait until it is within range before attempting a shot. Wait until you are sure you will be able to hit a vital spot. Rest your rifle stock (not

the barrel) on a limb, rock or anything else that will help you. Keep that finger off the trigger until you're sure your aim is good and you're ready to fire. If you are still shaky, raise your head and take a few deep breaths to settle down. If your finger is on the trigger the excitement may cause you to pull it involuntarily before you are on target. It is better to pass up a shot than risk a crippling shot or a miss that would spook any other nearby game.

**Where to Aim:** There are several vital areas to aim for. Don't try a neck shot unless you are close enough to be certain you will be able to hit the narrow vertebrae. A lung or heart shot is best and it won't spoil much desired meat. This vital area is about 10 inches square. The deer will drop dead with a heart shot but will probably run for 40 to 100 yards with a lung shot and will drop dead after the hemorrhaging drains the blood from its heart.

In taking aim try to imagine that a paper target such as you used at the range is pasted on the deer on the vital spot you have chosen. When the sights get close to the imaginary bullseye carefully lay your finger on the trigger without pressure. Pull off your shot only when the crosshairs get on this spot, and not before. Take your time in getting off your shot and make it good. It only takes one bullet to do the job. Even if the animal is walking you can follow in your sights and be ready as soon as it pauses. If it takes off running and you are not an expert on figuring the lead, let it go.

If you see an animal that appears to have been running hard and has its tongue hanging out or is breathing hard through an open mouth—PASS IT UP!—unless it is a trophy head. Man, horses and Brahma cattle sweat through pores in their skin when overexerted. Dogs, cattle, deer and other animals sweat through their tongues. If you kill an animal in that condition the meat would be so rank you wouldn't be able to eat it. This is probably due to the large amounts of adrenalin pumped by the heart into the blood stream and absorbed by the muscles. So if you expect to have some prime venison for your table don't shoot an animal in this condition.

**After Your Shot:** Stay right where you are for awhile. Don't rush down to your deer or where you saw it last. If it is visible watch carefully and be ready to shoot again if it attempts to get up. If the deer is not in view, watch all openings carefully in the direction where you last saw it. Except on close shots you will usually be able to hear a "thunk" if the bullet hit its mark. Keep watching the clear areas for 15 or 20 minutes. If you do see your deer quite a distance off and it appears to be OK you can chalk up a miss and wait for another one.

If, however, you haven't sighted it in 20 minutes, carefully look over the spot where you saw it last and memorize distinguishing rocks, bushes, trees, limbs or other objects. Do this before you leave your stand as it will look different when you get there. Carefully work out a criss-cross search pattern across the route the deer most likely took.

If you hit it you will most likely find it within 100 yards either dead or stiffened up. Work quietly because if the deer is not dead it will hear you before you see it and move out ahead of you if you are noisy. More wounded deer are lost by the hunter moving in too soon than any other way.

**Approach Your Kill With Caution:** Many hunters have been injured and a few killed by "dead" animals. Antlers and razor-sharp hooves can be lethal weapons. Approach your game slowly and walk all the way around it as a safe distance. Look at the eyes and watch for any sign of breathing before you approach too closely. If the animal appears dead, cautiously poke at it with your extended rifle barrel. If it is still alive, another shot is good insurance.

I know an experienced hunter who became careless one time. When his

"dead" deer lunged and tried to get up, he got so excited he used his rifle to club it to death. He broke off the stock and sure ruined a good rifle and scope. Afterwards he couldn't explain why he clubbed it instead of shooting it again.

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## Deer Skin Moccasins

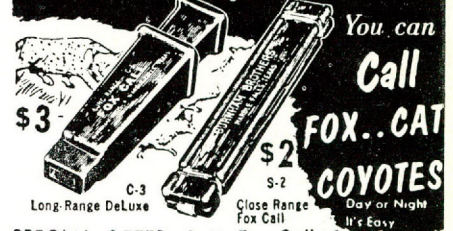
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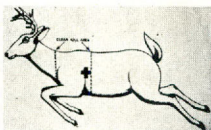
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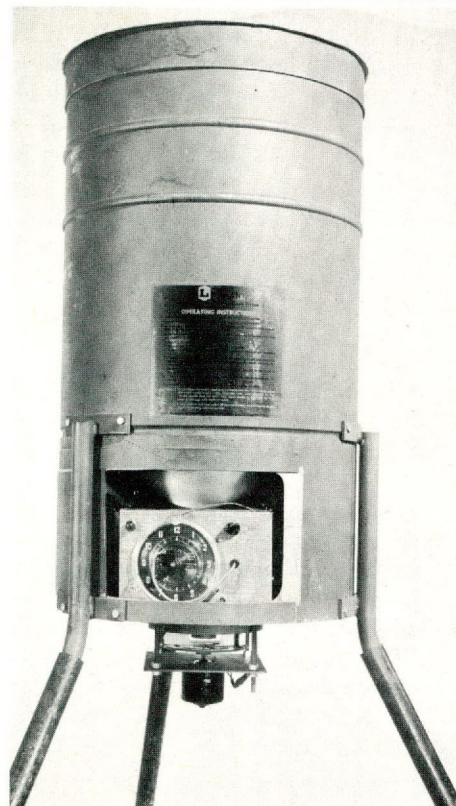
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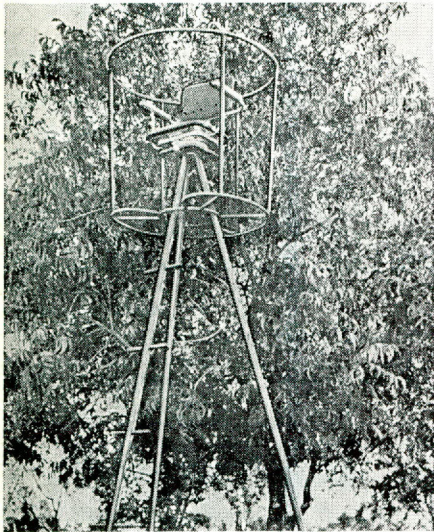
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

## Hang your deer by its hind legs.

Hints for Your Hunts \_\_\_\_\_ From Page 19

**Dressing Out Your Kill:** It is not necessary to cut the throat. The carcass will bleed well if dressed properly. Lay the animal out on its back and kneel down with your knees on the hind legs to spread them out. Remove the reproductive organs by cutting around them through the skin only and following the bladder tube to the vent. Cut off the tube near the testicles and tie it in a knot so the bladder fluid will not get on the meat.

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Next, insert a sharp knife through the skin at the hind legs, and carefully cut through the abdominal wall. Lift up with two fingers as you cut up the belly so you will not puncture the intestines or other organs.

If you intend having the head mounted, stop your cut when you get to the rib cage, otherwise cut through clear into the neck. Cut the diaphragm away from the ribs.

Now go back to the hind quarters and split the pelvis bone. This bone is joined with cartilage which can be cut if you hit the right spot. If not, you may have to use a rock to pound your knife thru the bone. Next, cut the hide all around the vent and make sure it is cut free. Now reach up into the neck or chest cavity as far as you can reach and cut the throat and windpipe. By pulling on this you can empty the carcass of lungs, heart, liver, intestines, etc., by working toward the hindquarters.

Turn the carcass over on a log or rock, head elevated, or hang it up to let the blood drain out of all the cavities.

After the draining is complete wipe out all remaining blood with clean rags until dry. If you were unfortunate enough to make a gut shot or you cut an intestine while dressing out, you can clean the cavity with rags or handfuls of dry grass. DO NOT wash your deer with water at any time. The meat will spoil very quickly if washed with water.

You can clean it up very good with rags and the meat will not be spoiled if it is cleaned right away.

Blow flies are found in many areas in warm weather and a carcass will soon be blown if unprotected. To prevent this, pull your mesh game bag over the carcass as soon as possible. Be sure it is tied tight so no flies can get in. If your bag is large enough it is also a good idea to cover the mouth, nostrils and eyes.

If you have to leave the carcass to get help in transporting it back to your camp be sure you mark the spot with cloth streamers tied in a tree or in some other manner so you can find it without difficulty when you return. If you can handle the carcass hang it up in a tree by the hind legs with the nylon cord. Notice butchers hang their carcasses by the hind legs. They know that hanging by the head will cause blood to drain into the hams and spoil their flavor.

Don't tie your deer to your car fender when you head for home. They sure look pretty up there but the engine heat will permeate the meat and you'll have spoiled venison. Better to put it in the trunk and prop the lid open or tie it on the top of the car.

The foregoing are just a few general hints that may help you make a successful hunt. There are many more things you will learn from your own experiences, but I hope these few suggestions will help you to Be Careful — Be Safe — and Have Fun! \*\*

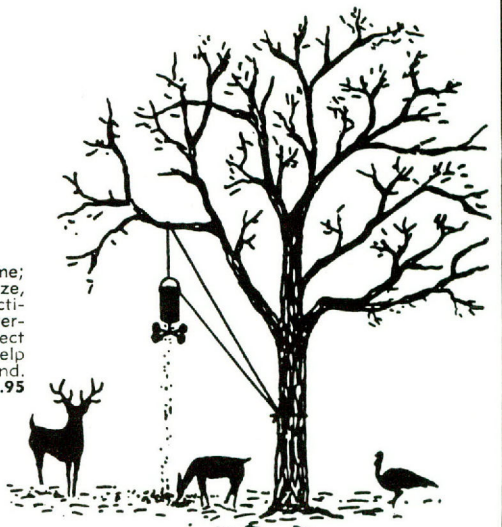
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DEALERS WANTED



**He's a born artist at chin music.**

*Defiance to the Last \_\_\_\_\_ From Page 12*

them. By that time I'd recovered a position to help crowd the wolf to the beach. Dave Johnson roped him twice with a stiff manila rope but the wolf slipped out of the noose before he could tighten it up.

When the wolf hit the water of the Gulf I looked over my shoulder and there was my pa swinging his rope. The wolf headed out to sea but pa roped him just before his horse reached swimming water. Note the limp, wet rope he used, hanging from his saddle horn.

He high-tailed it for high ground to keep a tight line so the wolf couldn't cut the rope. Just as he reached the salt grass line the hound pack arrived. It was then that the wolf stiffened and died. You can rule out the possibility of chilling because the Gulf water was fairly warm (late September).

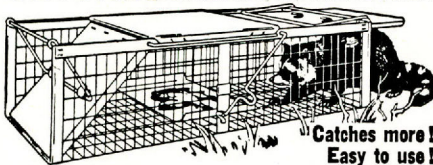
I saw this same thing happen to two other wolves on different hunts, just as the hounds started chewing on them. They just seemed to stiffen as if hit by an electric jolt, and never moved a hair afterwards. These wolves were not old, worn out wolves, but animals in good condition and fairly young.

There is one thing I'd like to say here and that is I've never heard a wolf utter a sound when chained up in captivity, or under pressure on the wolf chase, or at the kill on being captured at the end of the chase. This won't hold good though, when he's in his wild free state.

On a clear crisp night you may hear him giving off enough yipping, yapping and chopped off whining barks, with an occasional yowl to make you think there is an eight or ten wolf, wolf pack at hand. Wolf pack? . . . Nonsense! He's a born artist at deception, with his wolf "chin music."

The Judge claims he hunted old Lobo for the bounty, but he's not fooling me about the thrill he forgot to mention, of the high pitched notes of a Walker, the standard music of a Black and Tan, the soulful, throaty bugling of old Blue Tick, the lead dog; or of the sight of a man-sized lobo, approximately thirty or thirty-two inches at the shoulders, stretched out in full flight, seeming to flow across the range with his shoulders never over twenty-two inches from the ground. When he's stretched out that low to the ground, he is not fooling around, but making knots, and I have yet to see a horse or hound that could get anywhere near him when he makes the initial dash at the start of a chase, or even after he gets his second wind.

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Swan Song? . . . What Swan Song? Old Lobo is still out there, in memory, that is. \*\*

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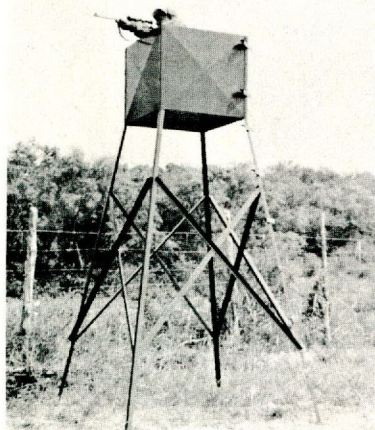
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# Hunting For a Place to Hunt

by GALE E. NEVILL, JR.

**I**N TEXAS, where there is very little public land and a very limited amount of public hunting, one of the major problems of the man wishing to enjoy this sport is finding a place to hunt. To the old-timer,

who has lived in an area for many years, the problem may not seem serious; however, for a newly-arrived city-dweller the situation probably seems impossible. The goal here is primarily to provide this bewil-

dered newcomer with some insight into the overall Texas hunting situation, and into how to go about looking for a place to hunt and what to expect during the search.

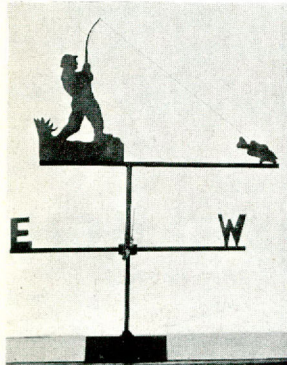
Before discussing the big game situation, which is the major problem, a few general comments on other types of hunting seem in order. Finding a place to hunt varmints is rather easy, usually entailing a simple request for permission from a landowner—who is quite happy to grant it so long as gates are closed, livestock not shot, etc. For small game, such as doves and rabbits, and to a lesser extent, quail and squirrel, a free hunting place can probably be found through a friend who knows a farmer or a rancher. Also, varmint hunting often leads to invitations to hunt game animals and birds. Of course, small game hunting may be

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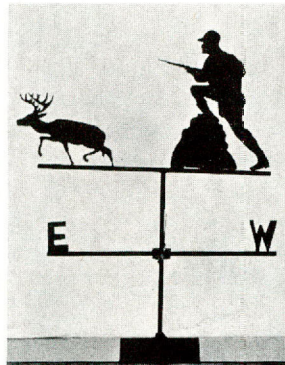
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included as part of big game hunting privileges.

Since the hunting of water fowl and of antelope represent rather specialized situations, they will not be discussed except to suggest contacting the chambers of commerce of Alpine, Marfa, Marathon, Ft. Stockton, Amarillo and Dalhart for antelope hunting and various cities in the Rice Belt and along the Coast for water fowl. Javelina also represent a special situation, being classed almost as varmints in some South Texas counties where they may be hunted all year round.

For big game, which in Texas is primarily the white-tail deer and the wild turkey, unless you own land or have a very good friend who does, you must search out and pay for hunting privileges.

The leasing of hunting privileges may be on a daily or seasonal basis.

Since landowners who day-lease generally advertise, finding such a place (usually at \$10-\$15 per day) is not difficult. Here, too, you can write the chambers of commerce. Locating a season lease, on the other hand, is not at all easy. The simplest way is to fill a vacancy on an existing lease. However, if you want to make up a congenial group of friends to hunt with, then the problem is to locate an appropriate lease which is open and make up a group of friends to fill it.

Perhaps the first question to ask

• Continued on Page 26

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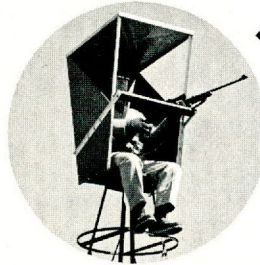
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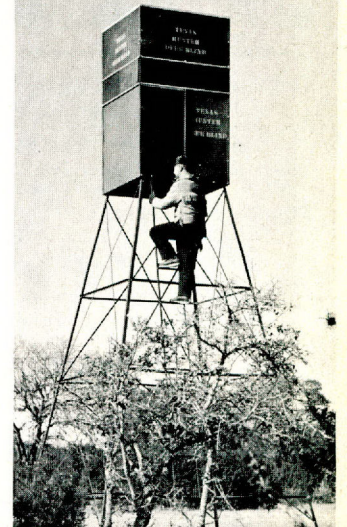


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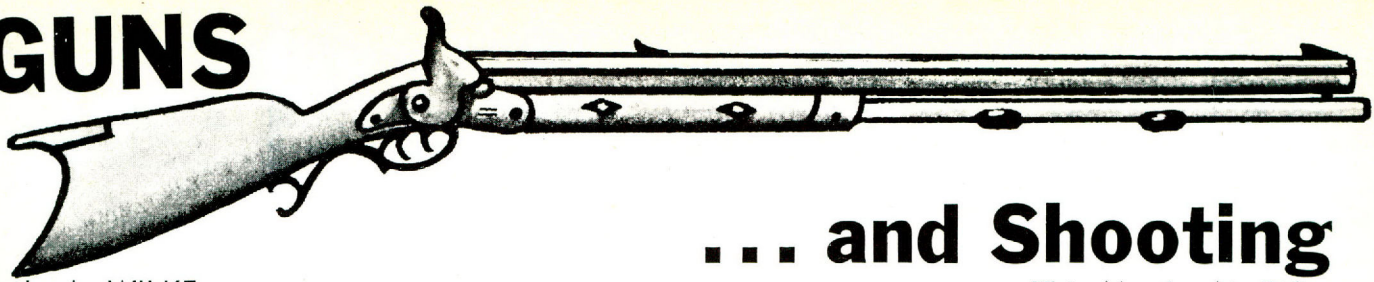
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# GUNS



By L. A. WILKE

**T**HERE'S hardly a hunter today who didn't get his start with a BB gun. Air rifles have filled many Christmas stockings and answered the question of what to give Johnny for his birthday.

Usually these BB guns accounted for the first kill; perhaps an unlucky sparrow. Sometimes they pushed little holes through windows, but basically the pellet gun furnished

one of the first steps between boyhood and manhood.

A few years ago BB guns came in very few models. The first was a choice between single shot and repeater. Then came the lever and pump action. Today a person can choose from a dozen or more beautiful and efficient models. Some are lever action, spittin' images of the old-time 94 Winchester. Available also are duplicates of the Remington pump action, very closely representing dad's big gun. And, in between, there are dozens of models and styles of gas operated guns.

Some are automatic and will fire from 10 to 50 shots to a cylinder of gas. These are built in high-power and low-power, quite capable of killing rabbits. These generally, however, are for the more advanced shooters. For the youngster just getting started, the little lower power BB gun is still the favorite and less dangerous.

And speaking of danger, it must be remembered always, they can be dangerous if improperly handled. With every BB gun there should be a never-ending lesson in gun safety.

For those who plan to buy pellet guns this fall, quite a few new models are available. Perhaps the latest is the Daisy Model 26, one of those "spittin' image" repeaters, this one closely resembling the Remington .22. It is a slide action pump, with

## ... and Shooting

This Month: Air Rifles

an under barrel loading magazine which holds 45 BBs. It is a take down, with cross-bolt safety and step adjusting sight.

And Crosman, which has advanced the gas operated guns, not only has several new models in the making, but has produced a real telescope sight that can be mounted on any of the present model air rifles in just a few minutes. It gives 4-power accuracy. Crosman also has several new gas operated pistols this year which are proving very effective in target shooting.

Benjamin has announced a new Hot Shot BB Carbine which packs a terrific punch. It will drive steel BBs through both sides of a 5-gallon steel pail. Benjamin also has a full line of regular BB air rifles in pump action.

Then there is Sheridan, which makes not only the BB rifle in the .177 caliber, which is the standard size, but it also makes one that shoots .22 caliber slugs or darts.

In shotguns there is a new Charles Daly over/under on the market in both 12 and 20 gauges. It sells for a little under \$300. Daly is one of the old companies, with a longer record of European manufacture.

For those interested in reloading there is a handloading set now on the market that sells for less than \$10.

It is the Lee reloader, available for both rifle and shotgun shells. It is a precision set for handloading where quantity is not required on short notice. For the average shooter who wants to reload either rifle or shotgun ammunition it seems a very practical item.

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## Do Texans want a game bird?

Time for Decision \_\_\_\_\_ From Page 11

Department's efforts is to determine the best methods of growing native whitewing cover. To date four species, Texas ebony (*Pithecolobium flexicaule*), anaqua (*Ehretia anacua*), desert hackberry (*Celtis paltida*), and brasil (*Condalia obovata*), have received the greatest attention since they are among the most preferred species utilized by nesting white-wings.


Another species which may have distinct possibilities is huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*). This latter species grows very rapidly and it is thought that it would be easily propagated, as it represents a "weed" species in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Certainly, the limited amount of research which has been possible to date indicates it is feasible to establish native brush nesting cover artificially.

There are certain drawbacks to the reestablishment of native, brush-nesting habitat. It is felt that it

would require 6-10 years to grow brush from seedlings. Costs would be relatively high. To be sure, the ultimate cost of a program aimed at establishing 1,000 acres of brush habitat capable of supporting 200,000 white-winged doves cannot be ascertained with any reasonable degree of accuracy at this time.

The stakes are high. The question is, do Texans want to guarantee the continuance of the whitewing as a game bird, or will they be satisfied to let fate control the destiny of the bird? The decision needs to be made

soon—whitewing, game bird or song bird? \*\*



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2½- or 3-Power

**Consult rod or gun groups in your area.**  
**A Place to Hunt** ————— **From Page 23**

is . . . When? For the coming season, Now or Sooner is the answer. However, from a long range point of view, you should start in January—which is the time leases are either renewed or allowed to expire.

The next question is . . . Where and How to Look? There are certainly many ways which might work. First, be sure and tell all your friends—particularly your hunting friends—that you are looking. Con-

tact any rod or gun groups in your area and various sporting goods stores. The outdoor writer for your newspaper can often be helpful and, of course, you might try putting an ad in the newspaper.

Another approach which might be considered is to use a broker who deals in hunting leases. These can usually be identified by looking through the newspaper classified section where they often advertise a particular lease . . . plus "others." You will recognize them through the same name or phone number occurring repeatedly. Just like real estate brokers, they charge a nice fee for putting you in contact with an appropriate lease, so you will naturally pay more if you work through a broker than if you do it yourself. It is also wise to keep in mind that brokers have an observed tendency to exaggerate the attractive features of a lease and forget the drawbacks.

The best approach seems to be, however, to pack a picnic lunch, get in the car on a Saturday (which is


better than a Sunday, when many places are closed), and tour the country in which you would like to hunt. On this tour, stop at likely looking gas stations, ice houses, stores, locker plants, restaurants, etc., inquire about the hunting situation, and leave a card on which you have written your name, address, telephone number, and roughly what you are looking for. It may even be worthwhile to visit individual landowners, but since probably 95 per cent of leases are renewed each year, this is not very productive in terms of the time required.

With perseverance, after a few weeks (or perhaps months) you will be looking at leases and trying to decide which is the one for you. The situation has then been changed to one of evaluation of leases to decide on their appropriateness and quality.

Certainly, you will want to consider many of the natural features of a particular place. These will include the distance and driving time from home, the size and shape of the place, the presence of roads within and nearby, the existence of various facilities such as cabins, tanks, and places to camp and the presence of blinds and feed pens. You probably will also want to consider a potential lease from the point of view of safe hunting, investigate the adjoining property, check into any surveys on the deer and turkey population which have been made and, of course, the general terrain features such as the presence of covered areas, open areas, hills, springs, and creeks.


There are also certain questions which should be discussed with the landowner. One involves the possibility of doe permits for the next year. It is also desirable to find out about the preceding year as to who hunted, their success, and why they didn't renew their lease. At this stage, you certainly want to check on the possibility of hunting small

• Continued on Page 29

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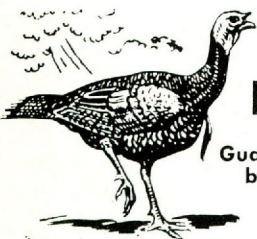

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# Texas

# Tackle Talk

by CURTIS CARPENTER



**M**ANY LAKES in Texas are so infested with various types of aquatic vegetation that it's difficult for the average fisherman to drag his lures through the best fish hangouts. My advice here is: **DON'T** let the moss scare you away! I heard one of the nation's best bass fishermen say just the other day, "Moss doesn't grow too thick for bass."

The real problem is, what can I use to fish the moss? An extremely weedless lure, of course. And there are some on the market. A weedless hook with a piece of pork rind on it works very well. One of my favorite lures for the big hogs that hang out in moss is an Uncle Josh pork frog on a 3.0 weedless hook. Sometimes this same frog on a Rex Spoon or Johnson Minnow works wonders. A new lure just out called the Weed Wing is one of the best moss lures ever designed. Even a weedless hook with a plastic worm will work wonders. Skeeter Hetzel, an Austin fisherman who makes lures, has a weedless hook which should be very popular with the worm fisherman. It can be used with a worm in moss without hanging up or collecting grass.

The secret of using any one of these artificials is keeping them on top of the moss. Many times the spoons should be retrieved fast enough so they will skim along right on the surface. At other times it's best to bring them in a jump at a time. If the moss is extremely thick, the lures will rest atop the moss just as if they were floating. With a

twitch of the rod tip some dangerous action can be created. This often is accomplished by keeping the rod tip high.

Don't think for a minute big bass will refuse to take a bait on top of the moss. He'll come crashing through growth so thick you'd think not even a swift arrow could penetrate. When the big one grabs a moss-gliding lure the next problem is getting him out. At times the only thing you can do is paddle over and dig him out. I always worry about this after I get him on. I've seen the big ones churn a path across the surface of matted moss like a weedless propeller. Many times bass take advantage of grass to twist a hook out. Heavy line in the 15- or 20-pound class is highly recommended when dragging thick weeds for bass. Don't give a hooked lunker any slack when he buries deep in his moss haven. Keep the line tight and work your way over to a position near enough to dig him out.

Don't listen to those who say the moss is too thick. Fish the edges in the early mornings and late evenings. When you have done this, plop a weedless lure clear across a bed and drag it over the surface. Try it fast and try it in jerks if the moss is thick enough to support the lure. Sometimes you need to let it settle if a bass hits short. It may not work every time, but when it does you'll be a bass better. Don't be disappointed if it doesn't work the first time. Practice will make a regular moss fisherman out of the average

angler. Just don't be afraid to try the thick, water weeds. It never gets too dense for the big bass nor too thick for the fisherman. \*\*

## Thumb Saver

Not too long back, I was introduced to a little item which proved very useful and it has helped my casting considerably. It's called a Magic Thumb Rest. The little gadget fits at the back of most open-faced casting reels. With this attachment you need use only the last joint of your thumb in making casts and working your reel. The grip is fine and casts are just naturally improved. The CC Company, Box 4055, Dallas 8, makes them.

## Hot New Bait

This letter came from Herman C. Hoffman, Jr., Llano: "An enterprising angler of California, fishing at Lake Merced near San Francisco discovered a "new shot" bait for trout—marshmallows. He used the miniature size which come in plastic bags in several colors. An advantage to loading up on this bait is, if the trout don't bite you can always munch marshmallows."

Never can tell, he may have something that will work on Texas fish, too!

## Shrimp Secrets

Speckled trout usually hit at the heads of live shrimp. Therefore, the place to insert the hook is the head. However, to keep from killing your shrimp, try hooking them through the needle-like spine running across the top of their heads. Just force the point of the hook past the barb, gently, at the back part of this spine. The shrimp will be free to snap and move about. It'll stay alive much longer and catch more fish. \*\*

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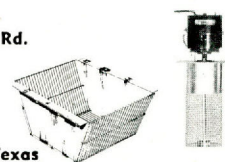
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# What Others Are Doing

by JOAN PEARSALL

**BRAINSTORM:** One of nature's unsolved mysteries—moose sickness—may be a step closer to solution. A sick moose shot in Minnesota this spring was found to be infested with a long, thin, white worm—pneumostromgylus tenuis. A study team of the Minnesota University College of Veterinary Medicine examined the moose. The discovery of the parasites in the brain of the animal is of major importance in the search for the cause of moose sickness—a condition wherein the animal loses weight, wanders about aimlessly in circles and loses its fear of natural enemies, including man. Moose sickness has puzzled wildlife researchers since the 1930's and results in occasional losses in moose populations throughout North America.

**RESOURCEFUL JUNIORS:** More than 650 youngsters attended West Virginia's first Youth Conservation Day in May. Over-all winner for the best conservation project in the state were a Junior Girl and Boy Scout Troop, for a flood control project. Other divisions also produced winners, for outstanding individual efforts in conservation. A Conservation Boy of the Year and Conservation Girl were chosen, both youngsters receiving a gold medal and scholarship to the Annual West Virginia Conservation Camp. Since the program was started, more than 440 youth and adult organizations, involving some 23,000 people, in all of the state's 55 counties, have participated.

**PRICE OF A PET:** In Arkansas, it is unlawful "to destroy, rob or disturb the nest or eggs of any game bird or to chase, take or molest the young of any game or fur-bearing animal, except during the open hunting season or except

as provided for by special regulation." Violations are punishable by a fine of \$25 to \$250. Under the special regulation, if a \$2.50 permit is obtained, certain wild animals and birds may be kept as pets, if retained in the owner's possession. The permits are issued for the following only: raccoon, opossum, squirrel, rabbit, skunk, deer and quail. Fines from \$100 to \$500 may be imposed for violation of this regulation.

**POTHOLES FOR PENNIES:** Engineers and game managers of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission have come up with a new technique to create low-cost potholes for wildlife. Ammonium nitrate, a common nitrogen fertilizer, costs a little over four cents a pound, one-tenth as much as dynamite. When Number 2 diesel oil is added, the resulting mixture has about the same power as dynamite. In Wisconsin this was used to blast 107 potholes at a cost of \$3-5 a hole. In an era of disappearing waterfowl production sites, these inexpensive potholes may be one way sportsmen and conservation departments can create new habitat to save the ducks.

**D-DETECTION:** In Sweden, scientists are so concerned about widespread contamination by poisonous insecticides that they have asked for substantial funds and swift action to find simple methods of diagnosis and removal. Samples taken from Stockholm hospital patients having abdominal operations have showed DDT in the tissues. Contamination of fish and game is also considered to be alarming and a large-scale investigation is planned. Swedish ornithological societies will help in examination of thousands of birds and their eggs.

**Contracts are verbal agreements.**

*A Place to Hunt* ————— *From Page 26*

game and varmints and just "bumming around" learning the place during the year. Be sure and clarify the question of bringing wives, children, and guests. Finally, you will want to know for sure who else, if anyone, including the landowner, his brother, his friends, etc., will be hunting also.

Finally, after looking over a place and talking with the landowner, you are ready to begin final negotiations. The cost of leasing a given place can vary widely, depending upon its location, facilities, the number of hunters to be allowed, and the deer population as well as the feelings of

the individual landowner. Therefore, only some rough guidelines can be given as to what to expect. Representative numbers are \$100 and 100 acres per hunter. Although prices range from \$50 to over \$200 per hunter, usually the hunting cost (independent of fancy facilities and other special features) works out to about \$1.00 per acre per season—thus a 500-acre place would cost a total of \$500 for the season. The usual practice seems to be a payment of one-half the total price to close the deal and the other one-half early in November, just before the start of the deer and turkey season. There seems to be no general rule on contracts, most being simply verbal agreements with the landowner.

It is hoped that the comments presented here will be of some help to a person in finding and evaluating a place to hunt and in keeping from getting "stung" in the process. Also, a final bit of advice; after plunking down your dollars, make sure you get your money's worth—learn the place, build your blinds in the right places, carefully sight in your rifle *before* the season, and be there before daylight on opening day. \*\*

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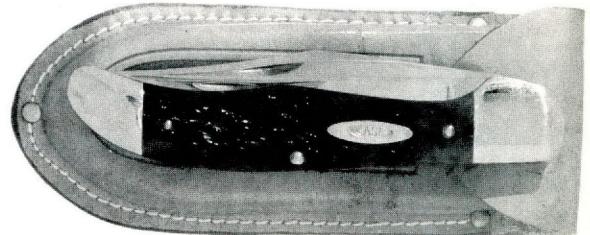
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 Salt and pepper  
 1/4 cup butter or margarine  
 1/4 cup chopped onion  
 1 cup chopped tart apple

1 cup chopped dried apricots  
 3 cups soft bread crumbs  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1/8 teaspoon pepper  
 4 to 6 slices bacon  
 Melted bacon fat

Sprinkle goose inside and out with lemon juice, salt and pepper. Melt butter or margarine in a large saucepan. Add onion and cook until tender. Stir in apple, apricots, bread crumbs, salt and pepper.

Spoon stuffing lightly into cavity. Truss bird. Cover breast with bacon slices and cheesecloth soaked in melted bacon fat. Cook as for above recipe.

Place goose breast up on rack in roasting pan. Roast at 325° F. 20 to 25 minutes per pound or until tender, basting frequently with drippings in pan. If age of goose is uncertain, pour 1 cup water into pan and cover last hour of cooking. Remove cheesecloth, skewers and string. Serves 6 to 8.

## ROASTING TIMES:

Very small goose, 4-6 pounds: 1 to 1 1/2 hours  
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 Regular goose, 10-15 pounds: 2 to 3 hours

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# Outdoor Books



**THE DEER HUNTER'S BIBLE**, by George Laycock, 154 pages illustrated with black and white photographs, soft cover. Published by Doubleday and Company, Garden City, N.Y. \$1.95.

I went to the library shelf marked outdoor sports. At a section containing books on hunting, I paused to note the dozens of guides available to those who hunt each year. Then I wondered how many folks actually search out the wisdom of those who have gone before, to learn hunting tricks from the written words of pros who write their hearts out hoping to help someone enjoy a popular sport. George Laycock put together a simple guide called the **DEER HUNTER'S BIBLE**. It's easy to read and contains much valuable information concerning the art of hunting deer.

A hunter needs to know all he can about deer. He should understand something about how deer live so he'll know how to look for the deer. The author has a chapter on each of these subjects. What about the whitetail? "There are at least 30 known subspecies of whitetail," says the author. "You have to get out the calipers and the charts and keys to tell many of the subspecies apart."

On page seven of the book is a graph which can be used to determine the live weight, hog-dressed weight and/or edible-meat weight of your deer if you know one of the three. For instance if you have a deer when hog-dressed weighs 120 pounds, it would weigh 154 pounds alive and there would be about 87 pounds of edible meat on the deer. If a deer alive weighed 120 pounds, it would field dress at 92 pounds and produce about 66 pounds of edible meat. If you end up with 80 pounds of edible meat, your deer would have dressed out at 111 pounds and weighed 143 pounds alive, according to the chart.

The author includes chapters on trophy hunting, shotguns for deer hunting, the

deer rifle, and other equipment for deer hunting. One chapter on shooting deer points out, "There are several reasons for misses or poor shots at deer. Among the common ones," says the author, "are inability to judge distance, shooting at a running deer, lack of knowledge of the deer's anatomy, lack of skill in gun handling, failure to understand the trajectory of your bullet, and nervousness or buck fever."

I learned some tricks in caring for my kill in the field and how to fix my venison at home to last through the year, and to get the most of the natural flavor. Chapter 12 gives some hints on where deer hunting is best, and the next chapter touches on hunting with bow and arrow. There are hazards in deer hunting, and chapter 14 mentions many of these.

The author doesn't go into great detail where it's not needed. He gives his readers enough to get started. We all know that to really become a seasoned hunter we will need seasoning. This happens only after many trips into the woods. But there are some facts which we all should have before leaving home—or even planning an adventure, as a matter of fact. Laycock has truly come up with a guide, though inexpensive, that every beginning hunter should read.—Curtis Carpenter.

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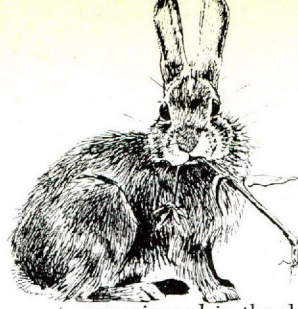
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# Letters



# to the Editor

## Reef Reward



Editor:

Enclosed is a picture of an amberjack I caught while fishing for red snapper at the 65 mile reef out of Freeport. It was five feet long and weighed close to 50 lbs.

I enjoy your magazine very much, especially articles about Gulf fishing.

Greg Cbbison  
Houston

(A haul like that was worth interrupting your red snapper fishing for!—Editor)

## Handloading Hints

Editor:

I was born in Ohio and I work in California . . . neither fact a matter of personal choice. I was brought up in the pine woods of East Texas and the Lone Star country is loaded with my kinfolk. I am therefore a "native" Texan by choice!

For reasons stated, I was particularly happy to receive a gift subscription to *Texas Game and Fish*. The nostalgic flavor of your magazine's stories recall for me a lot of pleasant memories and I look forward to each issue enthusiastically.

Speaking of kinfolk, I notice mention of my cousin Bill Hudgins of Huntsville. "Billy-Dan" and I have been out of touch for several years and, though I had heard he was involved in conservation work, it was nice to see something about him.

I read with interest your story, "Aim for Excellence." This type of article performs a definite service to sportsmen who are in-

experienced in the details of "customizing" hunting rifles.

Also on the subject of the converted military surplus rifle—or, for that matter, any gun for which handloading is done—I would like to add something to your admonition, "Every rifle has a maximum capacity for handling ammunition." Any sportsman, upon deciding to begin handloading, should first purchase a handloading manual. These manuals are published by several handloading component manufacturers and are usually available at gun shops.

The manual should be the guide when it comes to choosing powder type, powder quantity and bullet weight. It is also wise for the neo-handloader to reduce, by about 10%, the quantity of powder listed as maximum. It should also be remembered that the best load is quite often the load that is less than maximum and that each gun is a machine that demands individual consideration with respect to matters of pressure tolerance: The load that may be recommended as ideal by a friend for his rifle, is not necessarily optimum for another gun . . . even though the calibers may be similar. A good safety rule can be applied to starting to reload any cartridge—Always choose the powder that is rated the slowest burning powder that will work in the cartridge to be reloaded. The choice of a less dense powder helps minimize the hazards of overloading.

Dan Cotterman  
Handloading Editor  
Azusa, California

(We really appreciate your taking the time to send us this additional information on handloading, and are certain our readers will, too. It's good to hear from such an enthusiastic booster as yourself, of Texas and our magazine. Hope you can return to stay some day. In the meantime, you are being a good ambassador for sure.—Editor)

## Super Snoopers

Editor:

If you or someone in your department can answer the following question, I and others will be deeply grateful.

Very frequently I observed trained and untrained dogs "pick up" and follow the tracks of wildlife—e.g., rabbits, racoons, fox, wolf, deer, etc. No matter where the dogs pick up the scent—at the outset or a distance off, always they will trail in the direction where the animal ran, never backwards. What is the explanation?

John J. Hanacek  
Shiner

(You asked a good question. Our guess is that the dog goes in the direction of a

running rabbit instead of backtracking because it can tell which way the scent is strongest. The dog not only follows tracks but also scent left on grass, weeds and branches, which would be stronger toward the animal in chase than in the opposite direction. Often a dog, after picking up a scent, will move up and down it a few times to check which way to rush off after its quarry.—Editor)

## No Taste For Waste

Editor:

I live at Gatesville, Coryell County. I went duck hunting last year, about two miles north of the city and walked up on a big bunch of migratory ducks. Snow was all over the ground. River was up a little. I held my fire on account of not wanting to destroy too many birds. Immediately they took to flight. I aimed my gun at one of them. But still I did not fire on account of having to walk down the river two miles, cross a concrete bridge, then up river on other side two miles. By the time I did all of this and picked up one bird I would have made a round trip of at least 8½ miles when I reached home. I have always made a strict rule to get only enough to eat for my family.

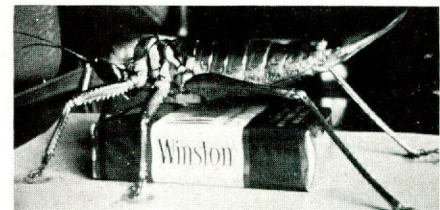
Alex Chatham  
Gatesville

(Thank you for telling us of this duck hunting experience. The thoughtfulness you showed indicates a fine sportsman, genuinely interested in wildlife.—Editor)

## Whopper Hopper

Editor:

The enclosed photograph was taken in the vicinity of Diyarbakir, Turkiye. It is real. The Hopper looks and acts just like



our grasshopper, except for size. There were other Hoppers seen that were larger than this one; however, we were unable to catch one.

Methinks it would not take very long for a horde of these Bullies to strip a field of its crops. What do you think?

M. E. Wilkins, Jr., Lt. Col. (Ret.)  
San Antonio

(This furriner is one we are glad to concede is larger than Texas size. We certainly wouldn't underestimate what it could do to a crop field!—Editor)



# Junior Sportsmen

## A Favorite Spot

by PAT EASTES



Our special feature this month comes from one of our more senior Junior Sportsmen. The author is 17 years old and plans to major in Wildlife Management at Texas A&M. He also sent us an earlier picture of himself, shown at left; with a largemouth bass caught at Camp Creek Lake. We think you will agree that Pat's special lake sounds mighty tempting.

**L**OCATED in Northern Robertson County, Camp Creek Lake has been my home away from home for as long as I can remember. This is a private lake, full of bass, crappie, bream and weeds, and, on most spring and summer afternoons, full of fishermen.

Some big bass have been known to come from the depths of this lake, although the largest I have been able to get hold of are in the four pound class. The best lures I have found for the old boys are the silver-spoon-with-pork-rind kind, along with plastic worms and eels.

All of the fishing to be had here is fine, but this lake is more than that. You can wake up in the morning and be in the wilderness, and without trying very hard you will see a couple of whitetails.

The whitetail deer in this area are almost too plentiful to

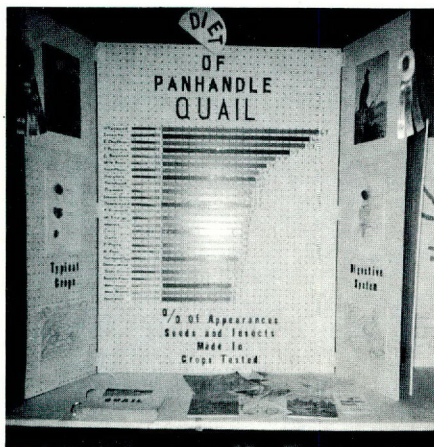
believe. Since it is a private lake and nobody is allowed to kill anything but nutria, ducks and geese of legal kind and doves (all in season, of course) the deer are so tame that one could almost feed them by hand as if they were in a zoo. The squirrels are much the same.

For example, while fishing along the bank from a boat, my father and I spied two deer down the lake about 100 yards away. They were feeding along the bank, and as we drifted towards them it became apparent that they were about as worried about us as I was that I would hook the world record largemouth in the next cast. The closest we got to them was about 30 feet (we were in the boat and they on the shore); and they never showed a flag, even when we whistled, hollered, and beat on the sides of the boat. They finally tired of us and moved on up the lake.

Of course, I had stupidly left the camera at home. I have always seemed to do this at the most inappropriate times, but I vow that I shall start bringing it from now on. At this lake you could run into six or eight "tame" whitetails at any time, and a picture of a whitetail deer is just about one of the prettiest things there is, unless it's Miss Texas.

Of course, there are also things about the lake that aren't appealing. Things like ticks, chiggers, copperheads, and cottonmouths, but that is a very small price to pay for getting out in the woods and having some good clean fun and seeing a few head of wild game, at that.

### Science Project



and first place in its division at the Shamrock School Fair. At the science fair in Amarillo it won a first place in its division and a \$150 scholarship from the Rotary Club to attend Junior Engineers and Scientists Summer Institute at New Mexico State University. I found this very interesting and educational.

Ruth Porter  
Shamrock

(We are very proud of you, Ruth, and glad that you reaped such fine rewards for all your hard work and study. Let us hear from you about your experiences at the Summer Institute. We hope you have many such successes in the future.—Editor)

### Seven Pound Prize

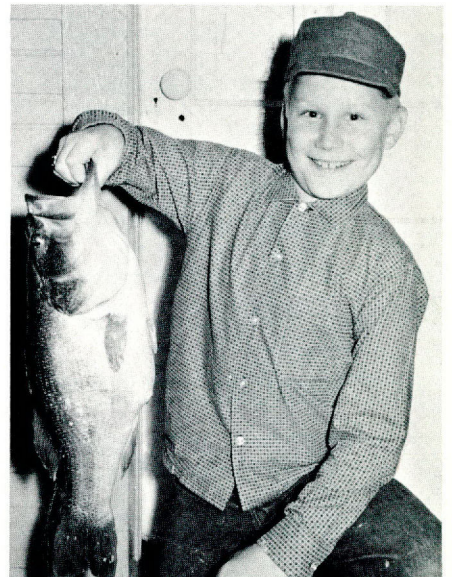
Editor:

Our son is 10 and has caught a black bass which we consider quite a prize. Ricky has been fishing for several years. Like all fishermen, the big one always got away; his last one didn't, however, and weighed seven pounds. As you can see from the smile, he was proud of the one that didn't get away. He has been told by several old pros that he will fish a long time before

seeing one to compare to this one.

Mrs. Dick Pope  
Granger

(It's something to be such a veteran fisherman at 10. Ricky has good cause to be proud of himself.—Editor)



Editor:

Enclosed is a picture of my science project. Mr. A. S. Jackson, game biologist at Canadian, Texas, felt this would be of interest to the magazine. He, along with Mr. Richard De Arment, was my adviser. As you can see, it was the Diet of Panhandle Quail. I spent approximately 65 hours on it. It won the overall first prize



## Cooked Goose

A goose will part with its feathers easily if plucked while still warm, or within an hour of being shot. But if a hunter is understandably reluctant to return from the rice fields shouldering a load of naked geese, defeathering may be done in the privacy of home. Add detergent to a bucket of scalding water and thoroughly soak the bird until its feathers are limp. Detergent removes the oil from them and plucking will not tear the skin. It's best to leave the skin on to prevent the goose from drying out while cooking.

### ROASTED WILD GOOSE

1 goose, 6 to 8 pounds      2 teaspoons salt  
1 apple, sliced              ¼ teaspoon pepper

Fill the goose with sliced apples. Truss bird. Cover breast with bacon slices and cheesecloth soaked in bacon fat. Place goose breast up on rack in roasting pan. Roast at 325° F. 20 to 25 minutes per pound or until tender, basting frequently with drippings in pan. Serves 6 to 8.

### ROASTING TIMES:

Very small goose, 4-6 pounds: 1 to 1½ hours  
Junior grade goose, 7-9 pounds: 1¾ to 2½ hours  
Regular goose, 10-15 pounds: 2 to 3 hours