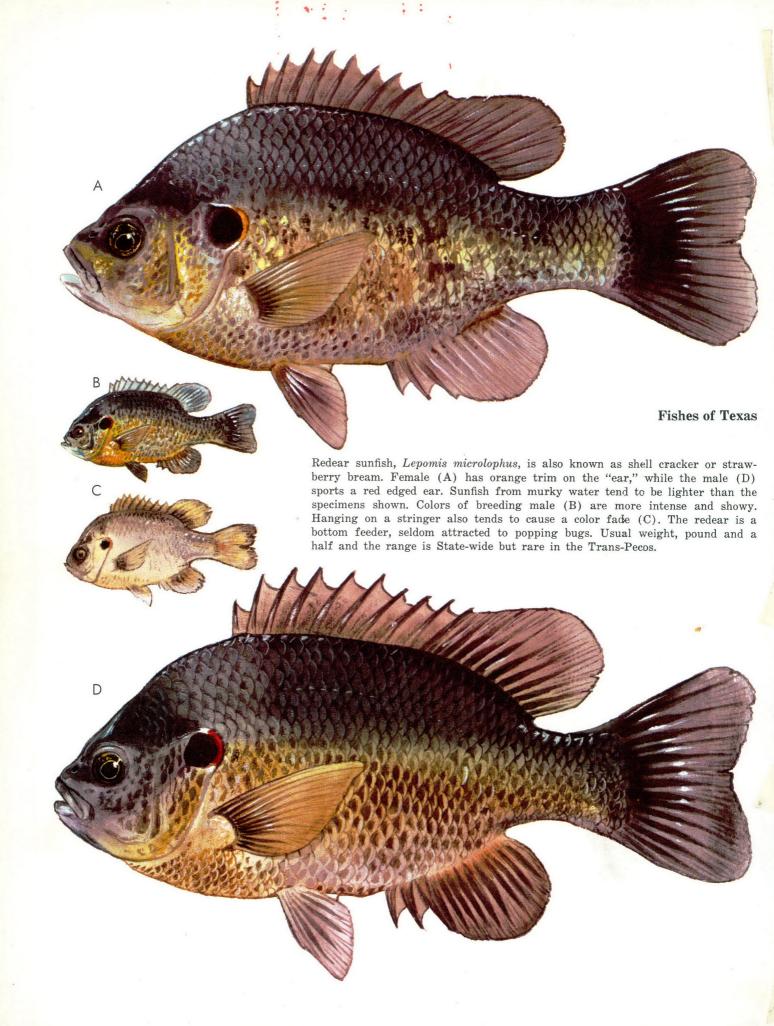
# TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

APRIL 1968

TWENTY CENTS





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#### MAY 1 0 1968

PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE

#### **FEATURES**'S

#### Hemisfair Camping by Howard Barnett

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April, 1968: Vol. XXVI, No. 4

MAY 1 3 1968

Visitors and Texans going to the San Antonio Hemisfair should take PAN AMERICAN COLLEGE advantage of State Parks along the way. EDINBURG, TEXAS

#### Spring Fiesta by Joan Pearsall

With April comes the spring and the explosion of color across Texas as flowers return the blessing of winter moisture.

#### Game Needs vs. Land Use by Horace Gore

11

While hunting takes the blame, land use practices that remove wildlife food and shelter are often the greater causes of game losses.

#### Lake Travis by Frank Etheredge

14

Appearing to be an oriental dragon sleeping in the Colorado River, this lake is truly an outdoor mecca in Central Texas.

#### The Bambi Myth by Clarence Beezley

16

A deer fawn teetering on spindly legs may look helpless and in trouble, but his best chance for survival is to be left in the wild.

#### El Tigre Chiquito by L. D. Nuckles

20

The spotted cat from across the Mexican border is quite selective and prefers the seclusion of the South Texas brush.

#### Lure of the Temptress by Wayne Tiller

24

One trip on a seaworthy sailing yacht and just about anybody will have saltwater in their blood forever more.

#### DEPARTMENTS

Long Shots, Short Casts19	Texas Tackle Talk29
Outdoor Books23	Junior Sportsmen30
Letters to the Editor	



Cover: Wading tidal flats of the Texas coast, a common egret keeps alert to danger while hunting a tasty morsel. Photo by Reagan Bradshaw.



## Hemisfair Camping

by Howard Barnett

HEMISFAIR '68 will bring several million overnight visitors to the San Antonio area, and not all of them will stay in motels and hotels. Many will prefer the quiet solitude of camping, and they will come to Central Texas pulling their travel trailers or lugging their campers and tents. State parks will receive a great many of these campers.

The following is a guide for campers who want to camp within roughly 100 miles of San Antonio.

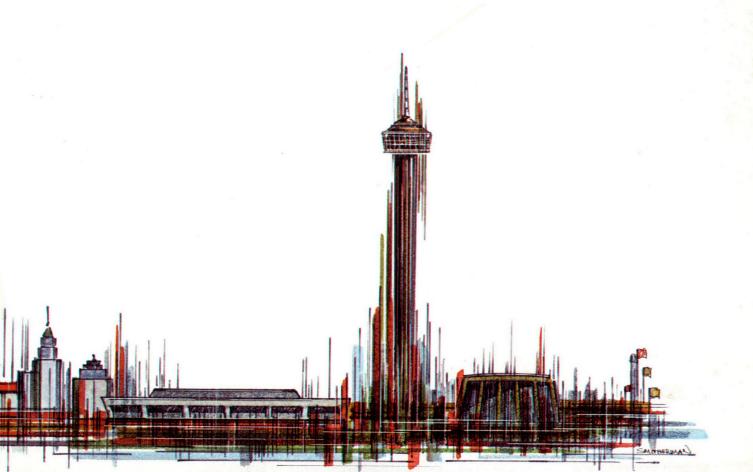
INKS LAKE STATE RECREATION PARK—10 miles west of Burnet. Although having Inks Lake as its main attraction, this 1,200-acre park offers visitors 19 picnic sites, 190 tent camping sites, and 23 screened shelters. Trailer camping is also permitted. Activities include boating, water skiing, swimming, nature study, and hiking. Granite Mountain and the quarry at Marble Falls is near the park. This quarry furnished material for

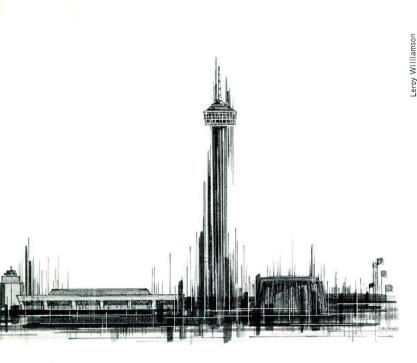
the Texas State Capitol Building.

Also in the area is Longhorn Cavern State Scenic Park. This cave, operated on a concession agreement, has been used since prehistoric man. Robert E. Lee is supposed to have pursued marauding Indians into the cave. The notorious outlaw, Sam Bass, is reported to have used the cave as a hideout and to have hidden \$2,000,000 in holdup loot there. It has yet to be found. The cavern is one of the nation's largest, and has numerous beautiful formations, passages, and chambers formed over millions of years.

BLANCO STATE PARK—one mile south of Blanco. Once used as a campsite by early explorers and settlers, the park now has 18 picnic sites, 8 camping sites, and 6 screened shelters for the modern day camper.

BASTROP STATE SCENIC PARK—one mile







A glowing campfire warms the trail to Hemisfair.

east of Bastrop. This 2,033-acre park is noted for lush green Lost Pines of Texas, isolated from other Texas pine forests by hundreds of miles of prairie. For the camper there are 78 picnic sites, 44 camping sites, 25 trailer sites, a group shelter, and 13 cabins. The park has several recreational attractions including a 10-acre lake, a 60 by 100 foot swimming pool, and a nine hole golf course. Lake Bastrop is nearby, offering over 1,000 acres of good fishing.

BUESCHER STATE RECREATION PARK—two miles northeast of Smithville. Here, among the twisted oak trees and Spanish moss, trailer and tent camping is permitted. Activities in this relatively undeveloped area include fishing in the 25-acre lake, and nature study.

LOCKHART STATE RECREATION PARK—three miles southwest of Lockhart. Visitors may fish, swim, or play golf. Both tent and trailer camping is permitted, and 14 picnic sites are available.

PALMETTO STATE SCENIC PARK—16 miles northwest of Gonzales. This 178-acre State park on the San Marcos River is known as a unique botanical area of sub-tropical vegetation and warm springs. Tent and trailer camping is permitted, and visitors may swim and fish in the San Marcos River.

GOLIAD STATE HISTORICAL PARK—one mile south of Goliad. This park contains a replica of Mission Nuestra Senora del Espiritu Santo de Zuniga, originally established in 1722 and settled in 1749. Located one-fourth mile south of

this 209-acre park, is the restored Presidio Nuestra Senora de Loreto de la Bahia, which was also established in 1722 and settled on the site in 1749.

Near the park is the site of the Goliad Memorial Shaft, which marks the common burial site of Col. J. W. Fannin and victims of the Goliad Massacre (1836). Fannin and his men surrendered to Mexican Gen. Jose Urrea with the General's promise that they would be treated as prisoners of war.

Seven days after their surrender Fannin and the men with him plus other prisoners captured in the area were massacred as traitors on orders from Santa Anna. Three hundred forty-two men were executed, with 28 escaping. After the massacre, the battle cry "Remember Goliad" rang with "Remember the Alamo." The site where Fannin surrendered, Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, is in the Goliad area.

GARNER STATE RECREATION PARK—seven miles north of Concan. Located on the Frio River, this 630-acre park has 234 camping sites, 45 screened shelters, a group shelter, and 17 cabins. Trailer camping is permitted. Activities in this park include boating, fishing, swimming, biking, hiking on a nature trail, and miniature golf. The John Nance Garner Museum is nearby in Uvalde.

KERRVILLE STATE RECREATION PARK—three miles south of Kerrville. Having recently undergone extensive renovation and expansion, Kerrville State Park should get heavy use during

Cooling off in a lake is an ideal way to relax while traveling, and it's easy to find an opportunity in the many water-oriented State parks.

Hemisfair. This 497-acre park, located on the Guadalupe River, now has 82 picnic sites, 85 camping sites, 30 trailer sites, 16 screened shelters, and a group shelter. A stable was recently built so that a horse riding concession could be run in the park. Other activities included boating, fishing, swimming, bird watching, and hiking.

Located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Kerrville State Park is near Camp Verde, the starting point of the Army camel route. There were about 75 camels stationed at the camp. Bandera Pass, 12 miles south of Kerrville, is a noted gap in a chain of mountains through which passed camel caravans, wagon trains, Spanish conquistadores, immigrant U. S. troops, and Texas

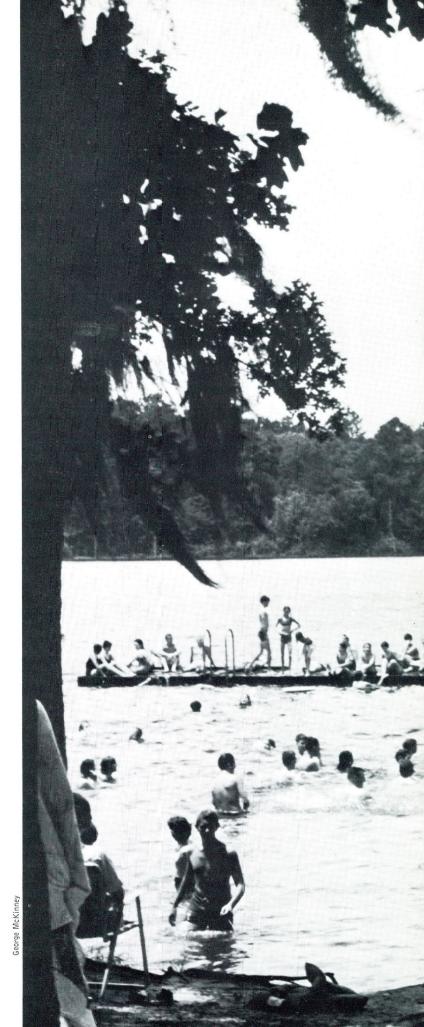
Rangers.

LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI STATE RECRE-ATION PARK—four miles southwest of Mathis. Over 14,000 surface acres of water is the main attraction of this popular, year-round park. Lake Corpus Christi is noted for its big blue, yellow, and channel catfish. Sunfish, bass, and crappie also abound. There is plenty of room for boating, swimming, and water skiing, too. Two fishing piers with lights for night-time fishing are under construction in the park. The park already has 85 picnic sites, 178 camp sites, and 25 screened shelters. There are also trailer camping facilities and boat ramps.

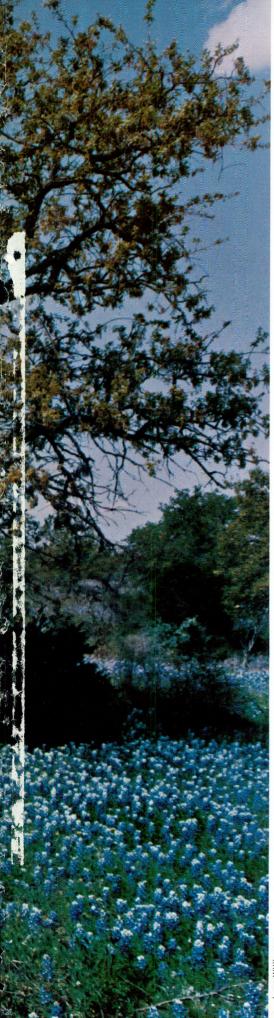
LIPANTITLAN STATE HISTORIC SITE—nine miles east of Orange Grove. Although there are no facilities in this five-acre park, camping is permitted. The park is the site of a fort built in 1833 by the Mexican Government in anticipation of trouble with the Texas settlers. The fort fell to Texas forces in 1835 after a two-day battle.

TIPS STATE RECREATION PARK—one mile west of Three Rivers. Although not operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Tips State Recreation Park affords some camping space. This 31-acre park, located on the Frio River, is leased to the city of Three Rivers by the Department for 99 years. Activities include camping, fishing, and picnicking.

In addition to the State parks mentioned, numerous other recreation areas are located near San Antonio. These areas are operated by river authorities, cities, and various private enterprises. Information on local outdoor recreation areas may be obtained from the government entities or chambers of commerce.







FORTUNE has lured many a country boy to the big city, where the streets traditionally are said to be paved with gold. Yet in Springtime there are riches in profusion all over the Texas countryside, as if some giant had reached into a treasure chest and scattered great handfuls of many colored gems in all directions. Trees and bushes get caught in the festivity, and burst forth in perfumed finery to complement the bejeweled fields.

April is the most opulent month in this State, which has the greatest floral wealth of any. Altitudes range in this huge land area from the coastal salt flats to 9,500 feet on Guadalupe Peak. The climate is almost tropical in the Rio Grande Valley. while the Panhandle in winter is often covered by a mantle of snow. Rainfall varies from torrential to drought, in different areas and seasons. The vast panorama includes prairies, swamps, pine forests, lakes and rivers, limestone hills, soaring mountains, and awesome canvons.

The delightful result of all this diversity is that numerous species of wild plants flourish within our borders. If a bouquet were made up of one of each of the more than 5,000 varieties, it would be

Texas-size indeed.

Some are gorgeous stay-at-homes and can thrive only in limited localities. Wallflower and scarlet

# spring fiesta

by Joan Pearsall



salvia, for instance, grow best in a dirt-filled crevice of a limestone bluff, and goose grass will grow only in saline soils on the coast. Others can do well anywhere and are widespread, sometimes changing color and size in different surroundings. The common firewheel is this versatile, its blossoms being deep red in sandy soils and red with yellow, "wheeled" borders in black soils. Mountain daisy and blazing star do equally well, without any change in color or size, on limestone hills and sandy prairies.

Blooming is triggered by weather in most cases, and begins for each variety at its warmest or southernmost limit, moving northward at an average of 15 miles per day. Some flowers, like the rain lilies, retama, and desert willow, bloom almost regularly after heavy rains. In the April crescendo, millions of blossoms at all points of the compass are unfolding joyously to make their debut beneath the vibrant blue Texas sky.

From north to south, right across the State, part of this sky seems to have fallen to earth. Here and there are little pools of the vivid blue, then suddenly the fields and hillsides are washed with vast, rippling seas of it. The State Flower, bluebonnet, most famous of them all, is glorifying the countryside and claiming its annual homage.

Several legends surround this lovely native. One of the most popular tells of the sacrifice made by a little Comanche Indian maiden, during a time of great hardship. The Great Spirit told the chief prosperity would return to the tribe if a burnt sacrifice were made of their most precious possession. The child decided sorrowfully that this precious thing must be her beloved doll with a marvelous headdress of bright blue jay feathers. Alone at night she burnt the doll as an offering. Next morning, masses of beautiful blue flowers, the exact color of the feather headdress, had sprung up where the ashes had fallen.

A pioneer name for bluebonnet was buffalo clover, because it was believed that buffalo grazed on the plant. The generic name, *Lupinus*, comes from the Latin word for wolf, referring to the old

supposition that these plants impoverished the soil. Now it is known that the roots form nitrogen compounds which eventually add greatly to the soil's fertility, so the benefits from the bluebonnets are as handsome as their looks.

Another honored Southerner, the magnificent magnolia, is at home in the bayous, swamps, and river bottoms of eastern Texas. This fragrant, waxy-white blossom is said to be symbolic of candor and beauty. Its floral neighbors are many, in this region of high rainfall. The early flowering dogwood and redwood still are cheerfully lingering, and the climbing wild rose bursts forth to join the show.

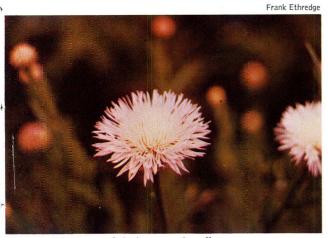
Patches of yellow and red coreopsis, wild petunia trumpets, the sweet purple wild verbena, perky black-eyed Susans—these and a legion of others add their riotous colors to the tapestry. Demure violets and timid baby blue-eyes hide their charms in the wooded shade. Even the ponds and streams are decked out with iris, lotus, and water lilies.

The heart of Texas is hospitable to so many blooms that here, too, it seems someone has been smashing rainbows and impulsively strewing the fragments everywhere. The breeze wafts intoxicating perfumes from the honeysuckle and the golden huisache, which has been described as having "a load of balm for every wind that stirs." Buttercups and daisies lift sparkling faces, along with brilliant poppies, sunflowers, gaillardia, and a host of others. The Indian paintbrushes look freshly dipped in their glowing paint. According to legend, the Great Spirit created this plant for a young chief who yearned to paint a glorious sunset but had not the skill or the tools. In answer to his prayers, the flower brushes appeared in all the loveliest shades of rose, crimson, and gold.

Further north, the plains and Panhandle also are alive with color and fragrance. Among the throng are the prairie lily, red star mallow, Venus' looking-glass, and blue-eyed grass, and many smaller varieties of the blossoms found earlier in other regions.

West of the Pecos, the tall stalks of many different yuccas are proudly lifting their creamy, bell-shaped blooms. Where there are streams, the desert willow is in flower, and on the steep slopes the air is heavy with the scent of mountain laurel. White-flowered greggia and flame acanthus are thickly scattered, and the numerous other blooms which seize the chance to appear in the balminess of this prelude to the heat of summer.

The Rio Grande Valley in the south has been described as "the garden of chaparral," referring to several flowering shrubs of the same name. This region, with its multitude of exotic, half-tropical plants, is a botanist's dream and a delight to all in the flowering season. After a rain, the grey of the cenizo is transformed overnight into a delicate lavender. Beauties such as the showy,



A star-thistle models its new bouffant gown.



Even a rare native orchid peeps out graciously from its Big Thicket seclusion, above, while a sunny, golden bloom in full regalia, below, brightens up its dry corner of South Texas.



ald Perryman

## spring jiesta

continued

yellow and red bird of paradise and the gregarious amapola poppy are rivalled by the innumerable forms of cactus. Like ugly ducklings, these prickly, often unattractive plants suddenly are in fiesta attire, and as ravishing as the rest.

Pinning down exact locations for wild flowers is not easy, for they are almost as much on the move as people. In fact, many came here as immigrants from the Old World, along with the settlers. A few, like the spider lily and phlox, made the reverse journey and were introduced and now flourish in Europe.

Changing land conditions, such as brought about by irrigation and marsh draining, bring new flora to some sections. Flowers and seeds are carried by people, cattle, birds, wild mammals, and in commercial vehicles to entirely new locations. Others simply pop into the wind and float for miles.

Some plants have not fared so well in the path of progress, and have become rare, either from disease and weather changes, land cultivation, or the expansion of cities, factories, and other development. A State law passed in 1933 forbids the picking of wild flowers and injury to trees and shrubs on highways and State lands. Since that time, the Texas Highway Department has gone to great pains to protect and maintain the wild flora along the highway rights-of-way, and, where needed, plants new seeds. Garden clubs and other organizations also are active in trying to assure that future generations will know the same breathtaking wonder of Springtime that we now do.

Many of these flowers remain a lot more than eye-pleasing. They provided the Indians and pioneers with a wide range of necessities. They were the source of salves and medicines to cure a thousand ills, and still are to this day. Ink, dye, tanning agents, soap, twine, packing, and building material, are just a few of the items supplied by often fragile-looking plants.

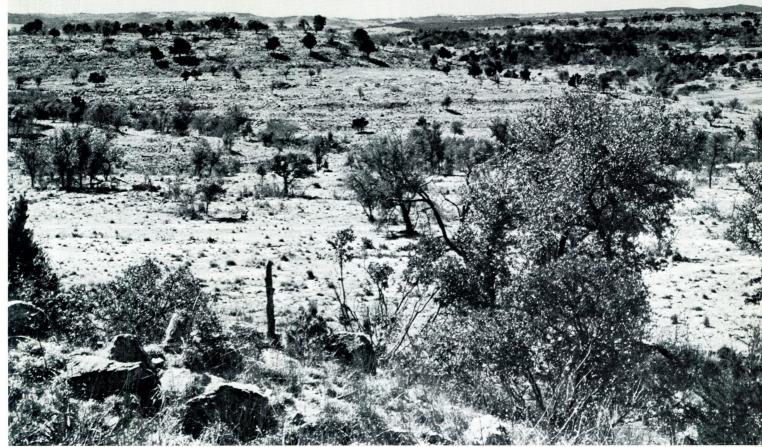
They also provide another form of enjoyment in delicious food and drink. Flour, bread, vegetables, fruits, jellies, and wines—all these they can add to the larder, to say nothing of the various fiery cactus beverages. Perhaps the best product of all is honey, of many shades and flavors. Particularly delectable is the honey from mesquite, chaparral, lechuguilla, agarita, catclaw, white sweet clover, huisache, brasil, wild verbena, and the desert willow.

It's not necessary for a Texan to own an oil well to feel like a millionaire. Our flora is above price, but the beauty of these wild Texas jewels is here for all to enjoy in this season of abundance. \*\*



Lovely but notorious water hyacinth, above, is one of numerous wild flowers that flourish in this State. In April, blossoms at all points of the compass unfold to welcome summer.





Wayne Tiller

### Game Needs vs. Land Use

by Horace Gore Wildlife Supervisor, Waco

HUNTING often gets the blame when wildlife numbers decline noticeably. However, man's overall use of the land has a much greater effect on the number of game animals present than does legal hunting pressure.

Natural self preservation will cause wild game to hold their own in the battle with the gun, as they have for many years, but game animals have yet to find a way to combat overgrazing, excessive brush eradication, extremely clean farming, and the various "cides" (pesticides, herbicides, etc.) which destroy their two great necessities—food and shelter.

This is not to say that grazing, brush clearing, clean farming, and chemical aids should be eliminated. But, as applied in many areas today, these activiities are greatly reducing the carrying capacity of those areas for wildlife, particularly game species.

Game populations are controlled by the quality and quantity of vegetation. In the natural order of things, this usually is controlled by soil moisture. However, few areas are now in their natural state, and soil and moisture are only two of many controlling factors that affect vegetative growth. Grazing, plowing, brush clearing, and industrial use have a marked effect on wildlife habitat.

The size of a combination farm and ranch has a definite bearing on deer populations: smaller tracts must, in most cases, be used to their greatest capacity. Crop land produces the most money per acre, and small acreages are normally farmed to provide a livable family income.

Since larger ownerships are generally utilized less intensively, these are the areas which hold the main deer herds and carry them through drought and severe winters. Thus, when the larger tracts are depleted for any reason, the main deer herds also are depleted, in proportion to the extent of over-utilization of the land. Likewise, a reverse of the situation can occur. When only a scattered deer population is present, any land use practice that will provide more food and shelter will usually increase the

Man's misuse of the land destroys natural food and shelter. Lack of these two great necessities quickly reduces wild animal populations to a shadow.



Leroy Williamson



Some land improvements are more fatal to wildlife than hunting.



Wayne Tiller

native deer population.

Vegetation changes have a much guicker and more noticeable effect on high reproductive capacity species, such as quail, doves, and squirrels, than on large game such as deer. Observations have shown that brush clearing, overgrazing, and other game habitat destruction may deplete a deer herd slowly, whereas the same factors can spell trouble overnight to smaller game animals. However, small game species recover with equal speed, thereby causing populations to normally rise and fall from year to year according to habitat conditions.

Many restocking programs with wild-trapped animals fail to replenish former game populations simply because the land environment has been changed too drastically. Although the soil and

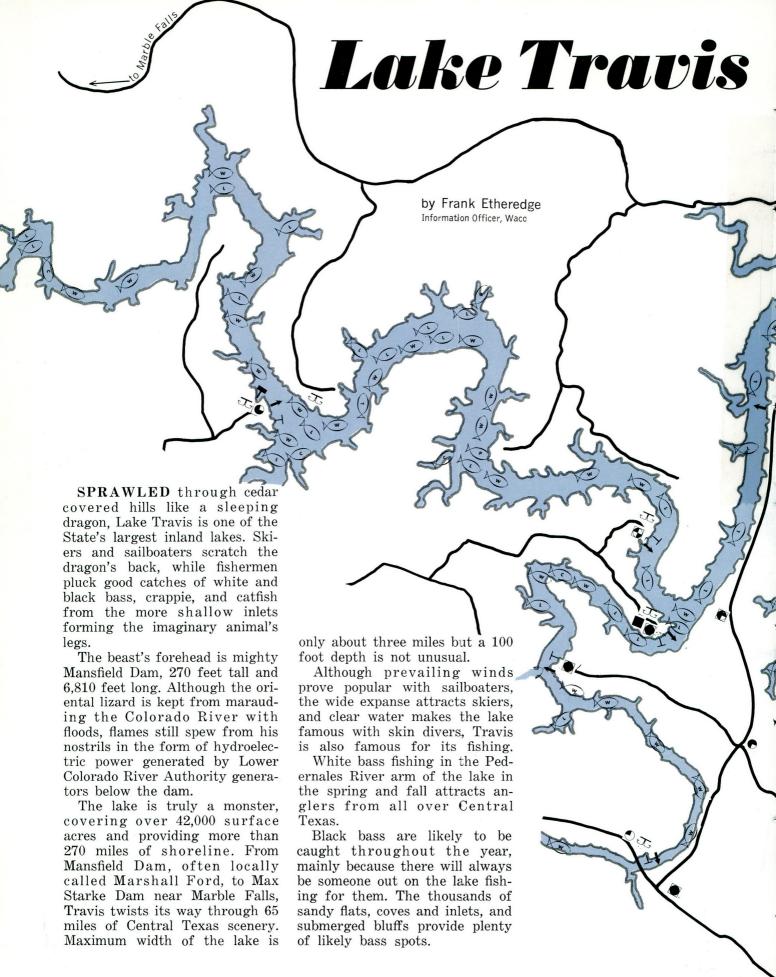
rainfall may be the same as before, land use may have altered the ratio of occurrence of various important food or shelter vegetation types. Changes in stocking rates in livestock, or the introduction of various species of goats and sheep, can modify the dominant vegetation to the point that proper wildlife foods and cover are not available.

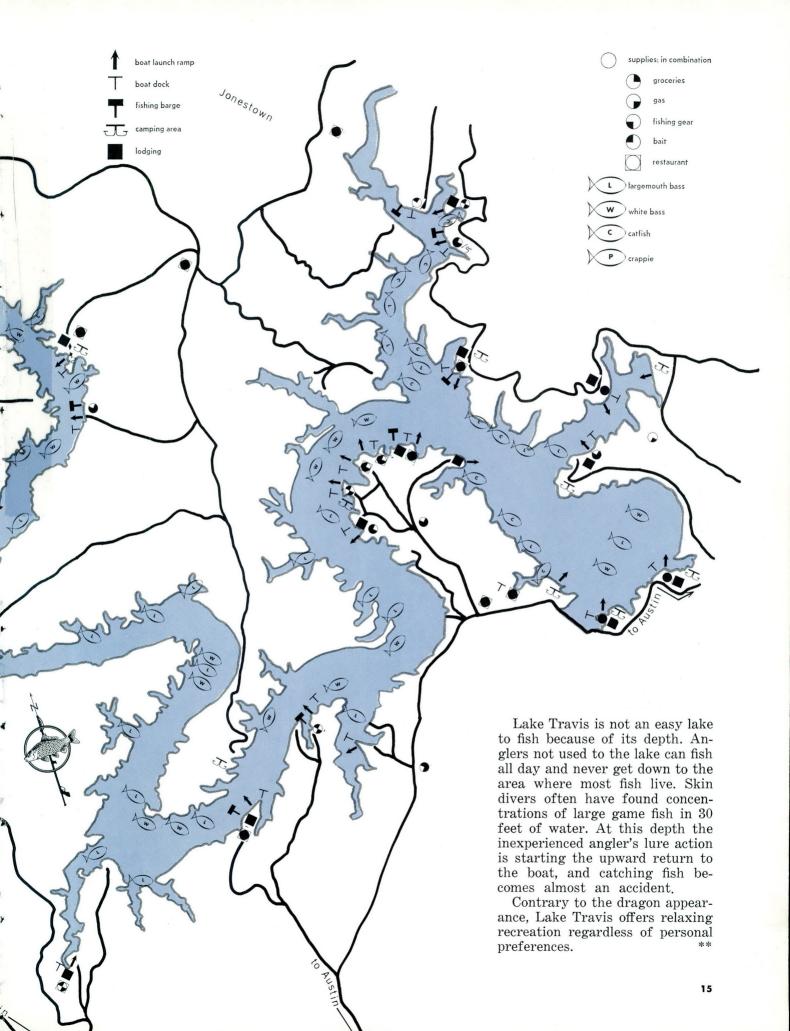
Simply adding more game animals to an area does not assure reproduction. What caused the previous population to fail is the first question to be answered. Illegal hunting or predation may be the cause in some cases, but in most instances across the State, the odds are in favor of the decline being caused by changes in land use practices. The change is usually so gradual that it goes unnoticed by the average landowner who is not fa-

miliar with plant and animal ecol-

Where conditions are suitable for moderate to high game populations, any animals removed will be replaced. The less suitable the habitat and the more struggle the population has for survival, the less chance it will have to replenish itself. Depletion will cancel the natural increase trend of reproduction. This is the major problem with quail populations in many areas of the State.

Modern game management trends are toward better habitat management and away from put-and-take stocking programs. Satisfactory results are very much more likely if we give consideration to game populations during the growing season of the year instead of simply evaluating the hunting possibilities prior to the open season.





photos by Leroy Williamson







# the BAWBB Myth

by Clarence Beezley
Information Officer, La Porte



An appealing, stray fawn melts the heart, but taking him home spells only trouble.

A WILD BAMBI never did, doesn't, and never will exist. Unfortunately, a fawn deer looks just like a Bambi. But a fawn deer is wild and you cannot make of a wild thing something that was created with a cartoonist's pencil and a photographer's camera. But people keep trying—several hundred times a year in Texas.

They will find it just lying there, no larger than a Twiggy-legged housecat, all curled up like a caterpillar, a bundle in the grass, with smooth tawny skin flecked with small spots of frozen sunshine. There will be just enough black for highlights—a line down the back, around a tiny muzzle,

and a shadow around the eyes.

Large in proportion to the head, the eyes will be set below a pair of long soft, slightly floppy ears. The eyes will do it—slightly almond-shaped with long lashes, they will be soft and innocent and dark, yet so limpid that one can almost see a pure soul reflected in the depths. The fawn will have a beauty that will put a lump in the throat, and someone is sure to say, "Oh! It looks just like Bambi!"

The beauty is a flaw. It would be better for deer and people if fawns looked more like wart hogs. Then they wouldn't be taken home.

Fawnnapping is a violation of both State and natural laws. But a fawn is beautiful and this makes it easy to rationalize the crime.—"It looks

so thin and alone," or, "The mother is probably dead," or, "We had better take it home and save its life." They do, and when they do, they might as well kill it.

They usually name the new pet Bambi. It will follow the children and suckle their fingers. It will drink milk from a bottle and soon learn to drink from a pan. It will romp about like a little lamb on its dainty, razor sharp, little hooves. An affection giving child may pick up Bambi, the fawn may lash out with its razor hooves, and there will be some nasty gashes.

"But after all, the child should have known

better! Bambi was frightened."

A good many Bambies die within the first three months. One minute it will be all right and suddenly it will have dysentery. Within a few hours it will be dead because baby deer need their mother's milk. Bambi will have a suitable burial and for a long time there will be sad memories about the lovable pet that died suddenly. But this only happens to lucky fawnnappers and lucky pet fawns. Less fortunate fawns will thrive on cow's milk.

Each year there is an annual Bambi roundup. It is heralded by calls to game wardens from people attempting to get permits to adopt Bambi. They want to legalize fawnnapping. Their justifications are all the same. "It was starving," or,



He's born a free, wild creature, not a Bambi.

"Its mother was run over by a car," or, "The mother was shot."

The request will be refused and it will be explained that a complaint will be filed. The phone will go quiet, then the rebuttal. "Well, if you think I would let that poor little thing starve . . . ," or, "How could you be so cruel?"

The warden will probably not say it, but he may think about the real cruelty—the taking of something that can never fit into a domestic life and making it something that can never be wild.

The Bambi roundup is one of the most unpleasant duties that a warden must perform. He will face crying mothers and crying children, the latter who will remember the game warden as the man who took away Bambi. The father will tell his friends that he had to pay a fine for saving a deer's life.

Bambi must be taken to someone who can give it the proper formula, and located in an area where it can be conditioned to a life in the woods. Finding the proper reformatory is often a problem; but the sooner this happens the better the chance the young deer have of living, and the less problem they will be to society.

More of the Bambies will be discovered when neighbors call in because, "That pet deer 'so and so' has is eating all my flowers." If Bambi's foster parents find out which neighbor called, a neighborhood feud may be spawned. This is only one of the problems caused by Bambies.

A young fawn has no scent. When it becomes older, it will develop an odor indiscernible to humans, which brings out the hunting instinct in the friendliest of dogs. Many wild-born Bambies, trained to trust, are slain by house-born dogs whose primitive instincts are stirred by a wild

odor. But philosophizing is redundant. The end results are again bad neighborhood relationships.

Some Bambies, unfortunately, live long enough to become well-developed deer. When they do, there is a good chance some humans are going to be hurt. Remember little Bambi's razor-like feet? Grown deer still have the razors plus more muscle to wield them. A tame doe can and has scarred children's faces with a playful paw of a hoof.

Doe are dangerous but buck deer are deadly. Stories about people being injured or killed by pet buck deer are regular newspaper fare.

In the second year of his life a buck deer reaches maturity and in addition to sharp hooves, he acquires antlers supported by a muscular neck. During mating season he is no longer Bambi—he is a buck. He is looking for a territory to defend and does for a harem. A tame buck deer has no friends and no fear of people. They are capable of killing people, and often turn on their foster parents.

What do you do with pet deer that suddenly revert to their wild ways. Give them to a zoo? Zoos have no room or need for deer. Years ago, they became overstocked with other peoples' Bambies.

Turn them loose in the woods? You can but you must take them a long way or they will very likely return home. If you are successful and they stay in the woods, they will be outcasts. They own no territory and other deer will chase them into marginal deer country, where if it is a buck it may take out its frustrations on people.

Sometimes one of these misfit deer will adopt a country road as its territory. It is a place where it can meet people. Such a tame deer may become a local institution as people stop and feed it tobacco and chewing gum. It seems like a good arrangement until sooner or later along will come the scum of humanity with the eyes of the mink and the heart of a shrike—and another Bambi will have been butchered.

Of course, a deer can be put in a pen. It will exist there for a long time. Deer are built to jump so it will have to be a high fence, at least eight feet. But is a pen the place for an animal created to run and leap? Is a box of food a substitute for the smell of fresh succulent browse? Is the odor of humans a substitute for the aroma of wild things?

To make a Bambi a wild creature again is impossible—it already has been robbed of the chance to be what nature intended. It is too wild for civilization and too civilized for the wild. It will be an outcast forever.

The name Bambi is a misnomer. "Billy Budd" would be a much better name for a pet deer. A fawn left in the woods has at least a chance to survive, but one made into a Bambi must die a cruel death.



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# LONG SHOTS SHORT CASTS

compiled by Joan Pearsall

Bird Benefactors: A 7,000-acre tract of land was recently given the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Mr. and Mrs. J. Meredith Tatton of Corpus Christi. This generous gift becomes an addition to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of America's whooping cranes, and is also important habitat for another rare species, Attwater's prairie chicken. Another example of concern for whooping cranes comes from the Sunray DX Oil Company, which brought in a natural gas well with a rig three miles offshore from the Aransas refuge. To avoid disturbance to the wintering birds, Sunray closed down the rig and put up a sign: "Closed until May 15. This place is for the birds."

That Caps It: In New Hampshire last fall, two lost hunters were located because they were wearing the right colored hats. In the heavily wooded area, the search party took to the air and easily spotted the caps from the plane. Although the use of fluorescent colors such as blaze red or blaze orange has been widely advocated as a protection from being mistaken for deer or other game, its merits as an aid in locating lost hunters hitherto had not been realized.

For Dryer Drinks?: Two German scientists now have come up with "powdered" water! They succeeded in combining a new water repellent silicon dioxide (Aerosil R-972) with water to form a fine, dry white powder. Each tiny water droplet is surrounded by a layer of Aerosil R-972, which prevents it from running together with other droplets to form a liquid. The powder, not a compound, can be liquefied by mechanical pressure, distillation, or a wetting agent. The chemical, marketed under the name of Organ-O-Sil in the U.S., is already being used to prevent lumping in various chemicals that have an affinity for water. Other suggested possibilities are: stockpiles of water; bags, rather than bottles, of samples; thirst pills; packaged water for use with instant foods; even dry lawn sprinkling for drought years.

Mosquito Checkmate: Laboratory-bred strains of the mosquito, *Culex fatigans*, have been produced with a "cystoplasmic incompatibility," that resulted in sterile matings when these male mosquitos were released in a Burmese village, under the auspices of the World Health Organization. In about three months, the entire native mosquito population of this species was eradicated for lack of reproduction.



# El Tizze Chiquito

by L. D. Nuckles
Information Officer, La Porte

BEAUTIFUL, secretive, easily tamed, and vanishing from the Texas scene, just about sums up the ocelot, Felis pardalis. This lithe, medium-sized cat is among the most beautiful examples of Texas wildlife, and it is regrettable that the encroachment of civilization and the agricultural practices of man will probably soon make this animal extinct in this State.

The range of the ocelot extends from the southwestern United States down to Paraguay. In the more tropical habitats he makes himself at home in forests and jungles. Although quite common in Mexico, the animal is now scarce north of the Rio Grande. A band of Texas habitat along the Mexico border south from Big Bend and along the coast is considered his home range. In the very southern tip of Texas, the ocelot lives in dense, almost impenetrable chaparral thickets where the thorny vegetation offers seclusion. In Kerr County, as late as 1902, they were said to inhabit the roughest, rockiest part of the dense cedar brakes.

The ocelot usually spends his time on the ground, in dense cover, but is also fond of climbing trees. A creature of the gloomy jungle and dense brushland, this cat loves darkness—the darker the better. When living in close proximity to man he does not like to leave his lair until evening light is gone and the dusk has turned to darkness. The darker the night the farther the ocelot will prowl. Even moon-

light nights seem to impede his activities.

When hunting in pairs, as they sometimes do, they signal back and forth with soft "mews" which become louder if no answer is received. Padding along on soundless paws, they use a highly developed sense of smell to locate prey.

The ocelot feeds on nearly any kind of animal life he can master, including birds, rodents, snakes, lizards, and opossums. He would, of course, take domestic fowl, lambs, and kids if they were available within his range; however, his habit of living in the jungle and deep brushlands usually separates him from this easy prev. Once he has tasted domestic fowl, however, and learned what pushovers they are, his raids will continue until a village is almost cleaned out of chickens and guinea fowl. Although adult deer may prove too much for him, he can and will take fawns. In Central America an ocelot is reported to have killed a six or seven foot boa. When discovered he had eaten most of the head and neck.

Perhaps the ocelot is most familiar to us through the use of his fur on women's coats and collars. Because of his secretive habits, many people can live around him for a lifetime and never be aware of his existence.

He is one of the handsomest of cats. His basic color is light buff with a pearly overtone. Longitudinal black stripes score his head and neck, black spots



splash across his legs and tail, and dots and black rings cover the rest of his body in an attractive rather chainlike pattern. From the tip of his nose to the end of his tail he is three or four feet long and weighs 20 to 25 pounds.

For his den the ocelot selects a rocky cave, a hollow tree, or the very heart of an impregnable, thorny thicket. The home, wherever it is, is lined with great care. The animal chooses a bedding of dry grass, twigs, and the like, and chews it until it is soft and pliable, for this is a creature who likes his comfort.

The mating season is probably about June. The kittens, nearly always twins, are born in September or October. Like other young of the cat family, they are covered with a scanty growth of hair, and their eyes are tightly closed at birth. No information is available on their rate of development.

The ocelot is highly prized by hunters with dogs. He will, like other cats, take to the trees when pressed, but doesn't leave the ground at the first yap of the hounds. With his relatively long legs, he can run like a fox and knows a thing or two about backtracking and double-crossing his trail.

Although this beautiful cat is easily tamed if taken young enough, his temper and conduct become unpredictable as he gets older. Certainly no adult ocelot should be left unattended around very young children. Another mark against him is his strong odor which is said to resemble that of a lion.

Although he is neither all "good" nor all "bad," we will all

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have lost something when the ocelot disappears from the Texas scene. The clearing of dense brush in South Texas seems to signal

EXIT for this beautiful cat; another wildlife species to vanish from the list of Texas fauna in the face of progress.





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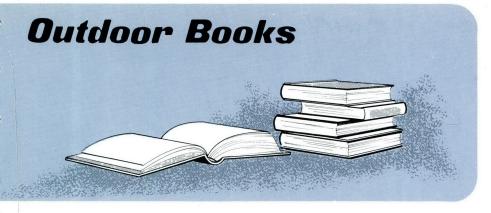
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SHOOTING PRESERVE MANAGE-MENT—THE NILO SYSTEM, by Edward L. Kozicky and John Madson, The Winchester Western Press, East Alton, Ill., 1966, 311 pages, illustrated, \$4.95.

Establishing a shooting preserve, or shooting resort, as it is called in Texas, takes more than simply releasing a few game animals and letting nature run its course. It requires a person willing to delve into the study of agriculture, business management, personnel administration, veterinary medicine, economics, public relations, and, of course, wildlife management.

In the past the only information and details available on the subject of establishing a shooting preserve or resort have been scattered through trade journals and magazines. Due to this shortage of information, this book should fill a great void and may well become the main reference source.

As civilization advances to convert more land into urban areas, create more idle time for people, and exert pressures that require a person to escape from the tension, opportunities for vigorous outdoor recreation will be sought. Hunting has long been a favorite active sport, but creeping urbanization threatens its natural future. The answer is to create a substitute that will fill the requirements but still remain economically feasible.

Realizing the hunting future of this nation could very well be oriented around resorts and preserves, the Winchester-Western Division of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation opened their famous Nilo Farms in 1952. They consist of 700 acres of fields and woods in western Illinois that are dedicated to experimental and demonstration.

Combining these two factors—increasing demands for information on the subject and an accumulation of data from operation of the experimental farms—the book is the most complete work ever published on this new look in American field shooting. In 13 concise chapters and many diagrams, the Nilo system of preserve management is presented.

Profusely illustrated with photos, cartoons, and construction plans, the book delves through subjects like shooting preserve history, area management, mallards, pheasants, bobwhite quail, chukar partridges, shooting preserve cover, dogs, economics, advertising and promotion, safety, and much more.

The authors, Dr. Edward Kozicky and John Madson, are both well-known in the fields of shooting preserves and conservation. Kozicky is director of conservation of the Winchester-Western Division of Olin, and Madson is assistant director. Since joining Olin in 1956, Kozicky has become a national authority on the shooting preserve concept. Madson is well-known for his many books and popular articles on conservation, hunting, and the outdoors in general.

Although the Nilo Farms are located in western Illinois, the scope of this book is such that the basic principles would be applicable throughout the nation. Certainly, the book will be of great interest to sportsmen, shooting preserve operators, landowners, and others interested in the shooting preserve future.

—Wayne Tiller



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#### Lure of the

# Cemptress

by Wayne Tiller

TRAVELERS to me have always been people on the move, painters were men in white who threw paint in the right places, a roach was a despicable insect, a sheet was something to sleep upon, a foot was a part of a person's anatomy at the end of a leg, and a tiller was one of my relatives —but that was before I went sailing. Now these objects are metal rods, a short piece of rope, a part of a sail, a rope to adjust the sails, the lower edge of a sail, and a part of the rudder, respectively.

Far more impressive than the alien language is what could be

termed the aesthetics of the sport. Out in the Gulf of Mexico, away from the muddy bay waters and smoke-choked air, the wind, water, stars, and all else becomes a part of what has been called the mystery of the seas. Away from the blight of man's shore, the sea is a liquid emerald abyss, spiced with occasional dolphins, jellyfish, and other fascinating creatures. The air crackles with a crispness that explodes the heavens with new galaxies of stars so bright they seem to be strung from the mast. Their reflections play on the water with phosphorescent animals that glow mysteriously from the agitation caused by the ship's passing, leaving a wake of blue fire.

Unlike thousands of people who take their first sail aboard one of the little Sunfish-class craft, my introduction to sailing was aboard the 50-foot yacht *Temptress* in the Corpus Christi to Galveston annual race. Far from a shallow inland skiff, this \$60,000-plus craft has a full galley, first-class electrical navigation equipment, two bathrooms, sleeping quarters for at least a dozen people, a mainsail of over 1,000 square feet that alone cost several thousand dollars, and a





The boats started at staggered intervals, the larger Temptress being the last off. Her exhilarating race to the finish line was topped only by the magical enchantment of her ocean love song.

weighted keel filled with eight tons of lead.

Skippered and owned by Keith Edwards of Houston the Temptress truly lived up to her name -she could tempt almost any man down to the sea. Her selected crew for the race included T. H. Winkler, Bob Leech, Jim Gammage, Larry Belty, and Tom Beasley of Houston, along with Jerry Jordan and L. E. Wade of Alvin, All were experienced sail setters, some having several decades of experience under their belts. Most of the crew was aboard when the Temptress won the Galveston to Biloxi race this past season.

Introduced to the crew on the morning of the race by dentist-sailer W. M. Allen of Corpus Christi, I was somewhat awed by their lackadaisical attitude toward getting ready for the race. Elsewhere on the dock there was frenzied activity as boats were loaded, sails stretched and folded, groceries and ice brought aboard, and a general hustlebustle. But not on the *Temptress*—it was nap time.

Being the inquisitive type, I

asked and was informed there were two reasons. One, the crew had just sailed up from Houston the night before and had enjoyed very much the pre-race party. And, second, even though the race was scheduled for 10 a.m., it was a staggered start and, since the *Temptress* was rated the fastest boat in the fleet, our starting time was 5:36 p.m.!

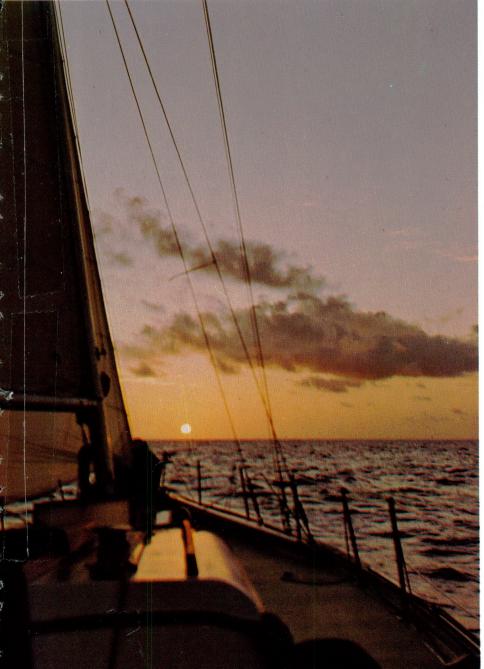
Just when I was getting the first installment of simplified sailing terminology, a Captain's meeting was called. Everyone crowded into a depleted refreshment room of the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, and in a din of chatter discussed the course, past races, best rigging for the wind, depths of sand bars, dredging operations, tides, weather, and "What all was in that shrimp sauce last night?"

Soon after the fine points of the course had been argued at some length, especially those which had led to one ship's sailing up onto the beach the night before, the crews of the smaller boats scattered for those last minute preparations. But not the crew of the *Temptress*—they expressed their sentiments for their friends in smaller boats who had to leave so soon, then curled up on deck wherever they found shade, and tried for another "40."

After noon, however, action started picking up. Jokes about "scrubbing her belly" raised questions in my mind until I learned that before each race the hull of a ship has to be cleaned. The slightest amount of algae or other foreign matter could reduce speed and lose the race. Periodic cannon shots from Corpus Christi Bay, signaling the start of another boat, reminded us that our time was growing short. Building tension was paralleled by a rising breeze that indicated we may have the advantage of better wind over the earlier leaving ships.

Expertly crossing the starting line at almost the instant the cannon sounded for the last time, we first headed across shallow Corpus Christi Bay for Port Aransas. The depth meter demanded constant attention because the bottom was often only a foot or two under our keel. Going aground here would cer-





tainly knock us out of the race. Coming up on the spoil banks of the Corpus Christi-Port Aransas ship channel, we held our breath and scraped a sand bar. Then we were in the channel and almost home free.

Now, all we had to contend with was dodging ocean tankers and freighters. Since the wind was blowing right down the channel from where we wanted to go we would have to tack all the way, or zig-zag like a winding road up a steep mountain. Here the art is to get the most out of each tack, without going aground on either bank of the channel, because each change of direction loses time and speed.

Finally we dodged the Aransas Pass ferry, a strong outgoing tide washed us out the pass, and we set a true course for the offshore oil field south of the entrance to the Galveston Ship Channel. Rules stated we must go around at least one structure in this field before crossing the finish line in the mouth of the ship channel.

Soon after leaving Aransas Pass we ate a light snack and

trimmed the ship for night cruising. A steady, gentle breeze and a lack of any high seas meant that six of us could sleep while the other three stood watch. Periodically our location was plotted with a radio direction finder, our speed was checked, and the sails were adjusted to maintain the highest efficiency.

This is where the Temptress really sang her love song. A gentle baby-cradle rock, a cool soft breeze, a billion stars in a pitchblack sky, the slosh of waves against the hull, and the enchantment of swarms of glowing deepsea fireflies cast a never-to-beforgotten spell.

All too soon, the sun brushed



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the mast and sail and the first whiffs of coffee brought all hands up on deck. Two pounds of bacon and three dozen eggs mixed their smells with the coffee to herald the best breakfast man could invent.

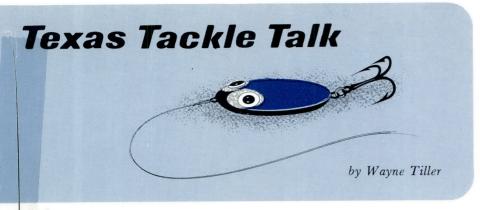
In the night we had passed a few boats but the gentle breeze that made the trip comfortable also gave the smaller craft an advantage. As we picked up a couple of curious dolphins from a fleet of shrimp boats at anchor. we spotted the oil wells of our destination. Our navigator was uncanny in having us perfectly on course, especially when we saw some of our competitors far inshore and others way out from the field.

Picking our best route through the field, we slipped dangerously near one soaring monster, swung around to an almost due north heading, and sped for the finish

line. Reaching downwind we set the big parachute-looking spinnaker out front and adjusted all the other sails for the most efficiency. Far out in front we could see many sails, but uncomfortably few behind. Theoretically, with a staggered start we were supposed to cross the finish line all at the same time.

Even with the tension and competition of racing another ship side-by-side for the finish line, it was anticlimactic so far as I was concerned. Memories of crystal clear water surging over a dolphin's back, streamers of stars on the mast, a kaleidoscope sunset, and saltwater fireflies were still fresh. The tantalizing lure of the Temptress had cast her spell on me and there was saltwater forever in my veins. This lure will continue to eat at my soul until again I can go to sea in a sailing ship.





FIREBIRD 999 is the big news from Shakespeare this season. It is an American-made, low-cost, push-button reel with frame, cone, and push-button of high-impact red and black Cycolac, one of the most widely known of the space-age miracle materials. Features of the reel include 12-point stainless steel pickup head for easy and positive line retrieve; star drag to reduce line twist; a four-to-one gear ratio for a fast retrieve: and it comes filled with 10-pound quality Shakespeare monofilament. Perhaps the biggest news of the Firebird 999 is its catalog price of \$8.50.

DIRTY FLY LINE is often the cause of a number of problems known to all fly fishermen. The most frequent of these problems is failure of the line to shoot or float properly. The foreign material on the line is most likely to be algae, which can grow and develop even if you fish only crystal clear waters. If the water will support fish, it will also support algae.

Scientific Anglers, Inc., manufacturers of a long line of quality fishing tackle, recommends the use of Lava soap to remove both algae and other foreign materials. Although a number of commercially prepared cleaners are available. Lava soap used with a soft

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Another suggestion by the fishing specialists at Scientific Anglers, Inc. concerns the boating or netting of fish while using a fly rod. They suggest that if your fish makes a run when you have it in close, turn your rod over quickly so that the reel and guides are on top. This action will allow the knots in your leader or the connection between your line and leader to slip through the guides much more easily. Using this trick might save you a good fish some day.

SPECKS-A-GO-GO is rated as the newest and most versatile lure introduced by the Creme Lure Company of Tyler since the original soft plastic worm. Saltwater fishermen report it catches specks, weakfish, reds, and stripers; and the freshwater anglers report big catches of bass. The new worms are available rigged or in the handy spare pack.

The new plastic worms appear to be the head and tail sections of a worm with a pressure ring which holds the lure securely to

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a lead head. They are available in nine tested colors in packs of four or rigged with a spare head or tail.

ZEBFLEX FasTaper rods and the Abu Cardinal saltwater reels are only two items listed in the outstanding line of equipment in the new Zebco catalog. But the big news of this publication is not necessarily in the equipment but all the other helpful information. For instance, eight of the nation's outstanding fishing authorities tell how to find and catch the most popular species in their sections of the nation.

Other valuable information tells how to cast lures accurately and how to "read" unknown waters to determine where the hot spots are located. The Zebco people have put so much into this catalog that they could easily sell it and demand a good price. However, a free copy is available by writing: Zebco, 6101 East Apache, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115.

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# Junior Sportsmen by Joan Pearsall

At Easter an egg is something prettily colored or made out of chocolate, and without them the holiday would not seem quite the same. This has been so for hundreds of years. The early Christians thought of eggs as representing hope and resurrection and, therefore, a fitting symbol of Easter. Before that, pagans also believed they had special meaning, as an emblem of new life and of the sun.

It is not surprising that eggs were the object of all this respect, for they really are something of a miracle. Let us examine their construction and development.

The most important part, that which nourishes life, is the yolk. All the rest is protective and nutritious. After the yolk begins its descent, it takes almost a complete day to become fully developed with a shell, and the timing is the same for all species of

birds, domestic or wild.

The yolk passes by glands that coat it with several layers of the egg white, or albumen. The first layer is a thin covering, and the second is thick, tough and rubbery, to act as a shock absorber.

The egg moves on in a spiraling motion, which forces the light, watery, third layer of albumen through the more dense layer to the yolk, and allows the yolk to float and keep its balance. The tiny white speck, called the blastoderm, is the original life cell in the yolk, and it floats to the top. The spiraling also twists the albumen into a rope at each end of the yolk, which keeps it centered and protects the yolk from sudden jars.

Next comes a covering of two sheets of tough membrane—the skin you see when you take the shell off a hard-boiled egg. Then the shapeless egg passes into the shell gland, where it collects four porous layers of shell. It is in the last hour that the shell picks up the pigments with the distinctive coloring of its own species.

The shell hardens as the egg is laid, passing to the outside large end first. However, it is still porous and allows oxygen to enter inside and gaseous wastes to filter out, so the egg can be said to breathe. Also, a hot egg sweats, while a completely submerged one drowns.

When the egg enters the cold world, cell development inside stops until incubation is started.

Each bird, out of the approximately 8,600 species in the world, lays an egg that is different from all the other species, in size, shape, or color. Also, each individual hen lays eggs that are slightly different from those of hens of the same species!

As a rule, egg size depends on the size of the hen, although the ones containing downy chicks need to hold more food, and are larger than the eggs hatching naked young.

The shape of eggs varies very much. Murres, which build their nests on narrow, high ledges, lay a top-shaped egg, which will roll in a circle rather than off the ledge. The eggs of shorebirds are conical, usually four in number, and the points fit together in the middle of the nest, so that the small mother can sit on all eggs at once.

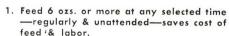
Coloring of the eggs has a lot to do with how much camouflage is needed. Nests of woodpeckers, kingfishers, and owls are concealed, so their eggs tend to be white. Eggs of birds in open nests are variously tinted and spotted to blend with surroundings.

Of course, the "camouflage" given to eggs at Easter is quite a different kind, and the brighter the better for all you lucky Easter egg hunters!

Here is an "April Fool" Easter egg you can have some fun with. Color one egg several days



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ahead of time, then soak it in vinegar for a week. This will make the shell become soft and rubbery.

Find a nice-looking bottle or vase, with a neck much thinner than a normal egg. Fill it almost full of water, then carefully form the vinegar-soaked egg into a narrow shape, and push it through the opening.

When it is safely in, pour out the water and the egg will return to its former shape. You might want to tie a ribbon around the bottle or put some funny note on it.

This will be quite a surprise to your family or friends. If you hide the bottle during an egg hunt, some finder is going to be very puzzled as to just how that

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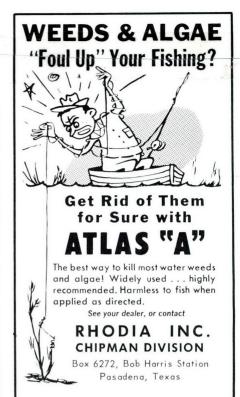


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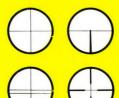


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#### Letters to the Editor

#### Plastic Shells and Cattle

I am wondering if you have any official research reports on the effect shotgun shells may have if they are eaten by cattle. A leading sporting goods store tells us they know of no facts or cases where cattle have died from eating shotgun shells, but they do know for a fact that some ranchers insist that all shells be picked up.

There seems to be so much confusion that it might be something of interest for your readers.

> David W. Young San Antonio

Shortly after the development of plastic shotgun shells, some ranchers refused to allow hunters on their land unless they used paper shells—fearing cows could not digest the plastic shells. About the middle of 1963, therefore, Winchester-Western requested the Squibb Laboratory for Veterinary Medicine to conduct tests to determine any possible effects of this material on cattle.

Briefly, the results of the Squibb investigation are as follows: (1) There is nothing toxic in the plastic which would cause death. (2) Cattle suffering from a phosphorous deficiency have depraved appetites and will eat practically any-

thing, including wood, pieces of metal, empty shot shell hulls, etc. (3) Under most circumstances the foreign matter ingested by the cattle will eventually be passed during normal course of excretion. (4) It is possible that some of the foreign material could lodge in the reticulum (stomach) and remain there until the animal's death; however, this would not be the cause of death.

In the Squibb experiments it was necessary to force feed shells to cattle which were not suffering from a deficiency as they would not voluntarily ingest the shells. Also, in practically all instances, the cattle regurgitated the shot shell hulls.—Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, Director of Conservation, Winchester-Western.

#### Illegal Whistling

This letter may help to answer the "Whistle Stop" question asked by the 13-year-old reader in the February, 1968, issue.

I have been hunting deer for many years now, and find the following to be true as pertaining to the white-tailed deer particularly.

If the deer is walking, tail down, a whistle will stop him in his tracks 90% of the time. If the deer is in a slow run, that is, not "spooked," his tail

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down or out, he will stop at a whistle about 50% of the time. However, when he is running at full speed—his tail (flag) up and possibly "spooked"—then don't bother with the whistle for it will only add to this spooked condition.

I would like to caution the young hunter not to whistle too loudly, just loud enough to be heard by the deer he wants to shoot. He should also remember to be in position to fire when he does whistle; any movement by the hunter will give his position away to the deer since he has already given the deer a sound to look for.

Last season, in fog, I stopped a nice buck three times before I could be certain of my shot. I hope this letter will be of some help to the young hunter.

> G.J.C. Dallas

Since publication of the aforementioned letter, it has been pointed out that Texas law (Art. 923-q, P.C.) states: "Any person who at any time of the year in hunting deer uses a deercall, whistle, decoy, callpipe, reed, or other device, mechanical or natural, for the purpose of calling or attracting any deer, except by rattling deer horns, shall be fined not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in jail not less than twenty nor more than ninety days or both." This statute has been interpreted to the effect that an effort to attract deer other than by using the rattling of horns is illegal.—Editor.

## TEXAS

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#### BACK COVERS

Inside: The sea casts an incurable spell with the aid of a luxurious temptress. See story page 24. Photo by Wayne Tiller.

Outside: Wild flowers in full glory bring fiesta to the Texas countryside. See story page 6. Photo by Leroy Williamson.



