

Commission Will Publish Magazine

There's a big treat in store for Georgia sportsmen! And the treat is one that will recur every month.

Beginning this fall, the Georgia Game and Fish Commission will expand the publication you are reading into a monthly conservation magazine. Approval for the publication was granted by unanimous vote of the Game and Fish Commissioners at a recent meeting.

The magazine will contain articles of interest to all outdoorsmen in the state. As a conservation department magazine it will be dedicated to keeping

sportsmen in Georgia informed of what is taking place regarding their favorite outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing.

Informative, interesting articles will describe what is being done by the Game and Fish Commission to improve hunting and fishing conditions throughout the state, and what these improvements mean to the sportsman. Future plans for improvements in the state's natural resources of hunting and fishing will also be reported. Good conservation practices will be kept foremost in mind.

Sportsmen will be able to keep in-
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Georgia Outdoors



Published by the *GEORGIA GAME & FISH COMMISSION*

Issue Number Seven, 1966

Help Us Name Your Magazine

Georgia sportsmen are invited to help the State Game and Fish Commission name its new magazine.

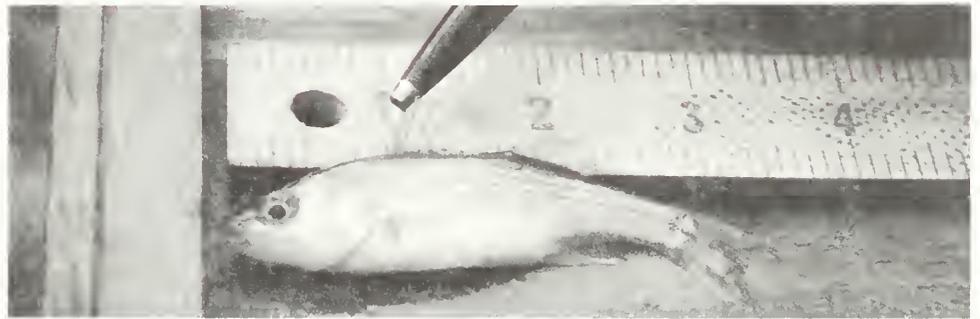
Some suggested names are included in the coupon below, but readers are invited to submit a different name if they choose.

In selecting a name, a reader should be mindful that the magazine is a conservation magazine, published by the Game and Fish Commission for outdoor sportsmen — hunters and fishermen.

Clip out the coupon, fill it in and drop it in the mail on the back of a postcard or in an envelope.

Sportsmen are also encouraged to make comments in regards to the forthcoming magazine, in order that the Commission may better serve the public through the new publication.

Thanks for your help! Send your suggestion and comments to:



This little fellow is still small, just beginning to show the lines that distinguish him as a striped bass. But he's already grown quite rapidly. He started life smaller than the tip of that pen, just a few weeks ago.
(Photo by Jim Tyler)

Striped Bass Acquired; Raised in Nursery Ponds

By Dean Wohlgenuth

What? Those tiny little specks are tackle busters?

If you looked at 'em when they first arrived, that's what you'd say to me if I told you those specks were going to be real tackle busters in just a couple of years.

Take it from me. They'll be tackle busters all right. They're not just ordinary fish. They're very special little items called striped bass.

Just a few years ago, it came to light that the striper, a native of the sea, could be landlocked successfully, and added a tremendous battler to the fishing menu of freshwater impoundments which are suitable habitat.

And when such a fish is available, the Georgia Game and Fish Commission does its best to provide this grand new sport to its sportsmen.

The Commission received delivery a

few weeks ago on three quarters of a million of the tiny striped bass fry. They came from South Carolina's striped bass hatchery at Santee-Cooper Reservoir. The fish are moved to their new home within minutes after hatching.

In this case, the Georgia Commission put the tiny fry — just about the size of a pin head — into nursery pens at three different hatcheries. Sometimes striper fry are stocked directly into lakes within hours of birth.

This requires a good deal less effort, but the rate of survival is much lower. Game and Fish hatchery personnel will raise the fry to a size of about five or six inches. By that time, they'll be hardy enough that their chances of survival on their own in a large lake will be greatly increased.

The stripers — many anglers call

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Information and Education Office
Georgia Game and Fish Commission
401 State Capitol
Atlanta, Ga. 30334

Sirs:

For your new magazine, I like:
(Check only one)

- Georgia Outdoors
- Outdoor Georgia
- Georgia Game and Fish
- Georgia Wildlife
- Georgia Woods N' Waters
- Other:

Teachers Study In Nature's Classroom

Unlocking the mysteries of the outdoors won't be quite as difficult now for 21 Georgia teachers.

The teachers have completed their first Natural Resource Use Workshop at Berry College in Rome, under the sponsorship of the Georgia Natural Resource Education Council.

Instructed by Dr. Phillip Greear, chairman of the department of biology at Shorter College in Rome, the three week workshop featured more than 40 guest lecturers in the fields of geology, soils, forests, wildlife, and recreation.

The class made 10 field trips during the 15 day course, visiting a local mining operation, watershed area, sewage treatment plant, pulp mill, game management area, and state park.

Scholarships for the entire 21 teachers to attend the course were sponsored by more than 40 conservation-minded organizations, including sportsmen's clubs, women's and garden clubs, soil and water conservation districts, and many large corporations.

The Rome workshop is one of two scheduled for this summer. The second workshop began at Valdosta State College on July 25 for 21 additional teachers.

Local teachers interested in applying for a scholarship to attend the two workshops next summer or organizations who wish to contribute scholarships should contact Jim Morrison, Chairman, Georgia Natural Resource Education Council, care of the State Game and Fish Commission, 401 State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.



A Georgia Forestry Commission fire suppression crew shows teachers attending Workshop how firebreaks are made in forests. (Georgia Forestry Commission photo.)

Fingerlings will be stocked

(Continued from Page 1)

them "rockfish" or "rockbass" — were put into three different hatcheries for a reason. Some were sent to Lake Burton Hatchery, some to Richmond Hill and still others to the nursery area at Lake Seminole.

At each hatchery, a different technique is used in raising the stripers to determine which is best.

"The tiny fish when newly hatched are easy prey for other game fish in a lake," said Leon Kirkland, coordinator of fisheries for the commission. "The first four or five days is the most critical time. When they are eight days old, they are able to take care of themselves pretty well, and can feed on zooplankton, and can take food by themselves very well. We now have several thousand stripers past the critical state. Survival should be good in this batch."

All of this group of stripers will be put in Lake Seminole, Kirkland said, because that is the most suitable impoundment in the state. "Seminole is the only impoundment in Georgia that has a natural spawning stream available. Stripers will spawn landlocked, but they need 50 to 70 miles of stream. Their eggs are buoyant and must keep afloat for 72 hours to hatch."

And the striped bass program in Georgia is depending pretty heavily on reproduction from these stripers. "Once we can get a good population established in Seminole," Kirkland said, "we'll have a good supply of eggs available to us. Then we can stock other lakes around the state."

This is the second year of the stocking program at Seminole. Some fry

were stocked into the lake last year. Success of the stocking has not been determined.

He pointed out that a fullgrown striper weighs 30 to 40 pounds, "and a fish that size requires a tremendous amount of food. It needs big forage fish and a lot of them. So we'll put stripers in lakes where there are quantities of gizzard shad, which is ideal for stripers."

The gizzard shad can actually be detrimental to other game fish species since it grows so large so fast that bass, for example, cannot eat them. Thus they crowd game fish. But where they are present, stripers will help to control gizzard shad populations.

Lakes that do not have gizzard shad may not be stocked with stripers. However, some large lakes that do have a surplus of other forage fish may eventually receive some stripers. In these cases, however, stripers will be stocked in smaller numbers since a large population of stripers would not have a sufficient food supply.

Lakes that are most likely to be next in line for striped bass stockings, Kirkland said, include Sinclair, Walter F. George and Blackshear. All have gizzard shad.

It won't be next week or next month. But by next year, there'll be stripers in Seminole big enough to put up a big scrap. And within a few years there should be striper fishing in several other Georgia impoundments.

When that time comes, you may have to buy a bigger rod and reel — or be prepared to give your current outfit a workout like it's never had before. Those stripers don't give up without a fight to the death!



Mrs. Sara Prescott, teacher at Briarcliff High School, watches as Howard Zeller, assistant director of the State Game and Fish Commission, examines fish scales to determine age of the fish. (Photo by Dan Keever)

Argentine Bird Stocked To Fill Quail's Gap

Although famed for its great quail hunting, Georgia has come face-to-face with the fact that the Bobwhite is on the decline.

Little can be done to prevent this. Changes in land use and farming have already made a dent in quail populations, and in future years may push the quail even farther out of the lime-light.

Something has to be done to preserve sport for Georgians. The answer, the State Game and Fish Commission feels, lies in finding a new game bird that can adapt itself to the prevailing conditions.

Perhaps that bird has been found. The Commission has acquired a small number of South American birds that live in habitat similar to what is to be found in the southern half of Georgia.

The bird is called Tinamou — pronounced "Tin-A-Mew." Actually there are two varieties of Tinamou, grassland and brushland.

Much Like Quail

The grassland Tinamou is very similar to the Bobwhite. He is only slightly larger, and is a mottled brown color. He likes open grassland, and should do very well in south Georgia's pastureland.

The brushland Tinamou is between a quail and a grouse in size. His coloring is much the same, but he's slightly larger than his grassland brother. Also, he likes brushy country, timber or fringes of grassfields near brush.

He flies fast and darts in and out of timber, much like the grouse. He'll provide a challenge to the best of wingshots!

There are other species of the Tinamou, but Georgia Game and Fish is interested only in these two, said Hubert Handy, coordinator of game management, because they appear to be just what is needed here.

The bird comes from Argentina, in South America. The bird was brought to the Commission's attention by Dr. Garner Bump, a scout for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service is constantly on the lookout for foreign gamebirds that can adapt themselves to this country, particularly for areas where a new, gamebird is needed.

"Due to the decline in bobwhite quail habitat in Georgia, because of the change in land use, we need a new game bird to fill the vacancy left by the quail," Handy said.

"We're trying to find a bird that will thrive in the kind of habitat to be found in south Georgia. The Tinamou seems to fill the requirements."

Handy said the Commission received only 14 of these birds for brood stock, so it may be two or three years before enough birds are available for actual stocking.

The birds are being kept at the state game farm, where eggs will be hatched to produce enough birds for stocking. The first goal is to raise enough birds to acquire a good breeding stock so that once the birds are stocked, more birds will be available for supplemental stocking, and stocking in new areas.

Handy said plans are to stock both varieties of birds only in south and coastal Georgia. "With grouse in north Georgia, there is no need for it there," he said.



This dove is enjoying a free handout. But will it be fatal? (Photo by Jerry Binder)

Doves Killed By Kindness?

Are you killing doves by providing them feed and water in backyard feeders?

Several reports of dead doves were received by Game and Fish Commission offices lately, which were probably caused by backyard feeders.

Hubert Handy, coordinator of game management for the Commission, said in one case a dove was seen in a yard, apparently very sick. It soon died. The dove was turned over to the Commission and from there was sent to the Wildlife Disease Study Center at the University of Georgia in Athens. Tests made by the Disease Study showed the bird had died from trichomoniasis.

"This disease can be spread through bird feeders and birdbaths," Handy said. "When we checked back, we found there were several feeders and a birdbath in the yard where the dove was seen dying.

"These feeders attract birds of all kinds," said Handy. "Unless these feeders are cleaned very frequently, they become dirty, and may spread disease. Also, other birds carrying disease germs leave germs for other birds to contract."

He said witnesses told him the dove apparently seemed to choke to death. "That's the way this disease works," said Handy. "It causes a constriction in the gullet, and kills doves either by starvation or it chokes them to death. Doves are the most susceptible of all birds to this disease."

Handy added that "if you must continue to feed and water birds, be absolutely sure to clean feeders and water fountains daily to prevent the spread of diseases."

When an adult dove becomes ill it spreads the disease to its family. Adult doves feed their young through their mouths. "When this happens, the entire clutch dies, and the disease is spread further," Handy said.



Joe Kight, left, supervisor of game for the Southern Region, and H. J. Sewell, of the Commission's game farm at Fitzgerald, examine new South American bird, Tinamou. (Photo by Jim Morrison)

Biologist Gone Coo Coo? Not Really

Counting bird calls? These boys aren't as "coo-coo" as that may sound. They call it "coo-counting," all right, but that's not something that's done by game biologists that have gone over the hill mentally.

There's good reason for this coo-counting business. The reason figures prominently in the dove hunting season which will be coming up in only a couple months.

Game biologists of the Georgia Game and Fish Commission just completed their coo-count for this year. They started May 20, and wound up the annual task June 10.

It's not a case of a man just going out and listening to bird calls, keeping score on a piece of paper. The thing is done scientifically.

There are some 24 routes set up in

the state, and the same routes are followed year after year, so that a more accurate comparison can be made with previous counts.

Routes are set up along country roads and are not changed unless the road is perhaps changed to a main highway, for example.

Comparison Made

Game and Fish Commission biologists work in cooperation with biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife has records of every count made in previous years, and comparisons of records against current studies give indications of what kind of dove shooting hunters may expect this season.

More than that, what is revealed about dove populations is used in determining length and dates of hunting seasons, and bag limits.

The call routes are run beginning at 30 minutes before sunrise daily during the counting period. Each man has 20 stations on his route. He spends three minutes at each station then moves to the next, one mile away. In addition to counting calls at each station, he counts all doves he sees in between stops.

"The purpose of this study is to give us an estimate of the breeding population of doves," said Hubert Handy, coordinator of game management for the Georgia Commission. "From Fish and Wildlife records we can determine if the population is up or down each year, and can predict pretty close to what the hunting population will be this fall." All southeastern states cooperate in the study.

Population Up?

Handy commented that in the route he ran this year, "I heard less doves than normal. Yet I feel sure I saw more doves than usual while moving between stations." He believes there may possibly be more doves this year

than normal, but the final score won't be available until all the results are tabulated by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to coo counts, dove management programs include two dove trapping periods. Doves are trapped, banded and released. Purpose of this is to keep track of how the birds move around the country.

"The first trapping period is held before hunting season. This shows us where the doves that are here came from.

"Banding gives us an indication of where the birds came from that are shot here. We have found we shoot very few doves from other states. Most of the doves taken by hunters in Georgia are Georgia-born doves, both in the early and late seasons," said Handy.

July Fourth Safe Holiday

Despite a long three-day July 4th holiday, one that traditionally attracts thousands of Georgians toward outdoor activities, there was not a single drowning over the Fourth of July holidays, the State Game and Fish Commission said today.

Game and Fish safety records showed 1966 to be the second straight year to be free of a drowning tragedy over the holiday.

Rosser Malone, director of the Game and Fish Commission, thanked the public for its cooperation in playing safe over the holiday. "It is indeed gratifying that Georgians were diligent and careful in having a safe Independence Day holiday," he said. "It is good to know that the public is becoming more and more safety conscious. A drowning is a tragic end to a happy holiday."

Magazine

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formed on where the best hunting and fishing is available to them. Articles are planned on various types of hunting and fishing, in season, and where anglers or hunters may find the best sport.

Up-to-date information on hunting and fishing seasons will be included in a monthly sportsmen's calendar.

There will be "how-to" articles, describing the best hunting or fishing methods for various species of Georgia wildlife, tailored especially for the Peach State outdoorsman.

The magazine will be published by the State Game and Fish Commission. The Staff members of the Information and Education office will edit the magazine and write many of the articles. Other employees of the Commission, including game or fish biologists and wildlife rangers — men in the field — will bring authoritative information to the reader.

STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION
Public Information Office
401 State Capitol
Atlanta, Ga. 30334

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GEORGIA OUTDOORS

Jim Morrison, *Editor*
Dean Wohlgemuth, *Managing Editor*
Dan Keever, *Photo Editor*

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