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ROD & GUN

By Tom Walker

**IT'S TRIFLE COOL YET
FOR FISHING TO START**

Fidgety fishermen looking ahead to long awaited dates with crappie and jack (chain pickerel) to get the 1947 season started can take heart from one simple fact about weather—it's bound to get warmer soon. While it's a trifle on the cool side now for these first biters to be active, a couple of weeks of warm weather will get the crappie and jack ready for a bout with anglers.

Jack are pretty well distributed in the streams and lakes of the Coastal Plain. Crappie, which are found principally in lakes and only in larger streams, are distributed, however, throughout the State. Both black crappie, which are native to the lower Coastal Plain, and white crappie, and outsider, find suitable waters in North Carolina. The black crappie, which favor clear water, like the lakes of the west into which they have been introduced about as well as they like the native water of the east. The white crappie, a northern Mississippi Valley product, have done well on being introduced into the less clear waters of the Piedmont, where the frequent silt does not bother this species.

The best bait for early season fishing for crappie and jack is small minnows. In lakes, crappie fishing usually is best along "bonnet" beds and over the deeper pockets. Ordinarily fishermen just let their boats drift along these places. Jack usually are found along logs and stumps or near cover.

**SHAD AND HERRING
FIND IT'S TO COLD**

Early reports on the shad and herring season in inland waters which started at the first of the month are on the gloomy side. It's still too cold, the fishermen say, for the fish to have to come across the lines dividing commercial and inland waters. A little treatment from a spell of warm weather is also needed for results to perk up.

**DON'T FORGET TERM
OF FISHING LICENSES**

While you're thinking about the fishing season which is just ahead, don't forget to check your license along with your equipment. North Carolina's fishing license terms run by the calendar year January 1 to December 31. If you buy only a fishing license, be sure you've got the 1947 variety. If you're a hunter and fisherman and got a combination license last fall, you're okay, of course. Combination licenses bought on the 1946-47 season are valid through July of this year.

**NATION TO OBSERVE
WILDLIFE WEEK**

Next week, March 16-22 will be observed throughout America as National Wildlife Restoration week. Sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Week first was proclaimed 10 years ago by the late President Roosevelt. Theme of this year's observance will be relationship between the wise use of soil, water, and plant life and the national security. Programs pointed to the observance will place special emphasis on the need for greater protection and management to insure adequate supplies of fish and game to meet the vastly increased hunting and fishing pressure brought on with the close of the war.

Each year the Federation, a non-profit organization, issues a sheet of wildlife poster stamps reproduced from paintings by famous American nature artists. The 1947 issue has 40 studies of birds, mammals, fish, flowers, and trees in the 64 stamps on the sheet. Since these stamps were first distributed, there have been reproduced 394 separate nature studies which go into making a miniature outdoor picture gallery in true colors. The stamps sell for one dollar a sheet and proceeds are devoted to the Federation's program for the preservation of the nation's natural resources. Clubs, societies, and individuals interested in obtaining stamps should write to the Servicing Division, National Wildlife Federation, 28 Spruce Street, Boston 8, Mass.

**168 VIOLATORS NABBED
BY STATE'S PROTECTORS**

With the principal hunting season closed, game law prosecutions reported by protectors of the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries dropped to 168 for February, as compared with the 283 registered the month before. Fines levied in February cases totaled \$2,296.60, and court costs \$1,030.

Out of season hunters were the big game for protectors last month, 71 violators being brought into court on this charge. Next high on the list of charges was hunting without license, which accounted for 32 cases.

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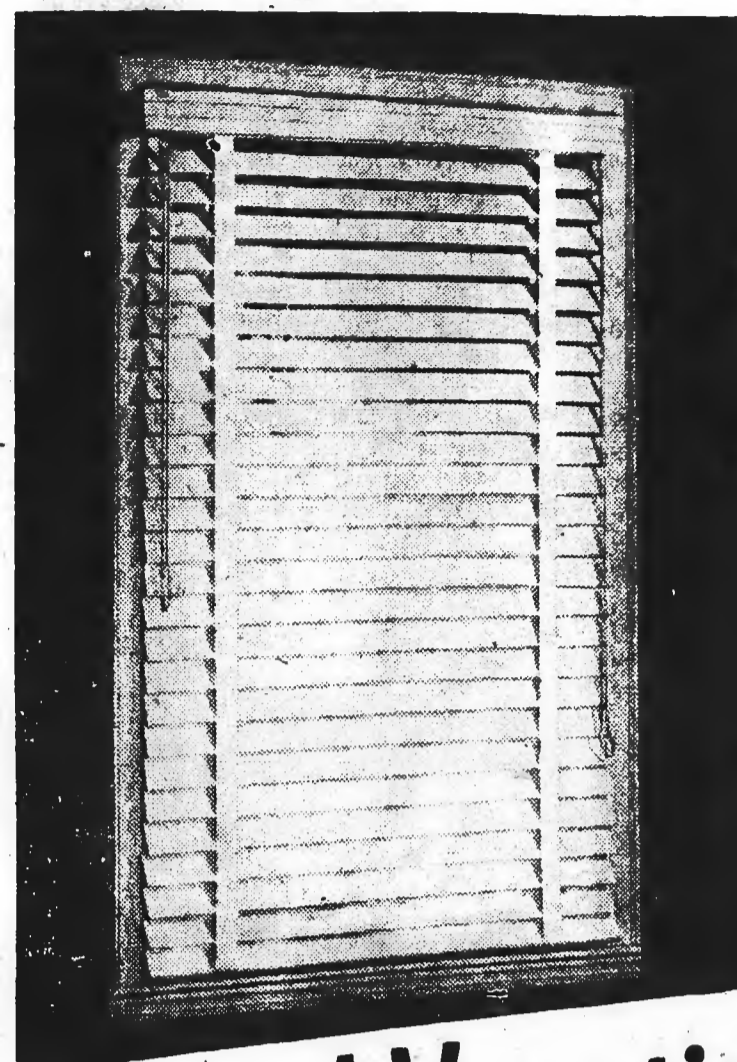
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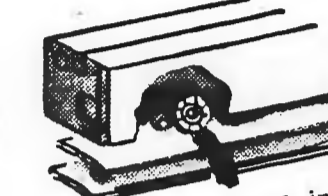
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