

DWELLERS OF THE WOODS

A PORTFOLIO OF EAST TEXAS GAME PRINTS

DWELLERS OF THE WOODS

Bobwhite Quail *Colinus virginianus*

The Bobwhite quail has been called **The Bird** in the South, where hunters have developed a special kind of respect and appreciation for his explosive eruption from the covey. Flying at speeds of more than 60 miles an hour, the quail is a difficult target in open fields and becomes almost impossible to hit in thick cover. Quail hunting has long welded a special bond between hunters and their dogs. In East Texas, a good quail dog is as valued as a prize horse. Many older quail hunters still recall the days when they hunted on small, patchwork farms with friendly farmers who usually insisted on a "glass of iced-tea and a front porch visit" before hunting on the farm's back 40 acres. The Bobwhite's habitat is where woodland edge, annual grasses, bare soil and, ideally, agricultural crops come together. In recent years, forest clearcutting has created similar habitat by opening the forest floor to the sun and permitting the growth of seed-bearing plants that attract the birds. The quail raises 10 to 20 young from small white eggs found in a grass-lined hollow in the earth. They are relatively short-lived. Between 60 and 80 percent mortality occurs in the population each year whether it is hunted or not.

White-Tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Of all the game animals in East Texas, none is more respected—or as elusive—as the white-tailed deer. When his well-developed senses of smell, sight and hearing are combined in use against the hunter, a big white-tailed buck can become the most formidable and craftiest of all forest wildlife. The animal responds well to management and is equally at home in a hardwood bottom or a pine upland forest. His food varies greatly—from mushrooms, acorns and fruit to greenbriar leaves, yaupon and other "browse" plants. When the white-tailed deer's habitat is in good condition, each doe will normally produce two youngsters a year. The fawns are born without much scent and are spotted for camouflage against predators. An integral part of Southland's current wildlife management program in East Texas is the creation of suitable habitat for the white-tailed deer, and the eventual production of trophy bucks on selected forest areas.

Mallard Duck *Anas platyrhynchos*

The setting could be almost anywhere. . . a cornfield in North Dakota or a flooded bottomland in East Texas. But the thrill is always the same: a "greenhead," the king of ducks, sets his wings and settles into a final, graceful approach to the hunter's decoys on the water below. The mallard lays between eight and 15 greenish-buff eggs a year in a down-and-grass lined nest around marshes, ponds, bays and lakes, mostly in Canada and the northern United States. Beginning around September, the duck migrates south for the winter and returns north in April to begin the nesting season. The bird has a varied diet, feeding on aquatic insects, plants, tubers, agricultural crops, acorns and many types of hard seeds found in the water.

Gray Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

The bottomland hardwoods of East Texas have witnessed many a young hunter learning about the outdoors while in pursuit of an agile gray or "cat" squirrel while the animal bounds from tree to tree. The species weighs about a pound—about half the size of a large fox squirrel. The squirrel normally breeds twice a year, producing two to four youngsters. Its food consists of buds, tender stems of plants, flowers, insects and nuts in the spring and summer. Acorns and other mast sustain the squirrel during the fall and winter.

Largemouth Bass *Micropterus salmoides*

Native to all natural lakes and streams in Texas, the largemouth bass is the most popular freshwater fish in the state. The bass spawns in the spring when water temperatures near 60 degrees. The male fans out a nest and attracts a female that may lay from 2,000 to 25,000 eggs. The female is then driven away and the male stands guard over the incubating eggs.



352/1000 *Gayle Bonsall*





352/1000 *Gayle Bonsall*





352/1000 *Gayle Bonsall*

THE ARTIST

Gayle Bonsall, a native of Port Arthur, Texas, is a practicing architect who now lives at Lindale in East Texas.

He is a graduate of the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture.

Inspired by a deep love of nature, Gayle has studied and drawn wildlife since his boyhood. He has conducted several one-man shows and his works hang in the homes of many East Texas outdoorsmen.

Admirers of wildlife art are fully rewarded with the infinite detail and accuracy of his subjects.

THE SKETCHES

At Southland Paper, the forest—growing and regrowing—is the basic resource for the goods we make.

But we know that forests should also serve other needs, including wildlife, recreation and the environment.

That's why on Southland's lands in East Texas we're working hard to achieve a balance that will enable our forests to sustain a variety of wildlife, both game and non-game animals, while still growing enough trees for paper.

In this portfolio are sketches of some of the game species found in abundance on Southland forests.

Southland
PAPER