

## Pennsylvania Record Fish for 1935

**I**N reviewing the 1935 fishing season, one fact stands out: it was a bass fisherman's year. True, nice catches of trout were made on many waters, in spite of inclement weather and heavy rains that prevailed in the trout areas during much of the season. It was also an average year for the sucker fisherman; for the angler who derives pleasure in fishing for panfish such as the catfish, yellow perch and sunfish, and for the troller whose specialty is the wall-eyed pike or Susquehanna salmon. Pickerel catches were about normal, although the usually excellent fishing for these game fish in northeastern Pennsylvania ponds and lakes fell off during the autumn months. The bass fishing, therefore, may be considered an outstanding feature in an otherwise average fishing year.

To present a broad picture of the season, it is essential that we start with the first hook and line fishing of the season, winter and early spring sucker fishing. Probably no other form of angling attracts

so many fishermen to Pennsylvania inland waters as does still-fishing for suckers. Generally regarded as the greatest sucker fishing area in Pennsylvania are the central counties, drained by the Juniata River and its tributaries. Vast runs of suckers in virtually all of the feeder streams to the Juniata and its Raystown Branch occur each spring, but 1935, from the catch angle in this territory, was below par. Ranking as the leading sucker fishing waters were streams in Franklin and Fulton Counties, the upper Delaware River in the vicinity of Milford, Pike County, and the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. The largest sucker reported caught was that taken by Guy Bond of Malvern, a fish 22 inches in length and weighing 3 pounds, 12 ounces.

### The Trout Season

Unusually high water at the opening of the trout season in mid-April greeted the trout fishermen. Many of the largest streams, the Loyalsock in Lycoming County, Fishing Creek in Clinton County, Spring

Creek, Bald Eagle and Penn's Creek in Centre County and the Lackawaxen in Pike and Wayne were extremely high for first-day anglers. This condition prevailed generally until well into May. An abundance of natural food washed from the stream banks and cold weather were also major jinxes for the early fishermen.

In comparison to the 1934 trout season, when three mammoth brown trout, ranging in weight from 7 pounds 15 ounces to 9 pounds 7 ounces, topped the list, the largest brownie caught was that creelied in famous Brokenstraw Creek, Warren County, by Duard May of Corry, Erie County. It measured 26 inches in length and tipped the scales at 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

One class stands out in the trout division, aristocrats of troutdom in the minds of many anglers, our crimson spotted native brook trout. And to two boy anglers go first honors in the brook trout record annals. It remained for John Lucas, 14 years old, of Mildred, Sullivan County, to land a brookie reminiscent of the days before the log drives. Fishing in Glass Run, a tributary to famous Loyalsock Creek, he creelied a brook trout measuring 20 inches in length, 12½ inches in girth, and weighing 4 pounds. This magnificent specimen fell to the lure of a minnow. A nightcrawler was the bait used by Charles Wild, Jr., of Johnstown. Fishing in Clear Shade Creek in Somerset County, Charles, who is 16, caught a brookie measuring 19 inches in length that virtually equaled the weight of the Glass Run fish. A 17-inch brookie, weight and girth not given, clinched third place. It was caught by William Zeigenfuss of Martins Creek in Martins Creek below Bangor.

Lehigh County again this year produced the largest rainbow trout reported. It was a 19½-inch fish, weighing 3 pounds, 14 ounces, caught in Little Lehigh Creek near Allentown by Warren Yeakel of Allentown on opening day.

Many big brown trout were reported. The one crowding May's catch in the Brokenstraw most closely was taken on a minnow in Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County, by Wayne Long of New Cumberland. This fish measured 26 inches in length and weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces.

Perhaps the most thrilling catch of a big brownie was made on dry fly and extremely light tackle in Penn's Creek by J. K. Ebert of Sunbury. The fish, 22 inches long and weighing 4 pounds, was taken in fast water. So viciously did this Penn's Creek brownie battle for freedom that once, during the fight, Ebert was caught off balance and sprawled headlong in the stream.

### A Banner Bass Season

And now we come to the outstanding feature in Pennsylvania fishing for 1935, the season for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Any bass fisherman knows that a black bass of three pounds weight or better is capable of providing thrills enough in ten



DR. J. N. SHIPLEY AND H. D. HERSHEY, OF ERIE, WITH THE 1935 RECORD MUSKIE

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