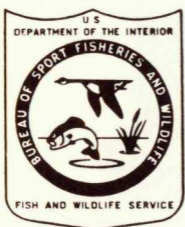
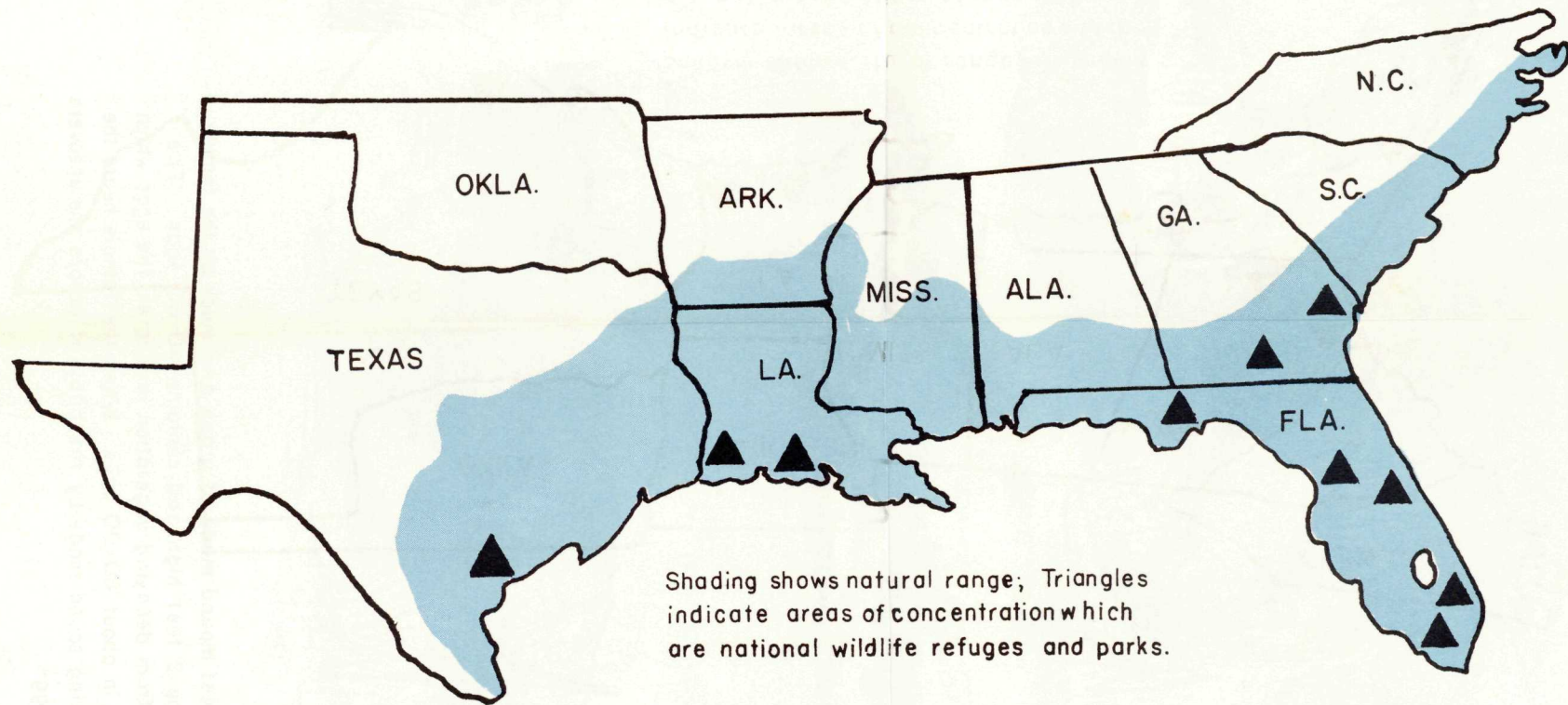


# THE AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

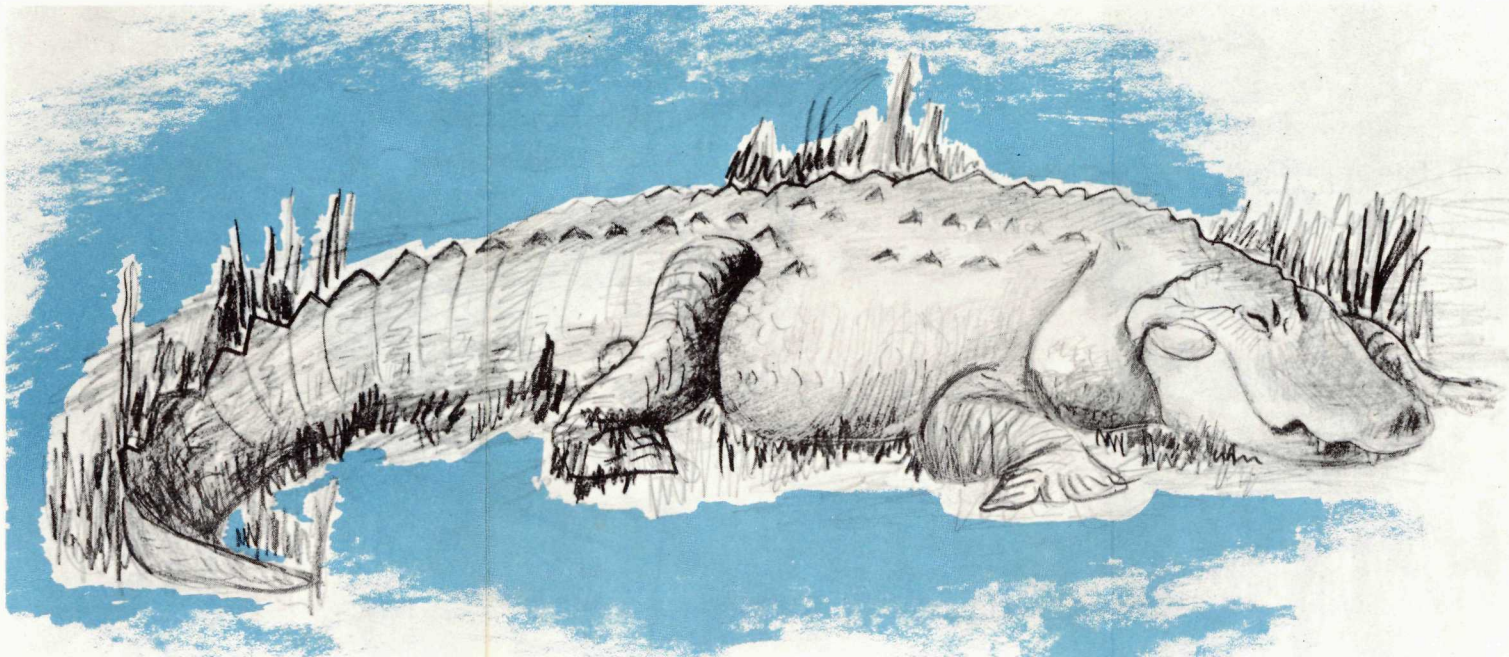


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

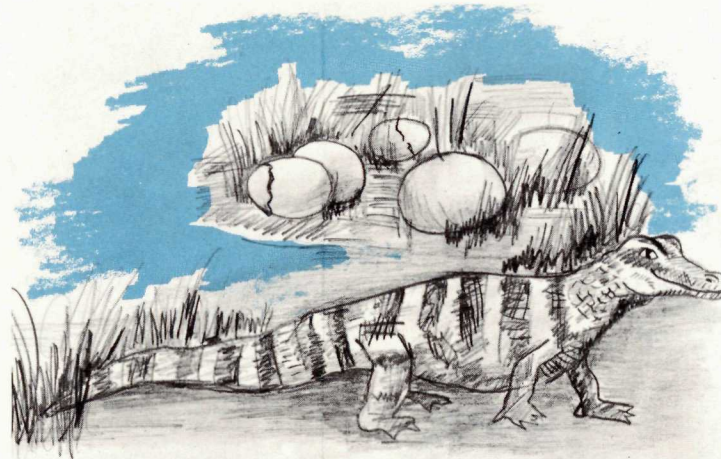


Shading shows natural range; Triangles indicate areas of concentration which are national wildlife refuges and parks.

Adult alligators are 6-12 feet long and may reach a length of more than 15 feet. They feed primarily on fish, turtles, and other aquatic life.



Young alligators grow about 1 foot per year for first 6 years and will eat almost anything that moves and is smaller than they are.



The nest mound made of grass and muck by the female may be 2 feet high and contains 40-60 eggs. The heat from decaying vegetation incubates the eggs which hatch in about 60-90 days. When the female hears the chucking sound made by the baby alligators she uncovers the eggs.