

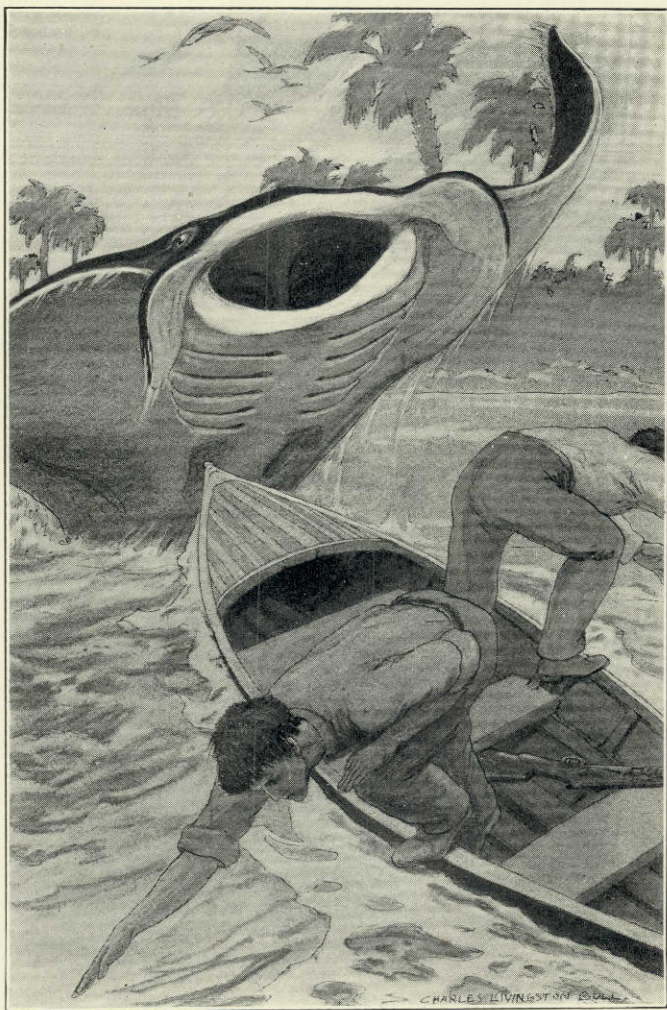




BY REEF AND TRAIL







“ CHARGING FURIOUSLY, IT SPRANG CLEAR OF THE WATER.”

(See page 112)

# By Reef and Trail

Bob Leach's Adventures in Florida

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FISHER AMES, Jr.

Illustrated by  
CHARLES LIVINGSTON BULL



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DEDICATED

*To My Mother*



## PREFACE

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To the boys who may read *BY REEF AND TRAIL*, I wish to say that I have spent many delightful months hunting and fishing among the scenes this book tries to picture. My friend Bob, for the character of the young hero of *BY REEF AND TRAIL* is drawn from real life, lives on the Florida coast and in many exciting expeditions he was my guide and instructor. He took me on my first alligator hunt, and showed me how the strange brown pelicans rear their young, and the keys where the giant loggerhead comes ashore to lay her eggs. I have never met a truer sportsman than Bob, or a keener student of wild life.

In the hope that some of my readers may be interested in this vital and fascinating subject, I have put some advice on outdoor life and a glossary concerning the natural history

appearing in this story at the back of the book in the form of an appendix. But though book knowledge is essential in its way the best advice I can give my young readers is to go afield themselves and see things with their own eyes. Learn to observe. It is an art that is not easy to acquire, but fortunately it is within everyone's reach, and once mastered no part of the world will seem narrow or barren. Bob has had little schooling, but as the plume-hunter, Braithe, said: "he has a pair of eyes."

Some day I hope to meet again the tall, brown young Floridian whose pair of eyes revealed so much to me that was new and instructive. I understand that Bob contemplates a prospecting trip to the little known Gulf of California. If he does I know he will see what there is to be seen, and perhaps I can persuade him to let me tell the story.

FISHER AMES, JR.

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