



# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**Blank sessions are something that all anglers have to suffer from time to time and this is perhaps, an inevitable consequence of the relative unpredictability of our hobby and to some extent our quarry. It is also a fact though, that the frequency of these poor sessions can often mean the difference between the good, the bad and the exceptional, when it comes to our individual angling CV's. None of us like to spend lots of time at the water for little return, even those of us who enjoy the bank side environment and have a great interest in its inhabitants.**



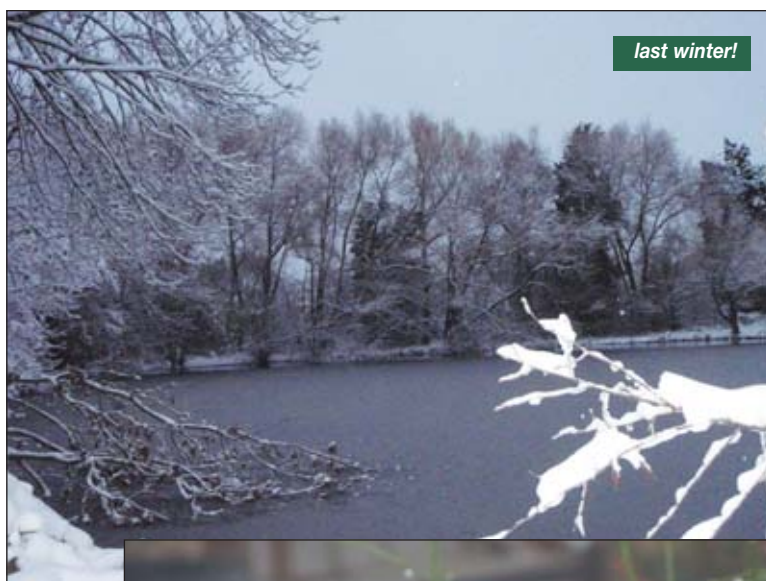
2lb perch

under those conditions, I thought. This particular trip turned out to be the total opposite with not even a single bite falling to the combined forces of lobworm, prawn and live-bait. I even fished on for an hour or so after dark as I felt that a tench might oblige on the float but it was all to no avail and a complete blank was declared at 7.30 pm. Strangely it was not only a blank on the action front but also on the fish sightings, as virtually nothing broke the surface all day! Fortunately I was able to use the time to observe wild life and, as usual, this did not let me down. A group of seagulls were seen harassing a buzzard high up on the far side of the lake while a pair of sparrow hawks appeared to be hunting together – gliding in parallel across the water at about head high during the mid afternoon spell. This winter has, as yet, avoided the extreme conditions of last year and as a result of this the sightings of smaller birds in our garden are down and talking to others interested in the ways of wildlife has confirmed this.



short winter evenings can be productive

Trying to predict the right spot, the time of a feeding spell, the right conditions or even the best water to fish under a certain set of weather patterns are almost certainly the decisions that sort out the weak from the strong on the fishing front. It does not matter how good you get at it however; it is still easy to get it wrong, as luck will always play a fair part in the proceedings. As I was saying a while ago, I have been doing a bit of perch fishing of late and results have been fairly consistent, with a day's catch being anything between ten, if things are a bit slow, to thirty or more if I get it right. I don't mean that they are all big ones but the action is normally pretty consistent whatever the weather! Normally if it is a bright and clear day things will be slow until just before dusk and then a fairly hectic spell of feeding will occur. On the other hand an overcast and dull day will usually be steadier; with bites coming at any time through the day. This is a fairly common feature of perch fishing and has been well documented by the experts. The last session that I did however, was on a day that was in my opinion about as ideal as you can get at this time of the year with a light westerly wind and plenty of cloud to keep the light levels low. An air temperature of 12 degrees also contributed to my sense of optimism. The previous trip had been on a freezing cold clear day with the puddles frozen for most of the day and the bright sun not surrendering to cloud until about 3pm. This session produced about 20 bites, mainly in the late afternoon, and I landed about a dozen perch up to 2½lb – a reasonable day



last winter!

small birds are less numerous in the garden this winter

