



KANSAS FISH AND GAME



Kansas Winter Scene

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KANSAS FISH AND GAME BULLETIN

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FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

PRATT - KANSAS

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FISHING SEASON

The taking of bass and crappie is not permitted from March 1 to May 15.

There is no closed season on channel cat fish.

ENFORCEMENT OR OBSERVANCE

* * *

Some time ago we made the statement that game laws could not be enforced; they must be observed. We have been taken to task at some considerable length on the premise that this was a distinction without a difference. In the administration of fish and game laws it is not possible to prevent violation by taking bodily possession of the violator for a period of time. Only in very rare instances is a jail sentence given. If it would be possible to confine the violator convicted of breaking fish and game laws, this, in our judgment, would be enforcement of the law. Since the violator, after he is convicted and leaves the court, is perfectly free to violate the law the next minute as far as it is possible to prevent him, we believe there is a rule that prevents this individual from immediately again breaking fish and game rules. This factor is public sentiment.

After all, deep down in all of our lives is that element which creates the desire to meet public approval. If that public disapproval, and perhaps it could almost at times be called ridicule, is not present, game protectors had just as well cease operation. This last month, a Kansas banker was caught shooting quail, by a state game protector. He denied flatly that he was shooting anything but rabbits, even though the feet of the bird were sticking out of the pocket of his coat as he was talking to the protector. He was taken before a justice of the peace, who assessed the minimum fine of \$5.00, plus fifty cents court costs.

This fine, in itself is not deterrent to this individual to the shooting of quail out of season, even though it should have been ten times this amount, but the ridicule of such unsportsman-like conduct is the salvation in this case. We are inclined to believe that by the time this man runs the gauntlet of the kidding and jeering of his neighbors, he will be very reluctant to commit the same offense twice. Good sportsmanship is aroused by this method. He will be made to realize that he was illegally taking that which rightfully belonged to some other sportsman. In all probability the thought that he was acting selfishly did not enter his mind.

Sportsmanship and decent honesty are synonymous. The fish and game law violator should, in justice, be subjected to the jibes and ridicule of his neighbors.

* * *

Four thousand county game protectors have executed an oath to abide by and uphold fish and game laws. Having executed an oath, they are no longer in a "laissez faire" position on fish and game law observance. They are serious about the matter. One hundred four county associations back them up. More people have given their time and substance in feeding game birds this winter, than ever before in Kansas. The fellow who steals these birds out of season is just not going to be a popular individual any longer. He is likely to be put in his right place. He will even enjoy obeying the laws.

* * *

TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT

"Ole Dowe" ^{it's} ~~it~~ ddown

* * *

Into the avafauna of Kansas, there has come a strange bird, from distant lands, beyond the seas. This comparatively recent addition to our bird family - the starling - has caused among our cattlemen, farmers and sportsmen, a furor that is destined to be re-echoed during the 1941 session of the Legislature.

This bird, however, is not without friends among each of the contending groups. The proponents of starling control would make us believe that the bird is more demonical than the Black Devil of the Chinese. The opponents of control with equal fervor trace its genealogy back to Noah's returning dove. Investigating ornithologists also hold conflicting views as to the economic value of this bird. One thing is certain. The starling is here to stay. We predict that ultimately it will be a welcome addition to our bird family because of its insect eating habits. Under the present fish and game laws it is protected.

While the controversies are raging the Bulletin will give you a brief history of the bird's origin, and a few of the facts incidental to its introduction into the United States. The original breeding grounds, authorities tell us, are to be found in Norway, Russia and Western Siberia. The Park Department of the City of New York first introduced the bird successfully into the United States in 1891. From this foundation the birds have increased to such an extent that they range now, as far west as Kansas and Nebraska and as far southwest as Texas.

* * *

The American Bison Society has advised the Bulletin that they have completed their 1939 census of the bison population of the United States. According to their report there are now 5,039 of these animals in the possession of private individuals, city zoos, state and national parks.

The American Bison Society should have the good will and enthusiastic support of every conservationist. The society, without fanfare, had its beginning at a time when the American bison herd was rapidly nearing extinction. Prairie fires, "rotten ice", market hunters, blizzards and disease had reduced this animal from its original number of sixty million to the figures recently given us by the American Bison Society, within a century. The efforts of this conservation group have prevented this shaggy monster - at one time so numerous in Kansas - from being but a tradition. There are forty-nine of these animals in Kansas, according to the report of the American Bison Society. Twenty-two of them are in the possession of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

* * *

Curtly answering a few questions directed to us by questionist Wint Smith, about the Chukar Partridge. The bird, Wint, is monogamous in its breeding habits. That is, it mates with but one of the opposite sex during the annual mating season. Twelve to fifteen eggs are usually found in their nests during the twenty-two or twenty-three days of incubation. The act of incubation, except in rare instances, is the exclusive right and

duty of the hen. The male, however, prepares the nests and makes any adjustments or alterations later deemed necessary by the exacting hen. The bird is gregarious in its social life, and are to be found in coveys except when actually breeding. The young birds are as much alike as two peas in a pod. The sexing of them is a very difficult task, especially to the novice game breeder. When the birds are seven or eight months old they then assume distinguishable characteristics. The matured cock has by that time developed a head that is much larger and more masculine appearing than that of the hen. Its legs too are more heavily boned, and have a brighter coloration. Spurs are not a reliable mark of identification.

GAME PRESERVES

In a five day shoot given by Lord Oranmore, at Castlemagarett, Claremorris, 450 pheasants and over 100 woodcock, stated to be a record bag, fell to the guns. Weather conditions did not favor the woodcock. -From the Limerick (Irish) Leader.

Elsewhere in this Irish paper, we notice sports items that are strangely reminiscent of our own troubles. A complaint, for instance, had been lodged with the Limerick County game officials by the salmon anglers of that county, protesting against an obstruction in the River Feale. It prevented, they charged, free passage of salmon into the upper waters of that river. We have similar troubles in Kansas.

Another item was in the nature of an advertisement, "Earnestly requesting hunters to avoid galloping through dairy cattle and to shut gates onto roadways." This too reads like many of the

complaints and kicks registered by the farmers of this State.

The first item was of particular interest to us. A few days ago we were bluntly told that hunting in North America was by no means comparable to the advantages afforded by the private shooting preserves of Europe, particularly in Germany, Ireland and the British Isles. To this we agreed. Hunting is good on these preserves as the day's shoot of Lord Oramore would indicate. A fact not generally known, however, even to our critic, is that hunting on these preserves is the exclusive right and privilege of the lord mayors, the burgomeesters, propaganda ministers and other blue bloods of Europe.

The European counterparts of our bookkeepers, clerks, filling station attendants and laborers do not have any hunting. There are no hunting areas available to them. Their recreation out-of-doors is limited to angling.

The Bulletin is against such preserves. We prefer the free hunting to be found in North America.

* * *

Chairman Lee Larrabee, has told us that the farmers living throughout his district, have been enriched \$100,000 through the sale of rabbits and rabbit pelts, during the past two months. Lee who is given to the spinning of mighty yarns about the advantages of his beloved Southwest, asked us not to quote him, being fearful that his statement might be misinterpreted. There should be no fear of that Lee, as similar reports are being received from other counties of Western Kansas.

* * *

Commissioner J. Jay Owens, has sent us the following which we find at variance with the instructions in our Boy Scout Manual.

RULE NO. 1, FOR HUNTING IN THE WOODS: Always carry a deck of cards. If you get lost, don't get excited. Just sit down and start playing solitaire and some son of a kibitzer will show up immediately to help you.

* * *

In last month's Bulletin, we hinted at our intention to discontinue its publication. Many protests against such an action were directed to us. One of the high officials of our State Highway Commission, accosted me in Topeka, and urged the continuing of the Bulletin. "Son," says he, "I read this month's Bulletin while eating a cheese sandwich in the tap room of my hotel, and found it very interesting reading." We are of the opinion, and so expressed ourselves, that a cheese sandwich in a hotel tap room would make a census report interesting reading. Nevertheless, we do appreciate the comments of our readers.

* * *

The 1939 - 1940 fur season paradoxically was good and bad. The fur bearing animals, if they could express themselves, would say that it was a most successful season. Mother Nature after giving us a good and prolific breeding season, cut the season in one-half by freezing the streams and making trapping very uncomfortable and uninviting generally.

The fur dealers and trappers take a contrary view point. Their season was unexpectedly shortened and the fur marts of Europe, due to the war, closed. Eighty percent of the fur trapped in the United States is exported to European markets.

* * *

FIELD AND STREAM

Our midwinter appeal asking sportsmen to winter feed upland game birds was met with very generous and most effective responses. From almost every section of the State, came letters from sportsmen reporting their welcomed participation in our winter feeding program.

That grand pair of Shawnee County sportsmen, Milt Tabor and Paul Pinet, editorially and financially fought the good fight along with the other sportsmen of that county.

The entire membership of the Nemaha County Game Improvement Association were afield, laden with grain and feeding shelters during the severest days of our winter.

Mr. H. P. Huckaby, and his hunting partner John Ingstrom, both of Hiawatha, informs the Bulletin that they had established many feeding shelters throughout Brown County, and are convinced that the birds suffered very little and that very few dead birds were found.

Carl Tillisen, Sherman County Rancher, says he adopted and fed two hundred stranded pheasants and several coveys of quail on his ranch. We are very glad to get this information, Mr. Tillisen, as that ranch of yours is close to our favorite hunting grounds.

Paul Le Ger of Perry, had eleven coveys of quail under his watchful eye during the time that they were needing human assistance. It required ninety-six miles of driving, he writes, to visit the eleven coveys. Paul thinks, and we agree with him, that the rabbits should be considered a game animal and included on the list of protected animals.

There are many others who have written us, and we regret that space will not permit our mentioning them and their activities in this issue of the Bulletin.

In analyzing the reports we are forced to conclude that the upland game birds suffered little, due to the alertness of the sportsmen.

Speaking of game birds, the construction of the proposed pheasant hatchery at Meade County State Park will begin shortly after February 15. Leonard Sutherland, who was formerly superintendent of the quail hatchery at Pittsburg, will be in charge of this latest venture of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Sutherland has been succeeded at the Pittsburg farm by Charles Troxel who has been stationed at that farm, as an assistant to Sutherland, for several years.

* * *

Ray Lawhorn, for many years a Kansas State Game Protector, now a United States Game Management agent, stationed at Phoenix Arizona, has at last written his old friends. Ray is a very handy fellow to know, believe me. He intimates that he has located fishing holes in Arizona, that are teeming with trout and rarely fished. If you have a hankering for the glammers of Hollywood, by all means contact Ray. His fishing and hunting partner is none other than Clark Gable. Ray has expressed a desire to hear from his Kansas friends. In spite of the thrills of his new surroundings and work, he confesses a lonesomeness for Kansas and Kansas people.

* * *

The Scott County State Park, according to its long and lanky park superintendent, Bond Hale, is preparing for a busy park season.

STATE PARK PATTERN

Elmo W. Huffman, Engineer

* * *

Superintendent Thomas, reports that his pet ground hog has been coming out daily since January 22, for food. He reports that February 2 was cloudy, so you can make your own guess.

* * *

It is like living in a mountainous wilderness to be a park superintendent on some of the areas. Mr. and Mrs. Sprigg were snowed in ten days at Woodson County State Park and the Cody's at Oberlin Sappa reported several nights colder than fifteen below with all roads blocked by six to seven foot drifts.

* * *

The cold weather plus old age were too much for the buck white tail deer at Leavenworth County State Park. Mr. Henry also reports some skating on the lake with the ice frozen fifteen inches deep.

* * *

"Dinger" Dameron, at Ottawa County State Park, and Ralph Bert, National Park Service Camp Superintendent, down on Lake Larrabee, dug hundreds of holes for tree planting last fall. These holes have been full of snow all winter and as soon as they thaw will be in ideal condition to receive trees. If you haven't seen either of these areas since last summer, look them over this spring, you will find them transformed.

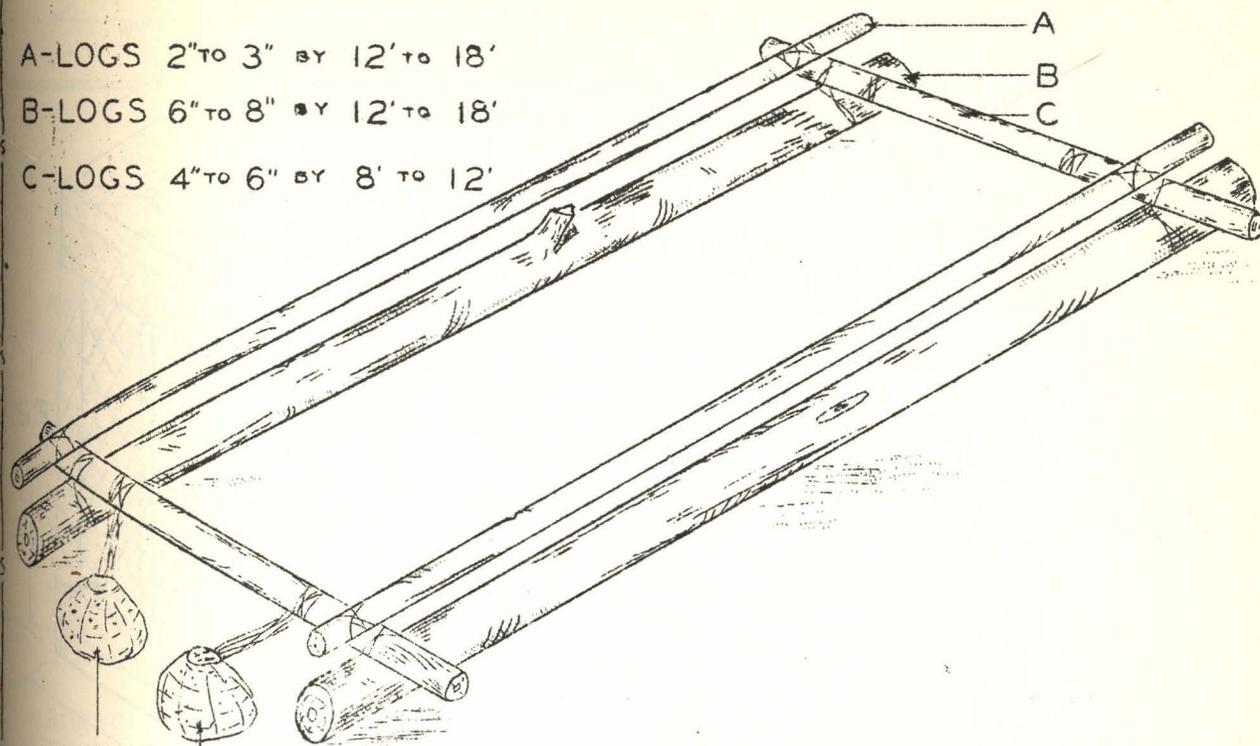
* * *

THIS "ANCHOR TYPE FISH SHELTER" MAY BE BUILT ON THE ICE OVER THE AREA IT IS TO BE LOCATED AND THEN ALLOWED TO SINK WHEN THE ICE MELTS.

A-LOGS 2" TO 3" BY 12' TO 18'

B-LOGS 6" TO 8" BY 12' TO 18'

C-LOGS 4" TO 6" BY 8' TO 12'



ANCHORS —

- NOTE -

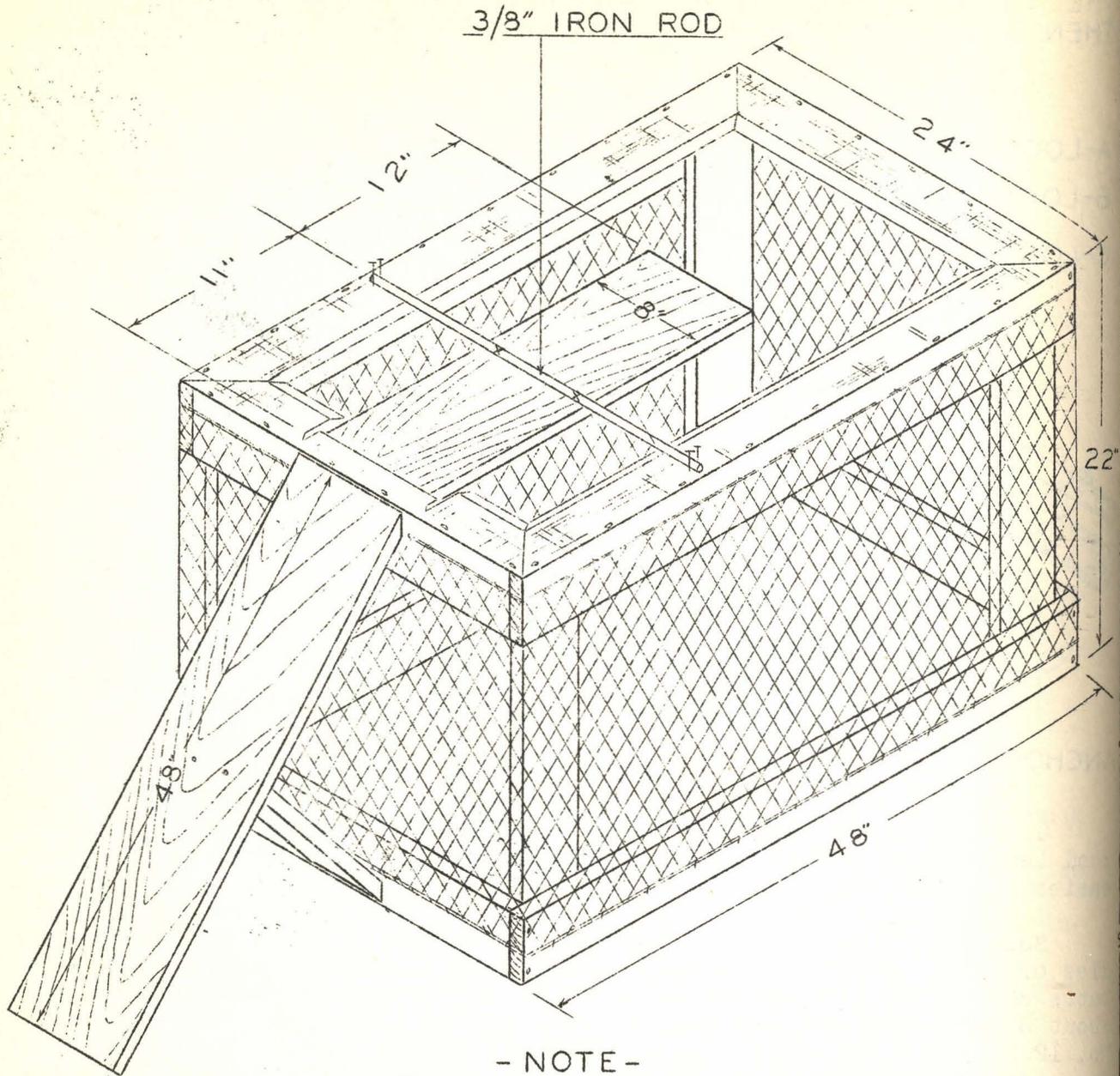
Green logs and brush are more desirable than dry because green wood lasts longer under water than dry wood, however, use the kind easiest to secure.

Securely bind all logs together with No. 9 galvanized wire. Bundles of brush about 8 ft. long are pushed between A and B logs. The butts should be pushed through toward the inside of the structure about 3 feet or they may be pushed entirely through the structure. No. 12 galvanized wire is suitable to fasten brush in place. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " fence staples will keep the tie wires from slipping and should be used to tighten wire around logs and brush. Each shelter can use about a one and one-half ton stake body truck load of brush.

Two anchors should be placed on each end, each anchor to weigh from 400 to 1,000 lbs. Anchors may be made by filling with rock a cylinder of heavy hog wire that has been made into a basket by tying with No. 9 wire. A piece of hog fencing 8 ft. by 3 ft. will be needed for each anchor. Hardened sacks of cement lashed together may also be used. Several strands of No. 9 galvanized wire twisted cable fashion can suffice for bails. The anchor effect will permit shelter to float somewhat free of mud bottom.

Plans for other types of Fish Shelters which may be built when the water is low or before a lake has filled, are available and will be supplied on request.

TURTLE TRAP



- NOTE -

This turtle trap is built by stapling 1" diagonal mesh chicken netting on the bottom and sides of a frame work of 4" boards. A 6" strip of tin or galvanized iron is tacked around the top edge and bent down inside the trap. This prevents the turtles from crawling out of the trap.

The turtle climbs up the inclined board and onto the drop board which tips as soon as the turtle crawls onto it, and allows the animal to drop. This drop board should be balanced on the cross rod with the heavy end toward the back so that it readily returns into place after having been tipped. The front end of the drop board is stopped from swinging up, by the tin strip across the front of the trap. The inclined boards used as a runway should not be so steep as to make it difficult for the turtles to crawl to the top of the trap.

The trap is placed along the edge of a pond in about 12" of water with the inclined runway extending to just below the water surface.

ARRESTS IN JANUARY

FINES INCLUDE COSTS

Harry Bolinger, Ft Scott. Selling fur without trapping license. Protectors Minckley and Kyser. Fine \$8.50.

Estel Cooper, Wauneta. Selling fur without trapping license. Protector Rickel. Fine \$6.90.

J. L. Bohannon, Cedarvale. Selling fur without trapping license. Protector Rickel. Fine \$9.40.

Herbert Benitz, Troy. Shooting and having in possession a deer. Protectors Benander, Teichgraeber and Anderson. Fine \$58.10.

Darrell Ratcliffe, Pawnee Rock. Sale and possession of fur without trapping license. Protector Jones. Fine None. Defendant minor, age 15, placed on parole.

Roger Stanley, Eudora. Buying fur without fur dealers license. Protectors Teichgraeber and Benander. Fine \$16.00.

E. M. Boyer, Linn. Buying fur at place other than described on license. Protector Byrne. Fine \$24.00.

Raymond Blurton, Crisfield. Selling fur without trapping license. Protectors Shay and Andrew. Fine \$9.00.

George Mayeske, Fredonia. Buying fur at places other than described on license. Failing to keep record of furs purchased. Protector Rickel. Fine \$46.00.

George Brown, Manhattan. Buying fur without license. Protectors Toburen and Anderson. Fine \$8.75.

Glenn Fenner, Blue Rapids. Buying fur without license. Protector Toburen and Anderson. Fine \$7.50.

Dale Glass, Newton. Trapping without hunting license. Protector Suenram. Fine \$12.75.

Joe R. Riedel, Ellis. Possession and sale of fur without license. Protector Jones. Fine \$7.00.

Herman H. Hantung, Kansas City, Missouri. Hunting without non-resident license. County Protector Geo. Dedrick. Fine \$20.00.

Calvin A. Johnson, Kansas City, Missouri. Shooting from highway. County Protector Geo. Dedrick. Fine \$20.00

W. L. Stark, Kansas City, Missouri. Hunting without non-resident license. County Protector Brainard Moore. Fine \$20.00.

Hugh Holland, Pittsburg. Hunting without license. Protectors Con-cannon and Simone. Fine \$9.00.

Alvin Silcott, Crisfield. Selling furs without fur dealers lic-ense. Protectors Shay and Andrew. Fine \$9.40.

A. H. Sickelbower, Scott City. Selling fur without license. Pro-jector Golden. Fine \$8.25.

John Ruffner, Cottonwood Falls. Trapping out of season. Protect-er Hepperly. Fine \$18.50.

Vyrl Smith, Wauneta. Selling fur without trapping license. Pro-jector Rickel. Fine \$18.05.

Jay Bennett, Cheney. Hunting without license. Protector Shay and County Protector Cecil Prudy. Fine \$17.60.

Charles Scott, Wichita. Hunting without license. Protector Shay and County Protector Cecil Prudy. Fine \$18.25.

P. E. Speicher, Wichita. Hunting without license. Protector Shay and County Protector Cecil Prudy. Fine \$18.25.

Earl Walker, Buffalo. Hunting without license. Protector Andrew. Fine \$8.00.

Martin R. Schotler, Emporia. Shooting from motor car on highway. County Protector Fred Friday. Fine \$13.00.

G. T. Sullivan, Kansas City, Missouri. Hunting without non-resi-dent license. County Protector Brainard Moore. Fine \$20.00.

Everett Wolf and Stacy Wolf, Arkansas City. Hunting without lic-ense in possession and trespassing. County Protector Lawrence Estep. Fine \$13.60.

Harry Armand Warren, Hiattville. Shooting quail. Protector Kyser Fine \$23.50.

Brice Kincaid, Moline. Shooting quail during closed season and from highway on private property. Protector Rickel. Fine \$27.65.

Herbert Schriner, Marquette. Illegal fishing. County Protector Chester Yowell. Fine \$42.70.

A. J. Murray, St Marys. Shooting quail during closed season. Pro-jectors Benander and Teichgraeber. Fine \$5.50.

H. C. Erant, Burdick. Selling fur without trapping license.
Protectors Carlson and Hepperly. Fine \$9.00.

Francis Mohlman, Seneca. Trapping and selling fur without license.
Protectors Benander and Teichgraeber. Fine \$5.00.

H. R. Glick, Hoisington. Shooting quail out of season. Protector
Gebhard. Fine \$8.00.

Oliver Knapp, St Clere. No license and illegal possession of fur.
Protector Toburen. Fine \$21.60.

* * *

In analyzing the foregoing report, we find that twelve persons were charged with and convicted of violating trapping regulations. Six fur buyers were charged with the illegal buying of furs or having incomplete records of fur purchased by them.

Ten were charged and taken to the courts for hunting without licenses, or having in their possession improper licenses. Four others were convicted for out of season shooting.

The shooting from motor cars and public highways resulted in two being taken before the courts.

Only one was apprehended during the month of January for illegal fishing. One was charged and convicted with killing a deer.

The comparison of this month's arrests with previous months, reveals a decided drop in the number of arrests made and the number of convictions secured. This is largely due to the inclement weather and the tularemia scare that kept many hunters from going afield.

We hope for the happy day when everybody will obey the laws and arrests will not be necessary.

* * *

Fill Those Empty Seats!

ANYONE seeking the real reason for much of the delay and fumbling attendant conservation progress in the United States needs go no farther than his local sportsmen's club to end the search. Empty seats at sportsmen's meetings, or inauspicious showings at the best, tell a mute story.

Generally speaking, American sportsmen do not realize the necessity of pooling their numbers to achieve recognition of their rights and ambitions. This is evidenced by the meager turn-outs at sportsmen's conservation meetings and the wholly inadequate size of club membership rolls.

Even in communities where outdoor betterment enthusiasm has been vigorously incited, the same holds. The average hunter and fisherman just doesn't seem to catch the spirit of things.

WE hear much talk of the organized power of sportsmen these days and would like to believe that anglers and hunters are about ready to revolutionize the nation with their surging unity. Unfortunately, such unity doesn't exist. If the total number of organized sportsmen were known you would probably be startled by the very insignificance of the figure. It would run into nice digits, to be sure, but would be a ridiculous fraction of the millions who look to hunting and fishing for recreation. In fact, to even publish the known membership of some of the most important conservation organizations might cause them untold humiliation.

Yes, it's pathetic, but true. The overwhelming majority of American sportsmen are still twiddling their thumbs and waiting for someone else to do it!

How can you—the fellow who has been kicking about skimpy game bags, rotten fishing, stream pollution, or unfair laws—ever hope to see conditions improved when you remain in a state of lethargy? If your economic security, your social or political security, were hanging in balance you wouldn't be asleep. You would affiliate with a combative organization pronto and start hammering for your rights.

YET most sportsmen fail to support the instrumentalities for registering their voices, the sportsmen's clubs. Most anglers and hunters seem content to sit on the sidelines doing a remarkable job of wishing while the future of the outdoors is ground in the crucible of fate. Isn't it time to wake up! To sign up with your local rod and gun club and begin merging your voice in the cry for a better outdoors? . . . Let's fill those empty seats that characterize halls where sportsmen meet!

The clubs, themselves, aren't to be blamed. By

the very essence of their existence theirs can be only commendation. In every state of the union they have been doing splendid work. Many of the greatest conservation gains can be placed directly in their laps. It's the slow-going, take-it-and-sigh individual who deserves the prod.

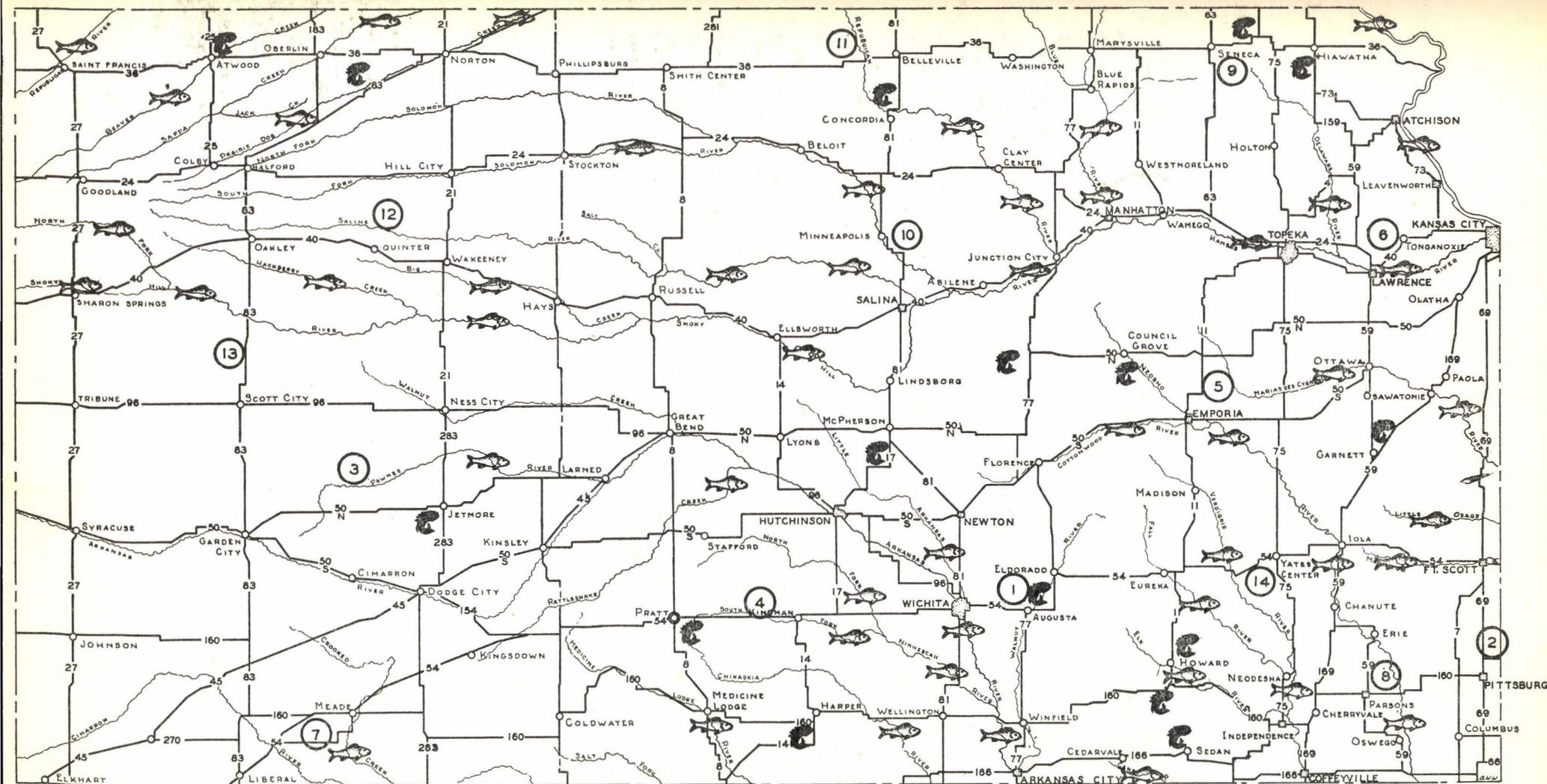
THERE is little rhyme or reason to the popular belief of unorganized sportsmen that "there are proper agencies for taking care of conservation affairs." This belief seems to be the major alibi of those who haven't the energy to enter the swing. The individual who argues that it is not for him to worry over things that state fish and game officials get paid for worrying about needs to be disillusioned. Fish and game departments alone can never bring about the type of hunting and fishing we wish. They are mere directors of conservation and restoration activities, outliners and demonstrators of techniques. They must depend upon the sportsmen, themselves, to amplify demonstrations and to put their findings into general effect. Organized sportsmen are the ones they can reach.

The past few years have seen notable advances made in the research end of wildlife restoration. Many state departments now have definite, workable outlines for putting more fish in the lakes and streams and more game in the fields and forests. What is needed now is man-power, mass action, and government agencies turn to the sportsmen to supply it. Your help is badly needed and you should be reachable through a sportsmen's group.

WHY not resolve now to put your energies behind conservation and restoration by affiliating with a sportsmen's club. You have a mind. It is needed to work out the many problems of the day . . . You have muscular energy. It is needed to help wildlife make a comeback . . . You have a voice. It is needed to cry out against the destruction of our outdoors. . . . You have the right to vote. It is needed to safeguard your hunting and fishing . . . Make these powers capable of being tapped!

Suppose one-half of the 12,000,000 licensed anglers of the country were active members of a live-wire pollution fighting club. Think our bass and trout streams would act as cesspools for filth? . . . Suppose a few million of the many million hunters were enrolled with aggressive rod and gun clubs. . . . Think the fanatics would get away with their crackpot firearm laws?

Let's get going! Join, and become active in, a sportsmen's club. Fill those empty seats!



② State Lakes

- (1) Butler County State Park.
- (2) Crawford County State Park.
- (3) Finney County State Park.
- (4) Kingman County State Park.
- (5) Lyon County State Park.

🐟 City and County Lakes

- (6) Leavenworth County State Park.
- (7) Meade County State Park.
- (8) Neosho County State Park.
- (9) Nemaha County State Park.
- (10) Ottawa County State Park.

🐟 River and Stream Fishing

- (11) Republic County State Park.
- (12) Sheridan County State Park.
- (13) Scott County State Park.
- (14) Woodson County State Park.