

# KANSAS FISH AND GAME



Vol. II

MAY, 1940

No. V



*Sailboating at the Leavenworth County State Lake*

### COMMISSIONERS

LEE LARRABEE, <i>Chairman</i> .....	Liberal
E. J. KELLY, <i>Secretary</i> .....	Ottawa
JAY J. OWENS .....	Salina
H. M. GILLESPIE .....	Wichita
GARLAND ATKINS .....	Fort Scott
ELMER E. EUWER .....	Goodland

### FISH AND GAME DIVISION

DAN RAMEY, <i>Superintendent</i> .....	Quail Farm, Calista
LEONARD SUTHERLAND, <i>Superintendent</i> .....	Meade County Pheasant Farm
CHARLES TROXEL, <i>Superintendent</i> .....	Quail Farm, Pittsburg
SETH WAY .....	Fish Culturist
LEO BROWN .....	Biologist

### DISTRICT GAME PROTECTORS

FRED ANDERSON .....	Doniphan
JIM ANDREW .....	Emporia
A. W. BENANDER .....	Holton
H. D. BYRNE .....	Concordia
JAMES C. CARLSON .....	Salina
JOE CONCANNON .....	Lansing
JOE FAULKNER .....	Colby
EDWIN GEBHARD .....	Liberal
L. DICK GOLDEN .....	Goodland
RALPH HEPPERLY .....	Glen Elder
ARTHUR JONES .....	Downs
A. E. KYSER .....	Savonburg
OLIN MINCKLEY .....	Ottawa
WALTER RICKEL .....	Independence
JACK SIMONE .....	Weir
JOHN SHAY .....	Kingman
CARL SUEENRAM .....	Moundridge
FRED TOBUREN .....	Irving
CARL TEICHGRAEBER .....	Topeka
CHARLEY TOLAND .....	Wichita

### LEGAL

B. N. MULLENDORE .....	Howard
------------------------	--------

### PUBLICITY

HELEN DEVAULT .....	Pratt
---------------------	-------

### ENGINEERING

PAULETTE & WINSON, <i>Construction Engineers</i> .....	Salina
ELMO HUFFMAN, <i>Engineer</i> .....	Pratt
WILBUR WAHL, <i>Landscape Architect</i> .....	Pratt

# KANSAS FISH AND GAME

*Published Monthly By*

THE KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Pratt, Kansas

GUY D. JOSSERAND, *Director*

LEE LARRABEE, *Chairman*

E. J. KELLY, *Secretary*

VOLUME II

NUMBER V

## AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

On May 3, The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission celebrated its first birthday anniversary. Just a year previously Governor Payne H. Ratner took the measures he deemed necessary to breathe new life in the commission as it exists today—a bipartisan board.

Being mothered by experience we have grown in stature and wisdom. And by adhering to an honest, straightforward, constructive policy we have escaped the swords of the political herods who would have slaughtered us in our infancy.

In order that the Governor, the sportsmen, and the citizen in general may learn of our progress we are making use of this month's bulletin to review the past year's work of the new Commission.

One of the first acts of the Commission, after its appointment by Governor Payne H. Ratner, was the selection of a member for chairman. Until this administration, former Governors had legally assumed leadership of the Commission.

The selection of a director required careful consideration, and, after interviewing many applicants for the position, the Commission announced the appointment of Guy D. Jossierand, of Copeland, as Director.

The Director then, as required by law, notified all applicants for other positions to appear before him for the purpose of taking competitive examinations. His subsequent appointments were made on the basis of such examinations.

Many were appointed who had not been previously connected with the department. Some others who had been employees of the retiring commission were reinstated.

### **County Game Protectors**

County game protectors have been appointed in the 105 counties. These men, all license holders, were appointed in accordance with that section of the law authorizing such appointments. Many of these appointees have been very helpful to us.

### **State Game Protectors**

That this very important branch of our service might function as effectively as possible, the commission increased its personnel from twelve to twenty men.

The problems encountered by the State Game Protectors are difficult and manifold. They are charged with not only the responsibility of law enforcement but with the additional duties of fish planting, selecting of areas for game birds that are released by the game department, patrolling streams in search of illegal fishing devices and keeping a close watch on industrial plants to see that they do not permit the streams to become polluted.

They have satisfactorily discharged these responsibilities. The law has been fairly and impartially enforced. Many persistent violators have been brought before the courts. Millions of fish, otherwise destined to perish, were rescued by these men. There are now few complaints of pollution. The results attained by our field force appears to have justified its enlargement.

### **State Parks and Lake Development**

There are many minds and naturally many opinions in regard to the Commission's lake development program. Some sportsmen are of the opinion that such an activity should not engage the attention of the Fish and Game Commission. They contend that all license money should be expended in the propagation of fish and game. Many others feel that the furtherance of the state park and lake development program is properly the responsibility of the Fish and Game Commission. They argue that the lakes afford fishing possibilities and needed recreational opportunities. Since the law authorizes the Commission "To establish, maintain and improve recreational grounds for the purposes of affording recreational facilities to the citizens of Kansas"—development work has continued.

We shall review for you briefly this year's work of the Commission:

The task of completing two state parks was one of the financial responsibilities assumed by this Commission.

### **Clark County State Park**

This park of thirteen hundred acres, located about fourteen miles north of Ashland, is being rapidly pushed to completion. The work of constructing the spillway will be completed by December of this year.

The damming of Bluff Creek Canyon will cause the formation of a lake of three hundred and fifty acres.

The readers of this Bulletin are urged to visit this park site, since it is located in one of the most picturesque sections of Kansas.

Crawford County State Park No. 2: This park near the town of Farlington, was completed insofar as construction was necessary January 5, 1940. A deep green body of water of one hundred fifty acres and an average depth of 24 feet has been impounded and heavily stocked with fish. The lake is surrounded by high hills, blessed with a very fine growth of walnut trees. This lake is to be opened to fishing May 15, 1940.

**Other Developments**

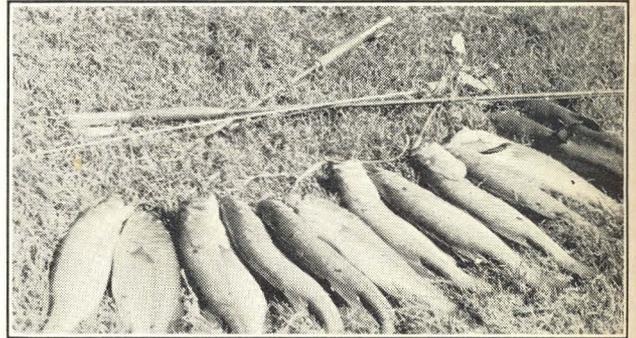
The Commission, through some use of WPA labor, has within the confines of Lyon County State Park improved and built roadways and parking areas and has planted there some 14,000 new trees. A National Park Service camp at the Meade County State Park has planted several thousand trees and has completed the building of six additional fish rearing ponds. The anticipated production of 100,000 additional fish will be placed in the Meade County State Lake and other waters of southwestern Kansas. The N. P. S. has constructed a sufficient number of redwood picnic tables to accommodate the large crowds that are expected to take advantage of the enlarged and greatly improved picnic area. Channel improvements and a sewage disposal system are a part of our program for the further development of the area.

There has been a great deal of improvement work done at the popular Scott County State Park during the last few months. The shore lines have been ripped, roadways improved and marked as well as other historical points of interest within the park.

A general beautification program has been carried out at the Ottawa County State Park near Bennington, Kansas. The NYA organization services has been used in this program. Many trees have been planted in this nearly treeless area. As a safety precaution the shores of the lake have been ripped and the dam and stilling basin strengthened.

**Fish Propagation**

The propagation and the distribution of fish continues to be one of the principal interests of the present Fish and Game Commission. All of the state lakes have been restocked during this period, as well as many city and public lakes, which may be used by the general public for fishing. The brood ponds which have been in active use at the Pratt hatchery for many years are being improved, enlarged and fertilized. This work is being done by departmental employees and the Works Progress Administration.



This is a good catch.

**Our Fur Industry**

The fur-bearing animals to be found in our wooded areas and along our streams are productive of an enormous amount of wealth during the two-months annual trapping season. The problem of maintaining a permanent supply of fur bearers is being seriously considered by the Commission.

We are happy to report that an increase in fur bearers was noted during the trapping season of last fall and winter.

In order that our readers may have a better understanding of the importance of these animals to us from a financial viewpoint, we are listing below the number of pelts purchased by 303 of the 320 fur buyers who have, so far, submitted their annual reports.

These figures, while not accurately revealing the condition of our supply of fur-bearing animals, reflect the number of pelts taken by the trappers.

Opossum .....	155,945	Weasel .....	170
Badger .....	2,911	Mink .....	2,271
Wildcat .....	150	Muskrat .....	119,918
Fox .....	1,965	Raccoon .....	8,374
Civit Cat .....	47,219	Skunk .....	151,800
Coyote .....	14,022	Rabbit .....	347,850
Wolf .....	1,047		

**A New Game Farm**

The construction of an additional game farm for the propagation of pheasants and chukar partridges exclusively was deemed necessary by the Fish and Game Commission because of two definite and very insistent reasons.

The sportsmen with memories of the state's recent



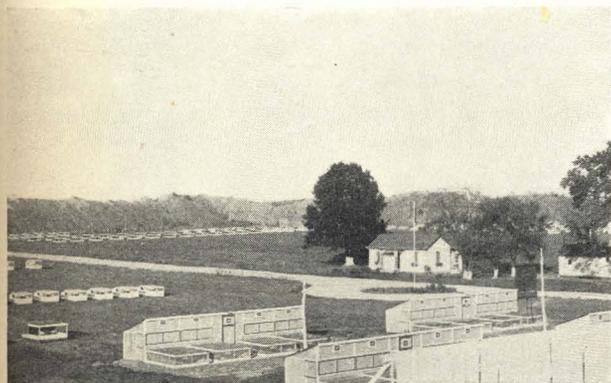
Game protectors and sportsmen seine a drying lake.

pheasant season fresh in their minds demanded such a plant. The Commission reasoned that an additional plant would not only supply the sportsmen with the desired pheasants but would at the same time relieve the now existing game farms of work heretofore done by them in the pheasant and chukar field. Upon completion of the new unit more attention can be given to the production of quail.

The Meade County State Park was selected as the building site because of climatic and financial reasons. There was no land to buy, as the needed area was owned by the state. The problem of housing the superintendent and the incubator rooms was solved without expense, as the necessary structures were already available.

The two large brooding houses that are necessary will be built at a very small cost. As a matter of fact, these will be of adobe construction, and we are depending upon mother earth and a faithful sun to do this work for us. Although these buildings are primitive in construction, they will be attractive and ultra-modern in efficiency and operation.

Two pheasant laying pens, one hundred fifty feet square, are enclosing the three hundred fifty young healthy layers which we procured from Wisconsin Game Farms. One hundred chukar laying pens of the very latest type and design were erected to accommodate the one hundred pair of chukars raised by us at our state quail farms. Rearing pens, holding pens, and any other necessary structures will be built as needed.



A view of brooder houses and laying pens at the Pittsburg Quail farm.

### Quail

With Kansas hunters and nonhunters, the bobwhite's popularity overshadows that of all other species. With this fact in mind, we have attempted, with gratifying results, the propagation of these birds in sufficient numbers to warrant restocking all areas that needed such attention. Approximately fourteen thousand birds were raised at the two state game farms during the past year. These birds were placed on suitable properties, which had been approved by members of the fish and game commission or other field employees.



Bobwhites being loaded for distribution from the Pittsburg quail farm.

The eastern section of the state is now well populated with these birds. We are making plans for increasing the game population of western Kansas.

From all indications it is very evident that plenty of seed stock was left after the season of last fall, and comparatively few birds were lost during the severe winter months. This happy condition is due in a large measure to the alertness of our game protectors and other well disposed citizens and sportsmen.

### Hungarian Partridge

This specie of bird, universally considered by hunters to be the sportiest of all upland game birds, has been planted in several sections of the state by the present fish and game commission. We view its future with optimism. Any reasons for contrary conclusions are not now apparent. Plantings successfully made by Franklin County sportsmen encourage us in the belief that this bird will thrive as well in many other sections of the state.

Our introductory stock was procured from the Canadian game commission in exchange for the less-favored chukar partridge. It is expected that future plantings of this bird will be made by the Commission.

### Publicity

One of the Commission's most important responsibilities is education, or, if you must, publicity. This particular program of the Commission, under the supervision of Miss Helen Devault, is well balanced and properly coordinated.

In the field of conservation we find two distinct thoughts in respect to the taking of our fish and game. One idea would tend to exploit and waste them; another would prohibit entirely their enjoyment and use. Only through education can we bring these two ex-

treme thoughts into wiser channels. Three media have been used extensively for that purpose:

News items of general interest have been released to the city dailies and to the county weeklies. Another publicity tool, used very effectively, has been motion pictures of the Commission's work. These pictures, in sound and color, have been shown several hundred times in the classrooms of our schools and colleges.

A monthly magazine containing matter related to the restoration and conservation of fish and game reaches a mailing list of nearly three thousand subscribers. This monthly publication, destined to accomplish much good, is a free service to the state.

### **Pittman-Robertson Funds**

Mr. M. O. Steen, Regional Inspector, Federal Aid Division, Department of the Interior, and Mr. Guy D. Jossierand, Director of the Commission, have completed an inspection of certain areas of the state preparatory to the submitting of proposals which will enable this state to participate in the distribution of Federal Aid Funds.

These funds, which are allotted the state under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson act, are prorated to the states on a basis of area and the number of hunting licenses issued.

These funds represent the excise tax paid by the sportsmen on firearms and ammunitions.

One of the proposals that will be submitted to the Government, and which now appears certain of Federal approval, is the game management work to be done on twelve hundred acres of land now possessed by the Commission in Kingman County. This area was acquired several years ago for the purpose of building a state park. The work now proposed includes the fencing of the entire area and the planting of trees and shrubs as a wildlife management undertaking. Ponds are to be built also on this site for the cultivation of fish.

The development of the Republic County Shooting Grounds is included in another proposal to be submitted to the Federal Government for approval.

Our participation in these funds, so far, has been limited to purchasing some land in Finney County for the enlargement and improvement of our buffalo preserve.

### **Wild Turkeys**

For the purpose of study the Commission has made three plantings of wild turkeys. Two of these plantings were made in Elk County and one planting was made in Barber County. These birds, incidentally, were raised at the Commission's game farms.

A more detailed report of our work with this bird will be made in the eighth biennial report of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, which is to be printed within the next three or four months.

### **Lake Openings**

The Nemaha County State Lake, near Seneca, and the Lyon County State Lake, near Emporia, were opened to fishing May 31, 1939. The Crawford County State Lake No. 2, near Farlington; the Sheridan County State Lake, near Quinter; the Pottawatomie County State Lake, near Westmoreland; and the Rooks County State Lake, near Stockton, will be opened for the first time May 15, 1940.



Taken near Manhattan.

### **License Sales**

Although the selling of licenses is not our principal concern, it is gratifying to report that the citizens generally are procuring the licenses required by law. There has been a sharp increase in the sale of quail stamps, hunting and trapping licenses. We expect the reports of the county clerks to show a slight decrease in the number of fishing licenses sold during the fiscal year 1940. The receipts through the Pratt office for other types of licenses, however, will show an increase over the previous year.

### **Finances**

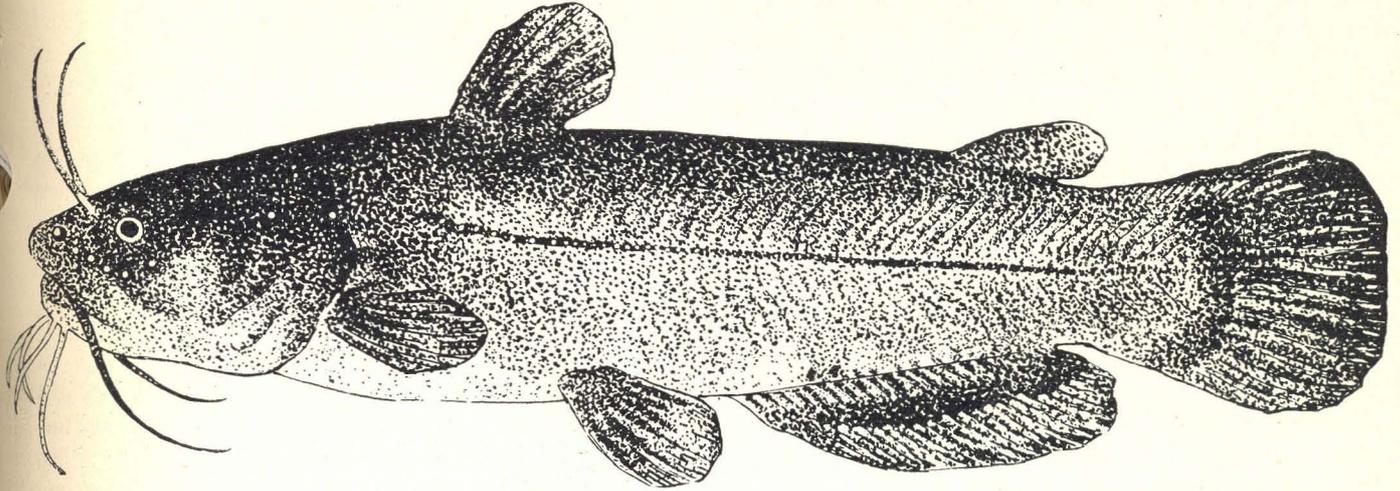
Our financial affairs are in a sound and healthy condition. We have liquidated all of the contracts and obligations incurred by the former commission and have operated the department within our resources. A complete and detailed financial report will be made to the legislature at its next regular session.

## **Billion Dollar Industry**

The Department of Interior reports that the followers of Isaac Walton were responsible for nearly \$1,000,000,000 worth of business in the United States last year.

Sportsmen spent \$877,309,009 for fishing licenses, tackle, guides, food, bait, boats and other necessities of a successful fishing trip.

Expenditures for tackle—rods, lines, lures, reels, sinkers, etc., alone were estimated at \$35,000,000.

Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus Nebulosis*)

## OUR FISH AND GAME

One page of this and subsequent issues of the bulletin will be used to picture, and briefly to discuss, the many species of game and fish to be found in Kansas. The purpose of this extra feature is to help the angler and hunter in identifying the specimens taken by them.

In this issue of the bulletin we shall picture and briefly discuss the Brown and Yellow Bullhead, scientifically designated *Ameiurus nebulosis* and *Ameiurus natalis*, respectively.

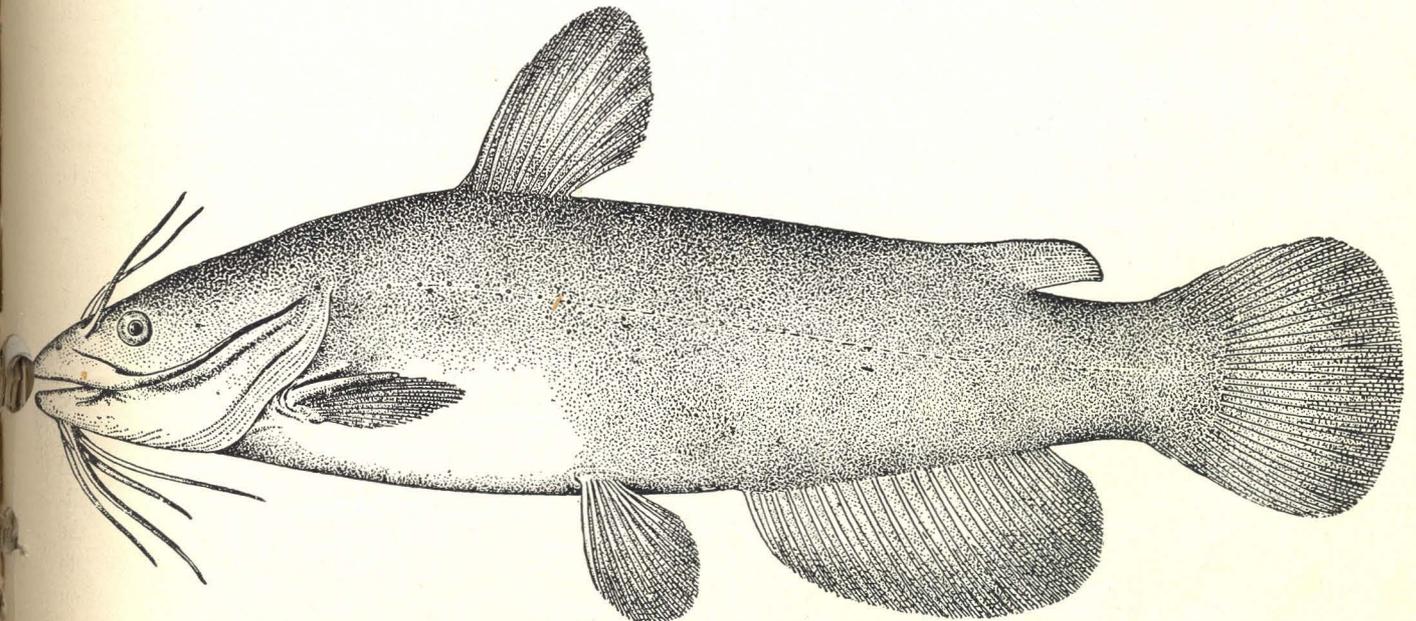
The fish, both of which are often referred to as the common Bullhead, are plentiful in our streams, and

are most eagerly sought by Kansas anglers. The sizes most commonly taken range in weight from one-quarter to one-half pound. Their flesh is of a fine flavor, tender and juicy.

Although essentially night bottom feeders, they can be taken on bright, sunny days from around half-submerged trees or like objects.

The two species, to the average layman, are similar in appearance, yet they have very definite and distinct characteristics which may be used in properly classifying them.

In the Yellow and Brown Bullheads there is a marked difference in the tail (caudal fin), the dorsal, ventral, pectoral and annal fins, and in head and body characteristics. A study of the two cuts will reveal these differences to you.

Yellow Bullhead (*Ameiurus Natalis*)

## BULLHEADS

The following was taken from "American Game and Food Fish," by Jordan and Everman.)

The following description of the habits of the common bullhead, written as a burlesque by George W. Peck, gives a vivid and truthful idea of the life history and game qualities of this fish:

"It seems that the action of the Milwaukee common council in withdrawing the use of the waterworks from the fish commissioners will put a stop to the hatching of whitefish. This is as it should be. The whitefish is an aristocratic fish that will not bite a hook, and the propagation of this species is wholly in the interest of the wealthy owners of fishing tubs, who have nets. By strict attention to business they can catch all of the whitefish out of the lake a little faster than the State machine can put them in. Poor people cannot get a smell of whitefish. The same may be said of brook trout. While they will bite a hook, it requires more machinery to catch them than ordinary people can possess without mortgaging a house. A man has got to have a morocco book of expensive flies, a fifteen-dollar bamboo jointed rod, a three-dollar trout basket, with a hole mortised in the top, a corduroy suit made in the latest style, top boots of the Wellington pattern, with red tassels in the straps, and a flask of Otard brandy in a side pocket. Unless a man is got up in that style a speckled trout will see him in Chicago first, and then it won't bite. The brook trout is even more aristocratic than the whitefish, and should not be propagated at public expense.

"But there are fish that should be propagated in the interest of the people. There is a species of fish that never looks at the clothes of the man who throws in the bait, a fish that takes whatever is thrown to it, and when once hold of the hook never tries to shake a friend, but submits to the inevitable, crosses its legs and says, 'Now I lay me,' and comes out on the bank and seems to enjoy being taken. It is a fish that is a friend of the poor, and one that will sacrifice itself in the interest of humanity. That is the fish that the State should adopt as its trade-mark, and cultivate friendly relations with, and stand by. We allude to the bullhead.

"The bullhead never went back on a friend. To catch the bullhead it is not necessary to tempt his appetite with porterhouse steak, or to display an expensive lot of fishing tackle. A pin hook, a piece of liver, and a cistern pole is all the capital required to catch a bullhead. He lies upon the bottom of a stream or pond in the mud, thinking. There is no fish that does more thinking, or has a better head for grasping great questions, or chunks of liver, than the bullhead.

His brain is large, his heart beats for humanity, and if he can't get liver, a piece of tin tomato can will make a meal for him. It is an interesting study to watch a boy catch a bullhead. The boy knows where the bullhead congregates, and when he throws in his hook it is dollars to buttons that 'in the near future' he will get a bite.

"The bullhead is democratic in all its instincts. If the boy's shirt is sleeveless, his hat crownless, and his pantaloons a bottomless pit, the bullhead will bite just as well as though the boy is dressed in purple and fine linen, with knee-breeches and plaid stockings. The bullhead seems to be dozing on the muddy bottom, and a stranger would say that he would not bite. But wait. There is a movement of his continuation, and his cow-catcher moves gently toward the piece of liver. He does not wait to smell of it and canvass in his mind whether the liver is fresh. It makes no difference to him. He argues that here is a family out of meat. 'My country calls and I must go,' says the bullhead to himself, and he opens his mouth and the liver disappears.

"It is not certain that the boy will think of his bait for half an hour, but the bullhead is in no hurry. He is in the mud and proceeds to digest the liver. He realizes that his days will not be long in the land, or water, more properly speaking, and he argues that if he swallows the bait and digests it before the boy pulls him out, he will be just so much ahead. Finally, the boy thinks of his bait, pulls it out, and the bullhead is landed on the bank, and the boy cuts him open to get the hook out. Some fish only take the bait gingerly, and are only caught around the selvage of the mouth, and they are comparatively easy to dislodge. Not with the bullhead. He says if liver is a good thing, you can't have too much of it, and it tastes good all the way down. The boy gets down on his knees to dissect the bullhead, and get his hook, and it may be that the boy swears. It would not be astonishing, though he must feel, when he gets his hook out of the hidden recesses of the bullhead like the minister who took up a collection and didn't get a cent, though he expressed thanks at getting his hat back. There is one drawback to the bullhead, and that is his horns. We doubt if a boy ever descended into the patent insides of a bullhead to mine for limerick hooks, that did not, before his work was done, run a horn into his vital parts. But the boy seems to expect it, and the bullhead enjoys it. We have seen a bullhead lie on the bank and become dry, and to all appearances dead to all that was going on, and when a boy sat down on him and got a horn in his elbow and yelled murder,

the bullhead would grin from ear to ear, and wag his tail as though applauding for an encore.

"The bullhead never complains. We have seen a boy take a dull knife and proceed to follow a fish line down a bullhead from head to the end of his subsequent anatomy, and all the time there would be an expression of sweet peace on the countenance of the bullhead, as though he enjoyed it. If we were preparing a picture representing 'Resignation,' for a chromo to give to subscribers, and wished to represent a scene of suffering in which the sufferer was light-hearted, seeming to recognize that all was for the best, we should take for the subject a bullhead, with a boy searching with a knife for a long-lost fish hook.

"The bullhead is a fish that has no scales, but in lieu thereof has a fine India-rubber skin, that is as far ahead of fiddle-string material for strength and durability as possible. The meat of the bullhead is not as choice as that of the mackerel, but it fills up a stomach just as well, and the Son insists that the fish commissioners shall drop the hatching of aristocratic fish and give the bullheads a chance."

The new quail stamps will be printed in a different color combination from last year—dark brown and chrome yellow.

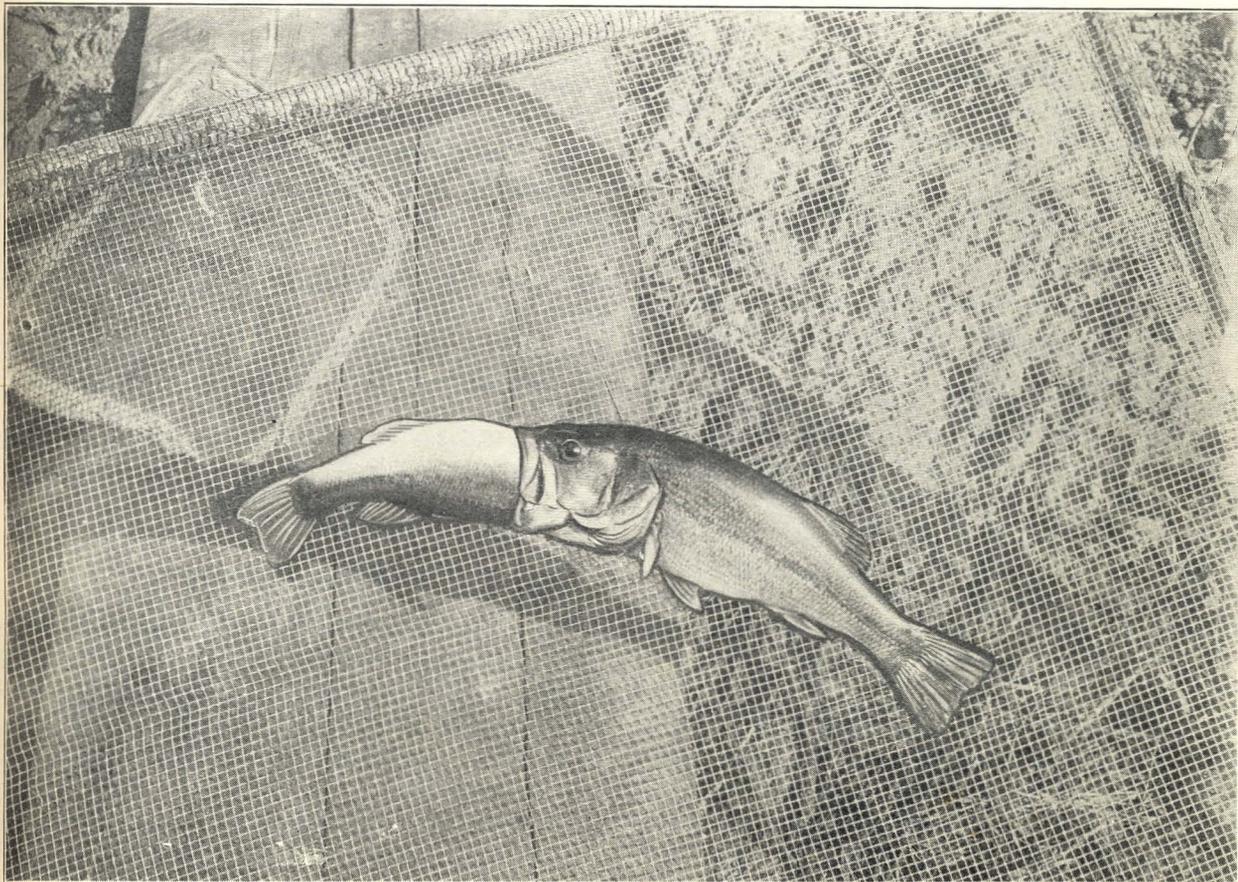
### Cats

Now, with the guns being stilled, the smoke of battle cleared away, husbands and wives happily reconciled one to the other—and both to the wives' viewpoint, we mention again, timorously, lest we disturb the reigning peace, the fightingest of all fighting words, CATS!

That the battle was fought bitterly, no one will deny. Too much so, in fact. Venom and innuendoes were hurled into opposing camps by mail, phone, and radio—and all this because of an unfortunate misinterpretation of intention.

It was not the intention of the Commission or sportsmen to destroy, humanely or otherwise, the well-fed, domesticated, home-loving house cats. Their warfare was to be directed against the wild and vicious cats known to be frequenting our game fields. A certain amount of predatory control is necessary to a well-balanced game preservation program. This is particularly true if we ourselves have been guilty of upsetting nature's balances. We do that very thing when we, of the city, deliberately dump twenty-five or more hungry cats near a covey of game birds already plagued to near extinction by their natural enemies.

The Commission has for the time being withdrawn from the campaign.



He exceeds his limit. The penalty, death. A two-pound black bass attempting to swallow a one-pound bass.

## NEWS BRIEFS—FROM HERE AND THERE

### Monthly Meeting of Sportsmen's Association Held at Pratt, April 28

The South Central Division of the State Fish and Game Development Association held its April meeting at the State Game Commission's offices in Pratt, Sunday, April 28. Dr. C. E. Benefield, Director of the South Central Division, presided as chairman of the meeting. State President Frank Robl announced the appointment of a legislative committee to confer with the fish and game officials in regard to further revision of the present fish and game laws. The legislative Committee members are Blake Williamson, of Kansas City, Kansas; Ray Smith, of Hoisington; and George Gould, of Dodge City. President Robl also introduced a resolution favoring a crow control program. The resolution provides that a certain number of crows be banded and prizes given for the return of such bands. The use of Pittman-Robertson Wild Life Aid funds occasioned a spirited discussion. Although the delegates took no official action in regard to the manner of using these funds, they did for the most part favor the buying of the salt marshes of Barton County.

Members of the Sedgwick County Sportsmen Association have launched an extensive stream improvement program. Through their persistent efforts the Park Commission of the City of Wichita have improved the Little Arkansas River, a favorite spot of Wichita anglers. Fish and Game Commissioner Howard M. Gillespie has given the Sedgwick County boys several spools of oil field cable for the further improvement of the Ninnescah River in Sedgwick County.

One of our correspondents writes us in defense of the cats and at the same time expresses his opinion of hunters in general. "A hunter with a gun" he says, "is so dumb that he doesn't know any better than to eat poisoned tobacco, drink poison whisky and beer and suck poison into his mouth by smoking cigarettes." No, you can't use this column to express your opinion of our correspondent. If you're the fellow he is talking about, we fear your language.

Night fishing at the Commission's State lakes is proving to be a popular form of out-of-doors recreation for the Mr. Tired Business Man and his employees. The lake superintendents report that many fish—and big ones too—have been taken from the state lakes since their opening to night fishing.

### Another Stink Bait Formula—And How

From William Baxley, Parsons, comes the following bait formula:

Take one pound of hamburger meat and one-half pound of Limburger cheese. Be sure and leave the rind on the cheese. Dissolve the cheese in a small bit of warm water. Mix hamburger and cheese together and add graham flour until you have it stiff enough to stay on the hook so that it can be used on a casting rod when fishing from the bank.

I have used practically all the stink baits I have ever heard of, and this one beats them all. The meat and cheese cost only twenty-five cents, and when mixed with the flour, as mentioned above, will make sufficient bait for three or four fishing trips, and it really gets the fish.

### The Pratt Hatchery Attracts Many Visitors

Your summer vacation plans should provide for a day at the State Fish Hatchery, near Pratt.

People from many states are numbered among its annual visitors. The aquarium, said to be the largest west of the Mississippi river, is the principal attraction. The museum room, with its several cases of mounted specimens, attracts the natural history students. The channel catfish incubators, when in operation, are of particular interest to the ichthologist. The pheasants and many other gaily-plumed game birds are an attraction to all.

The picnic areas have been improved for the comfort and convenience of picnic parties and family reunions.

If you prefer to just sit and think, comfortable benches on well-shaded lawns are available to you.

### State Shoot

The annual state shoot of the Kansas State Sportsmen's Association will be held at Lawrence, May 24, 25, 26. According to tentative plans, the Kansas Open Championship will be held May 24; the Class Championship matches May 25; the Single Championship matches May 26.

Over two hundred marksmen will compete for state championship honors and for the trophy annually awarded by the State Fish and Game Commission.

# HAMSTRUNG BY POLLUTION

**N**OW that interest in stream pollution has been pushed to a new high in intensity by a national pure stream legislative movement, unprecedented numbers of persons have come to a brutal realization. It is quite evident to all who have peeped under the lid of lullabying propaganda, that fish conservation is literally hamstrung by stream pollution!

Conditions are what they are in a great number of states not so much because of overfishing, inadequate restocking, or poor replenishment programs, but because of the wholesale destruction of waters by inconsiderate municipal and industrial interests. A penurious few are plundering the heritage of millions—are bucking, blocking, and stifling all the good work that can be accomplished by conservation departments—and in a very thorough fashion are making twenty million sportsmen look like twenty million saps.

**I**T'S a merry-go-round of utter and ridiculous futility, present fish replenishment effort in many states resolves itself into! Millions of persons annually pay millions of dollars for the privilege of catching a few fish. These millions of dollars go for the support of conservation departments, which conscientiously try to render a dollar-for-dollar's worth. Fry are hatched, fingerlings released, erosion combated, streams patrolled—for what?

Bang!—a shot of municipal sewage from an inefficiently operated disposal plant hits a stream, or a bald-mouthed tile from a manufacturing plant belches forth a vile flowage, and all is rendered nil. Fish die, fish food organisms die, and erosion and death reigns. Millions of dollars are wasted and untold eras of planning, hope, and labor are in vain.

This is fish replenishment—1940 model. This is what you are getting for your fishing license dollars, Mr. Sportsman.

**B**EFORE better fishing conditions in any area having a pollution problem can be realized this vicious circle must be broken. Improvement can never be brought about as long as destruction is greater than construction. It is futile to lay stress on and become involved in constructive measures as long as destruction runs hog-wild. Stream pollution must stop, and not until it is stopped can you expect to see tangible results from your conservation dollar.

But, can this pollution be stopped? How can it be stopped?

The answer to both of these questions is very positive. The nefarious practice of using public waterways as sewers and cesspools for wastes can be stopped, and will be stopped, when public sentiment demands that it be stopped. After all, this is still a government of the people, by the people, and for the people—not “of the polluters, by the polluters, and for the polluters,” much as it may sometimes seem.

This is your point of attack, Mr. Average Sportsman. You must help develop a strong public sentiment that rabidly condemns the stream pollution practice. That sentiment must be vigorous in its denunciation, uncompromising, and extremely demanding. Once the feeling grows—is taken up by ten million persons, twenty million, fifty million—the destruction of our streams will end.

Does this sound a bit abstractive? Then, let's use a concrete example to illustrate the point.

**P**ROBABLY every state of the union already has what in plain English is definitely an anti-pollution law. If nothing else each state has fishing laws, which define the legal methods of killing fish and which place limits and seasons on the fish.

Now why aren't these anti-pollution laws invoked? Or, why aren't the fishing laws (methods of killing, seasons, and limits) used against polluters?

“Ah-ha,” someone grins, “those state anti-pollution laws don't mean anything because they contain ‘jokers.’ Those fishing laws aren't applicable. And, not only that but it is impossible to convince a court that certain dead fish were killed by deleterious effluent. Courts must have positive proof—not opinion.”

But, hold, Mr. Sportsman! Those anti-pollution and fishing laws are written in very readable English. Those “jokers” exist only because courts are disposed to call them jokers. Those fishing laws are not applicable to polluters only because courts are disposed to call them non-applicable. Courts won't accept the evidence of dead fish only because courts are not disposed to accepting dead fish as evidence. The reason your state laws are not effective against pollution is because your courts do not wish to read those laws as enforceable! Hundreds of other laws worded no more precisely are enforced daily because courts are inclined to interpret them as enforceable.

**N**OW, why aren't your courts disposed to interpret your state laws as enforceable? Isn't it plain? Courts do not interpret existing laws favorably because public sentiment against pollution is not strong enough to make courts do so. Courts do not find “jokers” in murder laws or other laws because public sentiment is strong against murder. Once public sentiment says “Thou shalt not pollute,” same as public sentiment says “Thou shalt not kill,” courts will see to it that pollution ends.

As a sportsman and pure stream enthusiast your job is clearly defined. You must develop public sentiment against pollution by talking pure streams—almost living pure streams. Pollution is your greatest conservation problem. Fish replenishment can never make headway until it is licked. Pollution can be whipped. You know it. Fifty million others must know it. Conservation must not be forever hamstrung!

PRINTED BY KANSAS STATE PRINTING PLANT  
W. C. AUSTIN, STATE PRINTER  
TOPEKA 1940  
18-4103