

# KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. II

JUNE, 1940

No. VI



*Swan and Cygnets on State Fish Hatchery Ponds*

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# 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*

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## MANY FISHING WATERS IN KANSAS

You Kansas disciples of Izaak Walton will now find many lakes and streams within the boundaries of your own state that are comparable to, if not better than the "green pastures" away off yonder, in so far as fishing is concerned. You save money too by using the facilities at home. When it comes to lakes, Kansas has several mighty good ones within reasonable driving distance of your home. These lakes have been heavily stocked with fish and most of them have been provided with protected bathing areas. For the information of KANSAS FISH AND GAME readers, a few of these popular fishing waters are listed and briefly discussed.

### *Leavenworth County State Lake*

Near Tonganoxie is located a state lake of one hundred seventy-five acres. Although this is one of the first of the Commission's lakes to be opened, it continues to be one of the best. Many fine catches of bass and crappie are reported by the lake superintendent. Overnight camping and cabin facilities are near the lake.

### *Lyon County State Lake*

This one hundred thirty-five acre lake is two years old and has been stocked heavily with channel cats, crappie, blue gill and small mouthed bass. It is located near the city of Emporia where overnight accommodations are available at reasonable rates.

### *Nemaha County State Lake*

Here, within four miles of Seneca the county seat of Nemaha county is a three hundred fifty-six acre lake opened for the first time in 1939. The lake had been stocked heavily with fish prior to its opening. Few fish were taken during the first year as the lake was prematurely opened. Legal sized fish are now being taken from this lake. You may camp near the lake and find overnight accommodations at Seneca.

### *Woodson County State Lake*

This lake opened in 1938, is a one hundred seventy-nine acre body of water in the heavily timbered flint hills five miles east of Toronto. It is one of those clear blue lakes so appealing to the bass angler. No cabins

or other accommodations near the lake, camping, however, is permitted in camping areas.

### *Neosho County State Lake*

This lake is one of the favorite "fishing holes" of Southeastern Kansas despite the fact that it was one of the very first lakes to be opened by the Commission. Culture ponds nearby supply the lake with additional fish every spring. Camping is allowed near the lake. Many cabin camps and hotels are available at Parsons a few miles away.

### *Meade County State Lake*

This one-hundred-acre lake, in Southwestern Kansas is within the Meade County State Park and near the recently constructed Pheasant farm. Many fine catches of crappie and catfish have been reported by anglers who visit this lake. Camping is permitted in the camping areas. Six culture ponds are capable of supplying this lake with over one hundred thousand fish annually.

### *Finney County State Lake*

This lake of three hundred twenty-four acres located eleven miles northeast of Kalvesta, is reported to be a good catfish lake. District game protectors report many strings of such fish being caught. Boats are not available. Overnight accommodations are available at Cimarron, Jetmore and Dighton.

### *Scott County State Lake*

Fishing has been very good in this one-hundred-fifteen-acre lake since its reopening in 1934. Many bass, crappie, blue gill and some rainbow trout have been planted in these waters. Boats are available at the park. Overnight accommodations are to be found at nearby Scott City. Camping is permitted at camping areas in the several canyons surrounding the lake.

### *Sheridan County State Lake*

Pictures appearing elsewhere in this issue of KANSAS FISH AND GAME news records the splendid fishing possibilities of this one hundred twenty-three acre lake opened for the first time May 15, 1940. Camping is allowed near the lake. Overnight accommodations may be had at Quinter, six miles southwest of the lake.

**Crawford County State Lake**

This lake is singularly blessed with many fine bodies of state owned and operated waters. At the Crawford County State Park No. 1 and at the State Quail Farm, both within ten minutes driving time of Pittsburg are many miles of strip pits, which have been stocked with bass, crappie and blue gill. The Crawford County State Lake No. 2, near Farlington was opened May 15, 1940. Sixty thousand bass, crappie, blue gills, and channel cats were planted in this one-hundred-fifty acre lake prior to its opening.

There are any number of county and city lakes now opened to the general public at nominal daily and seasonal fees. Topeka, Marion, Eureka, Howard, Eskridge, Atwood, Pratt, Paola, Osawatomie, Gardner, Jennings, Moreland, St. Francis, Lenora, Atchison, Horton, Fort Scott, Sedan, El Dorado, Augusta, Wellington, Anthony and Russell, have such lakes where, under special rules and regulations, fishing is permitted.

**Many Lakes Now Open**

Seventeen state lakes, including four new ones, were officially opened on May 15 following a two-month closed season on bass and crappie.

Twenty-five thousand anglers from twenty-seven counties and four states, fished at the Sheridan County State Lake on opening day.

Field employees of the Department report that most of the anglers were successful. All seemed to have carried away fish, if not their legal limits.

Five thousand persons attended the opening of the Crawford County State Lake No. 2, near Farlington. Few fish were caught because of the disagreeable weather and unsatisfactory lake conditions.

This lake, according to Commissioner Garland Atkins, is literally alive with legal size bass, crappie and channel catfish. Commissioner Atkins declares that the citizens of Southeastern Kansas are not discouraged and are determined to fish another day.

**A Western Kansas Whale**

A flathead weighing forty-three pounds was caught recently at the Meade County State Park by Harold Dye of Meade. Mr. Dye at the time was using a seven and one-half ounce fly rod and fishing for crappie. This fish, believed to be the largest ever caught in Meade County State Lake, was landed only after a battle lasting over an hour and which was fiercely fought from one end of the lake to the other.

Lee Larrabee, Chairman of the Commission witnessed the landing of this Western Kansas whale and says that this was one of fifty such fish planted in the lake several years ago.

**The Commission Meets**

The Commission meeting at Pratt on May 3, organized for the ensuing year, reelecting Lee Larrabee, of Liberal, as chairman and E. J. Kelly, of Ottawa, secretary. The reelected officers will serve in such capacities until May, 1941.

The Commission studied the existing duck regulations and decided they were not as they should be, and voted to do something about them. If the government favorably considers our suggestions, hunting will begin at 6:30 a. m. instead of 7:00 a. m., and the use of live decoys will be allowed.

The 1941 closed season on bass and crappie was declared to be from April 20 to May 25 and on channel cats from June 1 to June 30, all dates inclusive.

**May Arrests**

Continuing their drive against law violators the district game protectors arrested fifty-seven persons during May and seized one hundred twenty-five seines, spears and lines which had been used illegally. The confiscated articles were destroyed and their users hailed into court on a variety of charges. Some were fined, some were imprisoned and other drew both fines and imprisonment. Below is listed the resume of the charges lodged against the fifty-seven persons arrested:

Fishing without licenses.....	23
Fishing in closed lakes.....	6
Possession of illegal-sized fish.....	1
Shooting fish with fire arms.....	1
Selling fish without license.....	3
Illegal possession of furs.....	1
Using seines and illegal fishing equipment.....	8
Possession of fish during the spawning season....	6
Resisting arrest .....	1
Fishing with stolen license.....	1
Hand fishing .....	2
Not keeping proper fur records.....	2
Selling game fish.....	1
Hunting out of season.....	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>57</b>

**Attention Sportsmen**

May we remind you that the new 1941 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses will be available at the county clerks' offices and the offices of their subagents shortly before July 1. The licenses you have in your possession at this time will expire June 30.

The quail stamps for the 1940 quail season will go on sale at the same time.

Philatelists who have not procured the old quail stamps should do so before July 1, as the law requires the destruction of all unused and out of date stamps at that time.

# GAME BIRDS SHOW INCREASE

Gratifying news comes to us from almost every section of the state concerning the condition of our supply of upland game birds.

Our quail population, according to competent authorities, is in a sound and healthy condition despite the snows and ice of last winter. If we have not misinterpreted all signs the spring nesting season will be favorable to the birds.

The prairie chickens have increased to such an extent in some sections of Eastern Kansas that many sportsmen believe an open season next fall would be justified. The lesser prairie chicken of Western Kansas are also showing some increase, although not as great as that shown by the greater prairie chicken of Eastern Kansas.

An unexpected increase in pheasants has been noted in Northwestern Kansas, and along the Smoky Hill River of North Central Kansas.

The Hungarian partridge, a recent addition to our game fields, are to be found now in several sections of Eastern Kansas. These birds were planted originally in the vicinity of Ottawa in Franklin County. We have made additional plantings of these birds in other counties and in other sections of the state.

## Migratory Waterfowl Increase

The Bureau of Biological Survey advises us that the migratory waterfowl population of the United States has increased fifteen percent since last year. These figures are, of course, estimates based on an actual inventory of birds using the four principal flyways of North America. The 1940 estimates reveal that there are somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty-five million migratory waterfowl on the continent.

Though Biological Survey officials are apprehensive about results this summer on the northern breeding grounds, where drought threatens to reduce the crop of ducklings, they express satisfaction in the general waterfowl situation.

## Game Farms Into Production

By the time this goes to press all necessary construction work at the Meade Pheasant farm will have been ninety percent completed. Several structures have been erected and others are nearing completion.

Farm Superintendent, Leonard Sutherland, reports that eighty-five hundred eggs are in the incubators and that the first birds of the season have been transferred to temporary brooder facilities. The several thousand pheasants, including ringnecked, Mongolian and Eng-

lish, which we expect this farm to produce, will be liberated in areas where additional stock is required.

Dan Ramey, Superintendent of the Calista Farm, tells us that ten thousand quail eggs are now in the incubators at the Calista and Pittsburg quail farms.

These figures would indicate that Ramey will break his last year's production record.

## Doves

Shortened tempers and insufferable summer days are foreseen despite our earlier plans to enjoy the summer in an air-conditioned office.

The cause of our woe is not the war or the threat of involvement, but the symbol of peace itself. Here on a window sill, and in almost the exact spot where we had planned to anchor an air conditioning gadget, two serious minded mourning doves have started house-keeping.

Two very white eggs have been laid in the not to well built nest. The dove is a notoriously poor nest builder as nature has given them bills and feet ill adapted to the building of strong attractive nests.

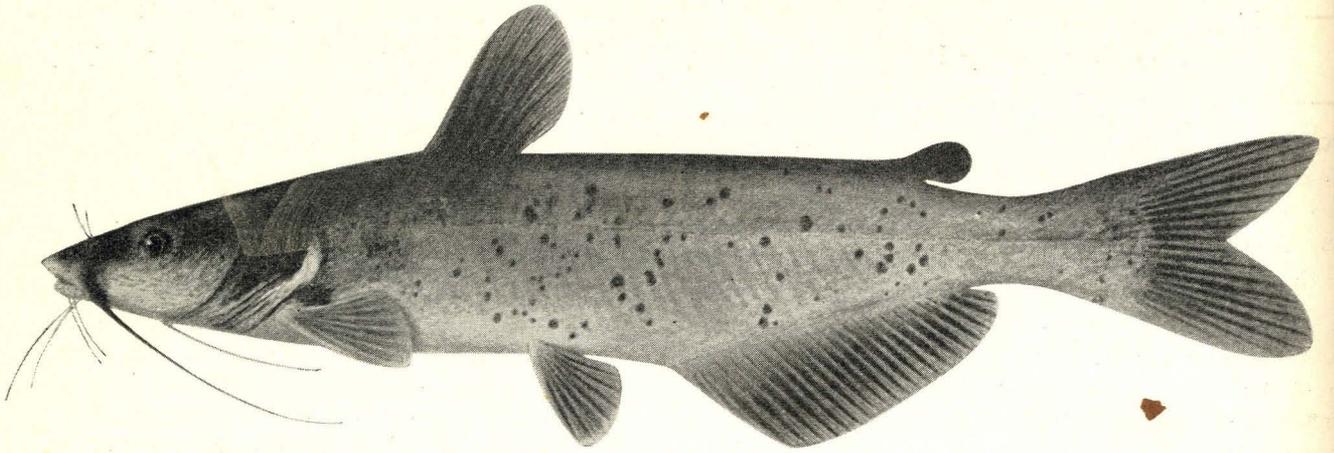
They, however, have an inspiring fidelity to each other and a strong sense of responsibility to their nests and nestlings. The birds on my window have taken turns at sitting on the nest, the male assuming this responsibility during the day and the female during the night. This routine will continue during the thirteen days' incubation period and for the two weeks that the nestlings remain in the nest.

They both take a hand in feeding their young a substance of partially digested seeds and other secretions of the crop regurgitated by both birds. This is what is commonly known as pigeon milk.

Since the birds mate and raise from one to three broods during the long breeding season, it is very likely that the installation of my cooling system will be delayed until after they start for the south next fall.

Although doves are to be found along the four principal flyways, these birds, which have upset all my plans and calculations, and their young, will use this flyway. Since they are migratory in habits they are protected in and out of season by state and federal regulations.

Walter Pedigo, Pratt business man, was a recent caller at the administration office. As our telephone bill had been paid we wondered why this active sportsman was honoring us with one of his rare though welcomed visits. Walter in an excited mood had a nine-pound channel to show us, and several thousand channel cat eggs for our incubators. Many thanks, Walter.

Channel Cat (*Ictalurus Punctatus*)

—Courtesy Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana.

## 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 fish to be found in Kansas waters. The primary purpose of this extra feature is to help the angler in identifying the fish taken by him. In this issue we picture two fish, the spotted channel cat and the blue channel cat, scientifically designated *Ictalurus punctatus* and *Ictalurus furcatus*, respectively.

There is a definite difference in the size and in the number of rays of the anal fin of these two fish, which is an infallible means of identification.

The spotted channel cat (above) attains a size of twenty to twenty-five pounds. Its body is slender and scarcely compressed. Back very little elevated; head and upper parts of body dark to light olive, below lateral line, light olive with much silvery lustre; belly pearl gray at ventrals and yellow forward on body; black spots are discernible on sides of body at certain

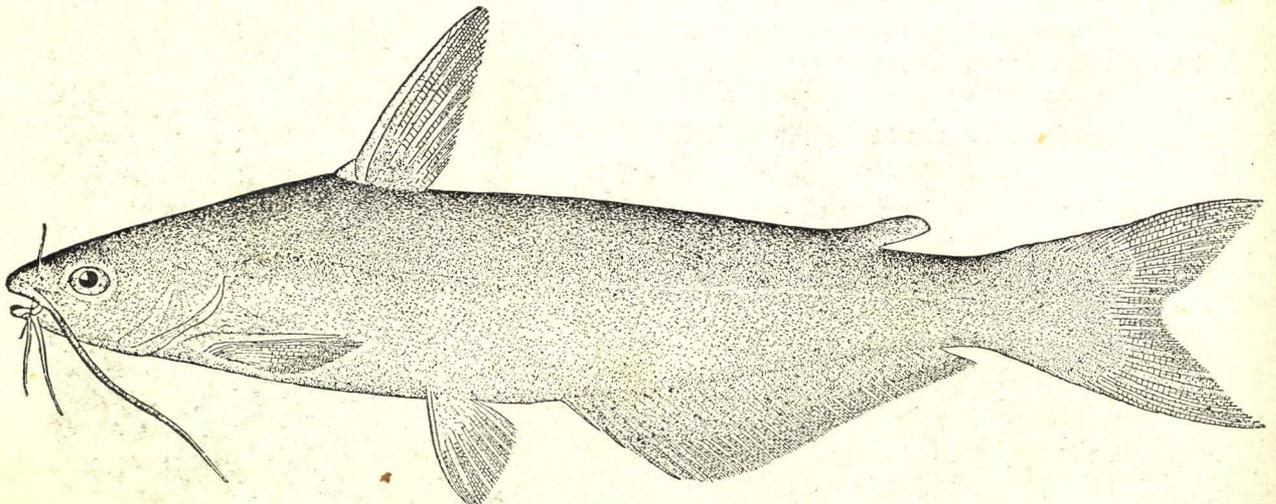
ages. The caudal fin deeply forked with upper lobe longer and more slender than lower. The anal fin short, with twenty-four to twenty-nine rays. Plentiful in Kansas waters.

The blue cat (below) attains a size much greater than that of the channel cat. The body slender, somewhat compressed. The back elevated, bluish or slate grey, shading to silver and almost white on belly. Deeply forked caudal fin. Anal fin long with thirty to thirty-five rays. Fairly numerous in Kansas waters.

### Fish Crew to Reform School

A crew of men from the Fish Hatchery has been coöperating with Reformatory officials in improving the fishing ponds at the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory at Hutchinson. These ponds are used as an additional recreational outlet for officers and inmates.

A Kansas City man, while fly fishing, caught a fish duck by the leg and landed him. The best catch of buffalo and carp from Missouri River lately is one hundred and fifty pounds in one day.—Teichgraeber.

Blue Cat (*Ictalurus Furcatus*)

## FROM REPORTS

Nemaha County State Lake: Good fishing this season. Channel cats weighing seven to ten pounds being taken regularly. Many bullheads and perch being caught in the Delaware, Stranger and Soldier Creeks.—*Benander.*

Little Walnut in Butler County: Good bass fishing, lots of fish being caught in Arkansas near Oxford. Winfield lady caught a fifteen pound flathead near Oxford.—*Toland.*

Fishing good in Western Kansas. Tom Bishop, Goodland, catching many five to six pound channels.—*Golden.*

The Sheridan County State Lake has put new life into Western Kansas anglers. Decatur County Lake near Jennings and the Sheridan County State Lake near Quinter, "Swell fishing."—*Faulkner.*

Fall River mighty good fishing. Many channels being taken from lake at Howard. Crappie, bass and drum being caught in the Elk and Verdigris Rivers. Harold Clinger, of Fredonia, using a fly rod, landed a twenty-five pound carp.—*Rickel.*

Trapped and delivered five live beaver to the Frizzell Ranch in Pawnee County, one pair to Sauble Bros., on Cedar Creek, four miles south of Cedar Point. Four to Sam Holt for the Marmaton River southwest of Uniontown.—*Byrne.*

Went checking licenses in the rain close to Hutchinson. Found several sitting in cars fishing out of windows. One under an umbrella on the bank. Located a fish trap in a stream flowing under the city hall in Hutchinson.—*Carlson and Suenram.*

## A "Turtle Catcher" Finds Business Good on Vermillion

Ever hear of a commercial turtle catcher? There's a man plying that trade in the Vermillion river these days.

He is said to be the first person to carry on the business in this section, and "turtling" is good, for Monday he was reported to have 1½ tons of them loaded into his truck. He ships them back to a cannery in Indiana.

Wading upstream he locates the turtles with a stick and loads them for market.

His largest catch one day last week was four hundred fifty pounds. He receives eight cents a pound for them.



E. J. Kelly, Secretary



Selden Sportsmen with string of bass, crappie and channel cats from the Sheridan County Lake

### With the County Organizations

The installation of D. E. Lacey as president, Boots Shoemaker, vice-president and Carl Rogg, secretary and treasurer, featured the annual meeting of the Russell County Game Development Association. The twenty-five members attending this meeting unanimously voted to continue their campaign to rid Russell County of stray cats.

At a regular meeting of the Ottawa County Fish and Game Development Association, election of officers was held on May 8 at Bennington. The following were elected: Dr. A. A. Goodwin, Minneapolis, president, Roy Waite, Bennington, vice-president, Henry Ward, Minneapolis, secretary and treasurer. These officers will control the destiny of the association for the next twelve months.

Frank Schulman, president of the Finney County Park's Fish and Game Association, writes interestingly of the varied activities of the one hundred and forty-one members of his association. They are making their own fun. The improvement of an abandoned sand pit as a fishing spot; the purchase of sixty-one acres of land as an addition to the Garden City Buffalo Range, and the planting of feed and cover are a few of the worthy projects of this association. He asserts that his position with the Garden City Chamber of Commerce has not influenced him in saying that ten pound channel cats are being taken regularly from the Pawnee in northeastern Finney County.

The Leavenworth County Fish and Game Development Association has a very active membership according to their association's monthly bulletin. They are developing, what we consider to be, a very consistent pheasant planting project. Their efforts go beyond the usual egg distribution plan. They not only furnish eggs, but insist on the coöperator planting feed and cover in the areas where the birds are to be liberated.

The Kingman County sportsmen have induced the county commissioners of Kingman County to cancel all fishing leases held by individuals to certain sections of the Ninnescah River. Dr. W. M. Benefield, president of the Kingman County Organization and director of the State Association, informs us they have had leases canceled on a twenty-acre tract southeast of Kingman, which for many years had been a favorite fishing spot of Kingman anglers. Since the lease on this particular area has been canceled, the Kingman county sportsmen propose its improvement and open-

ing to the sportsmen of Kingman County and their guests.

The Lyon County Wildlife Association has developed, as a game restoration project, a twelve hundred acre tract of land near the city of Emporia. This acreage will be utilized as a refuge and in the propagation of quail and partridge.

Being interested in civic affairs the association sponsored a fish exhibit in connection with Emporia's festival week. Edmun Dumm, president of the local association and vice-president of the state association, opinions that forty thousand persons viewed the exhibit during the week.

The Crawford County Fish and Game Protective Association has announced they favor putting into effect a reciprocal license fee agreement with other states. They urge the enactment of a new law which would provide that out of state residents be charged the same fee that their own state would charge Kansans.

The Pottawatomie County Sportsmen's Association plans to eat ice cream with the Westmoreland Methodists and to elect officers for the ensuing year, at their annual meeting in Westmoreland, early in June.

Clement L. Wilson, of Tribune, encourages us with the news that the Greeley County Association has been very active in supporting our conservation program. At the present time he writes us, "We are engaged in ridding this sparsely settled and almost treeless county of predatory animals."

The Shawnee County Sportmen's Association, according to its secretary, C. M. Stitt, now has a membership of three hundred and sixty-one.

He informs the BULLETIN that they are interested in the development of several low-water dam projects in Shawnee County.

The new Quail stamps are to be placed on sale July 1, according to an announcement by Guy D. Jossierand, director. The stamps are similar in design to the stamps of other years but will be of an entirely different color. The bird pictured on the stamp has been affectionately named "Clark Gable" by the state quail farm lads. This bird, nearly five years old, has served the sportsmen well and is scheduled for retirement.

One should learn to know birds and their habits, to appreciate their beauty and friendliness, to value their services and help repay in little kindnesses the great service they render.

# POLLUTION

LAST month's BULLETIN carried a reprint from the May "Outdoorsman," entitled "Hamstrung by Pollution." This article discussed pollution problems in general terms. The re-reading of it is worthwhile. Kansas had some current pollution, from oil, that was little short of a catastrophe. Two hundred thirty thousand gallons of distillate, through an unavoidable break in a line, were poured into the Arkansas River at Great Bend. The oil was in the stream before it was discovered by anyone, so that there was no way of preventing any of this from going into the river. Information as to this reached this Department when the oil reached Hutchinson. Fish were jumping out of the water ahead of this layer of oil. Our fish-rescue crew went into action and was able to rescue several thousand fish.

Even though the oil being released in the stream was accidental, the hundred miles of stream that it traversed before any attempt was made to trap it was not accidental, but deliberate neglect. There was no way of knowing how many fish were killed, but it was possible that more fish were killed than this Department is able to produce in a single year.

This week we attended a conference between the representatives of the oil refineries in the Walnut River Valley and the representatives of the State Board of Health. The conference was held at the Allis Hotel in Wichita on May 24. At this meeting the representatives of the refineries told in considerable detail of their efforts and progress in taking care of the wastes of the refineries, so that they would not affect the stream. The representatives of the refineries indicated that they were spending thousands of dollars and were willing to spend more to solve the pollution problem from the refineries, if the pollution from the production of oil and the waste of cities were taken care of in a similar manner.

Since this conference a pipe line burst in a tributary stream of the Walnut, letting a flow of crude oil directly into an unpolluted stream. This was caused by a flood which backed debris against the pipe line. This hazard can be eliminated by the placing of the pipe line high enough to be out of the way of floods or low enough in the stream bed. There are perhaps hundreds of cases just like this over the state.

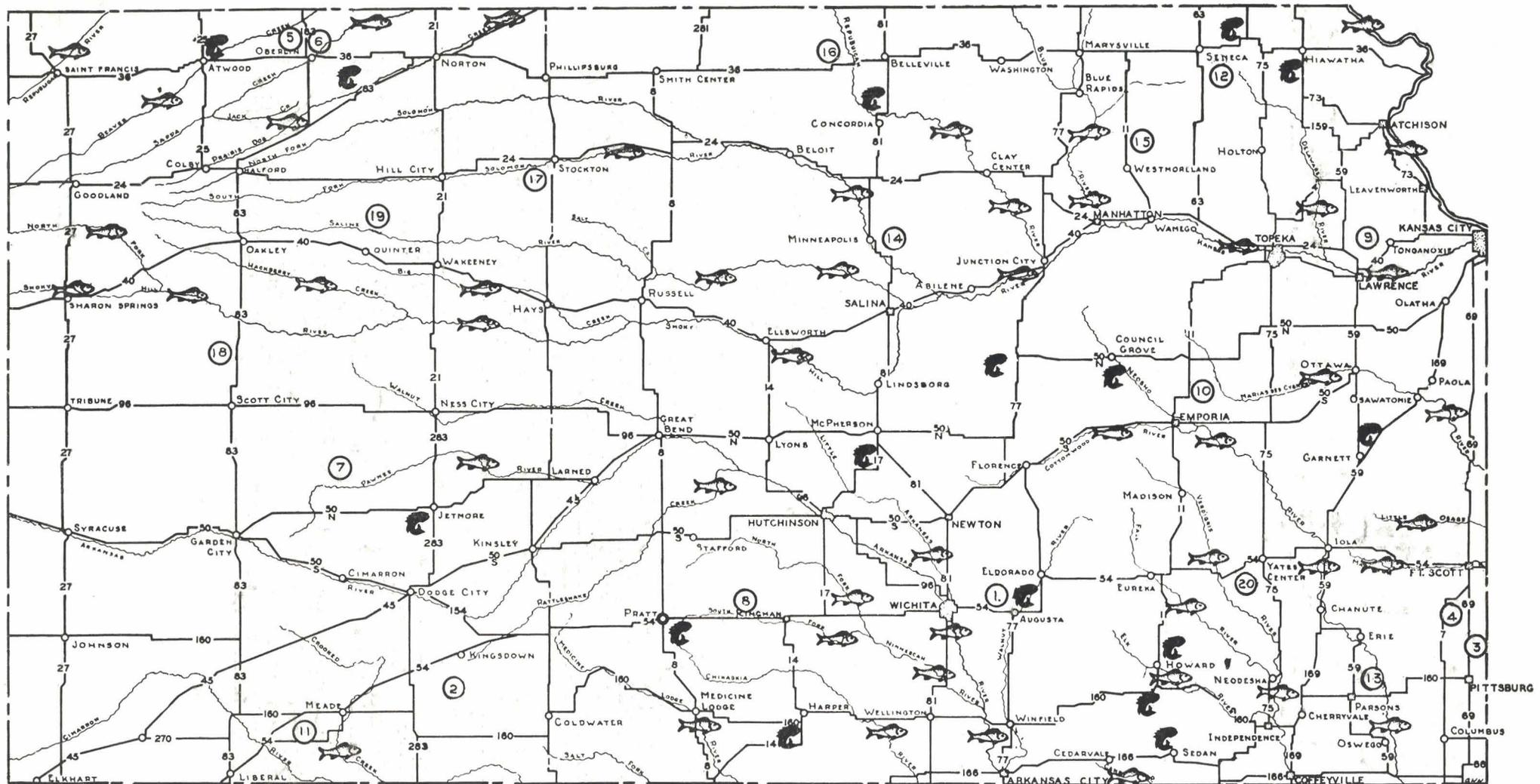
It was brought out at this conference that on two leases at the head of this valley there was now being produced thirty-eight thousand pounds of salt per day, and that if the salt water produced in conjunction with the petroleum industry was converted into salt, it would far exceed the commercial production of salt in Kansas at the present time.

Numerous wells drilled early in the petroleum industry development of Kansas and subsequently abandoned have not been properly plugged. The persons or companies responsible for the drilling and plugging of these wells are perhaps not now in existence. Here is purely a problem that must be met by the public. If we are to prevent the pollution of streams and our underground water supplies, the proper plugging of these old wells is essential.

Successive conferences are to be held with the refineries and producers relative to this problem in the Walnut Valley. Three problems present themselves to be solved: First, can the pollution be abated? Second, will the cost be commensurate with the benefits derived? Third, are all those affected willing to do all in their power to correct the situation? We believe the third question is quite easily solved. The other two are not impossible, but will require a great deal of study.

We believe that every individual contributing to stream pollution is willing to do his part toward its elimination, if others will do theirs. It is a matter of getting down to the task of coördination of the efforts of all those responsible. The authority for enforcing stream-pollutions laws is vested in the State Board of Health. Every person interested in better fishing should immediately bring any matter of pollution that comes within his observation to the attention of the Board of Health.—G. D. J.

# KANSAS FISHING LAKES AND STREAMS



**② State Lakes**

**🐊 City and County Lakes**

**🐟 River and Stream Fishing**

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|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Butler County State Park</li> <li>2. Clark County State Park (Not Open)</li> <li>3. Crawford County State Park No. 1</li> <li>4. Crawford County State Park No. 2</li> <li>5. Decatur County State Park No. 1 (Not Open)</li> <li>6. Decatur County State Park No. 2 (Not Open)</li> <li>7. Finney County State Park</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Kingman County State Park</li> <li>9. Leavenworth County State Park</li> <li>10. Lyon County State Park</li> <li>11. Meade County State Park</li> <li>12. Nemaha County State Park</li> <li>13. Neosho County State Park</li> <li>14. Ottawa County State Park</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Pottawatomie County State Park</li> <li>16. Republic County State Park</li> <li>17. Rooks County State Park</li> <li>18. Scott County State Park</li> <li>19. Sheridan County State Park</li> <li>20. Woodson County State Park</li> </ul> |
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