

KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. III

MARCH, 1941

No. III

Blue Wing Teal—photo by Cherry



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
HARRY F. LUTZ	Sharon Springs

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	Anthony
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	Emporia
ARTHUR JONES	Downs
A. E. KYSER	Savonburg
OLIN MINCKLEY	Ottawa
WALTER RICKEL	Independence
JOHN SHAY	Kingman
CARL SUENRAM	Moundridge
FRED TOBUREN	Irving
CARL TEICHGRAEBER	Topeka
CHARLEY TOLAND	Wichita

LEGAL

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

PUBLICITY

HELEN DeVault	Pratt
---------------------	-------

ENGINEERING

PAULETTE & WILSON, <i>Consulting Engineers</i>	Salina
ELMO HUFFMAN, <i>Engineer</i>	Pratt
WILBUR WAHL, <i>Landscape Architect</i>	Pratt

STATE PARK AND LAKE SUPERINTENDENTS

DUANE CARPENTER, Butler County State Park	Augusta
W. I. THOMAS, Crawford County State Park.....	Pittsburg
LEE G. HENRY, Leavenworth County State Park.....	Tonganoxie
JOHN CARLTON, Meade County State Park.....	Meade
W. F. PIGGOTT, Neosho County State Park.....	St. Paul
GEORGE M. CODY, Oberlin Sappa State Park	Oberlin
C. R. DAMERON, Ottawa County State Park.....	Minneapolis
B. E. HALE, Scott County State Park.....	Scott City
A. M. SPRIGGS, Woodson County State Park.....	Yates Center

KANSAS FISH AND GAME

Published Monthly By

THE KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Pratt, Kansas

GUY D. JOSSERAND, *Director*

DAVE LEAHY, JR., *Asst. Director*

E. J. KELLY, *Secretary*

LEE LARRABEE, *Chairman*

VOL. III

MARCH, 1941

No. III

Lutz Answers Legislator

Harry Lutz, recently appointed member of the state Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, denied today a legislator's charge the agency is dominated by one man.

Rep. Blake A. Williamson (R. Wyandotte) attacked the body as a "one-man commission which should be taken out of politics and given back to the sportsmen," in house debate Monday on a fish and game measure.

Replying to Williamson, Lutz said in a statement: "I happen to know that the commission gives careful thought and attention to all requests by the sportsmen of the state as we do want to give them what they want. After all they pay the 'freight.'"

"I can state frankly, without fear of contradiction, that the present body is not a 'one-man' set-up."

Williamson had charged that the effect of the proposed law to give the commission power to fix fishing and hunting seasons and regulations would be "impaired" because of "personnel of the present commission."

"While I have been on the commission but a short time," Lutz continued, "I have given careful consideration to all laws and have made a careful study of what had taken place at commission meetings.

"I find that the commission is made up of six broad-minded gentlemen, each with a mind of their own, and well able to stand on their own two feet and make their own decisions.

"All the changes in the laws introduced in the present session are things the sportsmen want.

"I feel, and I am sure that the other members of the commission do likewise, that the fish and game department should be administered for the good of all and not for any particular individual."

Lutz, mayor of Sharon Springs, was appointed to the commission by Gov. Payne Ratner to succeed Sen. Elmer E. Euwer (R. Goodland) who resigned to take his seat in the legislature.—*Garden City Daily Telegram*, Feb. 26, 1941.

Wildlife Servants

Man has put many species of wildlife to work—the elephant and water buffalo of India, the llama of South America, the yak of Tibet, to mention but a few . . .

Squadrons Overhead

If you see your next-door friend or neighbor gazing skyward these days, think nothing of it. He is not only very sane, but enjoying one of nature's greatest sights—the swift orderly flight of migrating birds. In Europe neighbors gaze aloft in fear and hope. In America in wonderment. Here it is not the question of whether the squadron overhead is friend or foe, but if they are pintails or mallards.

Millions of migrants are sweeping northward now to their spring nesting areas. Despite the fact that most of them seek the cover of darkness and altitude to cloak their movements, the observation of this semi-annual phenomena need not be denied you. The use of a pair of binoculars on a moonlit night will reveal many interesting sights to you. A study of this subject is indeed very fascinating, but since most of us have little time to be devoted to such a study, we are publishing in this month's KANSAS FISH AND GAME three pertinent articles—"Why Do Birds Migrate," "Homing," and "Dangers and Adventures of Migration"—written by Roger T. Peterson, and appearing in the January-February issue of the Audubon Society magazine.

Hungarian Partridge

The Commission recently accepted and planted in Finney, Wallace, Ellsworth, Barber and Anderson counties its second shipment of Canadian trapped Hungarian partridges. An earlier planting of birds, received from the same source, had been made in Leavenworth, Franklin, Bourbon and Reno counties with gratifying results. Since the Hun is not a native to this continent its introduction to a new field such as Kansas is truly an experiment. Because of that fact we cannot with any degree of certainty predict its future as an addition to Kansas game fields.

The bird, however, does not differ greatly from the bobwhite quail in size or field requirements. The average Hun is from twelve to fourteen inches in length. In coloration its face, chin and throat are of a buff color. The upper parts, wings and sides are grayish brown, barred with black, ochre and white. The under parts are gray, fading to a dirty white. In Canada and other places where their introduction has proven to be successful they are the favorite game birds with most hunters.



Beaver dam in Cheyenne County

We Disagree

"I am planning on introducing in a few days a bill which will give the sportsmen a chance to have a voice in naming the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, and get rid of the present setup," so spoke a member of the Kansas House of Representatives.

"At one time I was tempted to criticize the fact that the state had taken motion pictures of the wildlife in Kansas and is spending considerable money to show the pictures to Kansas school children. But now I realize that if matters continue under the present commission it will be only through those pictures that my children will ever have the opportunity to find out that Kansas has—or had, rather—wildlife," so spoke the same member of the House of Representatives.

We leave the questioning of intentions to higher and wiser Beings. We simply question. To our query, What is wrong with the present setup? we hear the charge that "it is a one-man commission." The six members of the commission emphatically deny that charge. The director, particularly after a meeting of the commission, would not express himself as being in accord with the statement that the present setup is a one-man affair. The departmental employees do not presume that they are to listen to one voice only in the conducting of their departments. They, on the contrary, have had the opportunity of seeing at first hand the present law in operation, and are convinced that it could be improved upon but little.

No, a new law would not give the sportsmen a stronger voice than they now have in the management of the fish and game department. As a matter of fact, the present setup is just what the sportsmen need and wanted. The healthy condition of our streams and game fields, and the wholesome respect of the fish and game laws by the citizens generally is evidence that the commission has the confidence of the sportsmen and general public.

A new law might be written whereby a politically minded minority could maneuver itself into a position whereby it could dictate the policies of the commission

and the appointment of those commissioners, but this would be done at the expense of the majority who should not be denied their legal interest in our wildlife resources.

In Europe, the game fields, salmon and trout streams are the exclusive right of the privileged few. We here in the United States, and Kansans particularly, have an inborn aversion to privileged classes and minority rule. We're "agin" it. It won't work.

Why Not Here?

From the Pennsylvania Angler we clip two resolutions passed by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen at their annual meeting in Harrisburg, February 11 and 12:

Resolved: "That the secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs address a letter to each senator of the senate of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania expressing the confidence of the federation and soliciting the confirmation of the governor's appointments to the fish commission and game commission."

Resolved: "That the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs emphatically express to the governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania its sincere salutation and confidence in his appointments to the fish commission and game commission."

Beavers

If we were asked to present proof regarding the need or the efficacy of game protective laws and regulations, we would unhesitatingly submit the case of the beaver as our evidence.

Twenty years ago there were fewer beaver in Kansas than would be required to manufacture a fur coat. Today, after twenty years of protection and control, they have become so numerous that nearly every section of the state boasts of one or more colonies.

If the animals are killed or drowned in our attempts to take them alive they are pelted and their pelts sold at public auction. The accompanying pictures reveal interesting facts regarding the beaver and its work.



Beaver dam in Cheyenne County



Beaver damage in Cheyenne County

Chumps

Despite all of our preachments against the evils of spring shooting, a few Kansans persist in following their evil ways. Five were apprehended recently by district game protectors Suenram and Shay during their hour of watching at the Little Salt Marshes. The subsequent trip made by these five defendants to the judicial woodshed is expected to renew their faith in game laws, and to strengthen them against any further temptations. As a matter of fact, one was so impressed by the wages of his sin that he was prompted to indite himself as being a thirty-third degree, fourteen carat, unadulterated chump. And that in our opinion is a true inditement.

A spring shooter is a chump. In the first place, he has two strikes called on him before he leaves home. The game protector usually knows under what conditions the bad sports of his district will violate the laws, and has an uncanny faculty for anticipating their intentions. That is the first called strike. A heavy concentration of birds at any given point attracts the game protector as well as the shooter. He knows full well that sooner or later the cheater will take the chance. With this in mind, and determined to earn his salary, he patiently takes up the watch. That is the second called strike.

In the second place, the man who shoots ducks at this time of the year is ten times a chump. The birds for the most part have already mated and a dead hen now deprives the shooter of ten potential birds next fall.

Arrests for February

Fur violations	25
Trapping without a license.....	2
Hunting ducks out of season and without a license..	3
Possession of illegal fishing equipment.....	3
Hunting game birds illegally.....	10
Shooting pheasant out of season.....	2
Hunting without a license.....	2
Total	47

Fishing Fever

By the time this issue of the BULLETIN is in the hands of its readers many of them will have had their first attack of spring fever. There is only one cure for this form of infection, and that is fishing. We not only prescribe liberal doses of this cure-all, but will recommend the streams of Kansas and the state lakes as places where the sufferer may find relief.

The streams of Kansas were never in better shape than they are today. Many of them are flowing freely for the first time in many years. Most of them are now sustaining an adequate supply of fish life. The reports of the department's twenty game protectors state that this year's loss of fish by winter kill was far below normal.

If you prefer lake to stream fishing we have no hesitancy in recommending any of the state lakes and many county lakes to you. Our fish distribution records here at the hatchery reveal that many fish have been placed in the state lakes at regular intervals.

Hunting Big Business

Sportsmen paid almost \$13,000,000 for more than 7,600,000 hunting licenses or combination hunting-fishing or hunting-trapping licenses in 1939, the latest year for which figures are available, according to a compilation by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. The compilation included hunting licenses alone in twenty-one states and, in the others, the fishing and trapping licenses that were combined with those for hunting.

As was true in 1938, the Big Five for 1939 was headed by Michigan, with 711,733 licenses issued. Pennsylvania was second with 661,300; New York, third with 591,946; Ohio, fourth with 521,963; and Indiana, fifth with 358,386.

Federal migratory bird stamps, commonly known as duck stamps, also were issued to 100,000 more sportsmen in the 1939 season, a total of 1,111,561 stamps being sold to hunters of migratory waterfowl.

The total paid for state licenses and federal duck stamps was more than \$14,100,000.

On the basis of license returns, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service believe that the number of hunters has continued to increase. From 1935 to 1938 the increase was at the rate of half a million a year. The 1937 tabulation showed 6,860,000 licenses and the 1938 tabulation 7,524,000. In 1939, the total increased by 122,000.

Some Egg

One ostrich egg will make as large an omelet as three dozen hens' eggs . . . "Ostrich fruit" average eight inches long, six inches in diameter and weigh about three pounds.

Why Do Birds Migrate?

It is very easy to state the benefits of going south when the climate changes. Cold weather, snow and ice mean less food for birds to eat, so it is obviously to their advantage to move out . . . to go into some region where living is easier. These travels make it possible to utilize two different areas, each at a time when food is abundant; it enables birds to occupy the breeding area at a time when there is an unfailling food supply for their young, and avoids the risk of their starving by staying there throughout the year. Of course, there are certain birds that have learned to find their living throughout the year, even in the coldest regions, but most birds are not so adaptable. The advantages, then, of traveling are obvious, but the advantages and the causes are not the same thing. Birds do not think why they migrate; they do not consciously anticipate the rigors of winter, for many of them, like most of the Warblers and the Orioles, have never seen a snowflake nor an icicle. Nor do most species wait until there is a chill in the air, and the food begins to fail. From what little we know about birds' minds, we believe they do not reason these things out; they do not rationalize that it would be a good idea to go south while flying conditions are still good and food still plentiful along the way. That is the way we would think things out, but we are not birds. Some instinctive urge seems to compel them to move.

The mere use of the word "instinct" does not explain everything, however. We would naturally like to know why the instinct? This might never be definitely answered, as the original causes are probably lost in the remote past. One of the most popular theories is that the changes in climate during the glacial period were responsible for the origin of migration. The extensive ice cap crowded many of the birds into the southern parts of the United States and into the Tropics. When the ice cap began to melt, many birds followed its retreating edge. With each recurrent winter, they were forced back again by the snows. Each spring the birds again followed the melting ice. In this way, conjecture has it, the birds shuttled back and forth for countless years until they developed the instinctive habit of migration. Of course there were no birdmen then to keep notes on this process, so it is merely a theory, but withal, a reasonable one.

Another idea is more closely tied up with the theory of evolution. In brief, it is contended that the original area occupied by the species was small, and as its kind prospered and multiplied, it became necessary to spread out. The limited area was not enough in which to find nesting places for its increased numbers. They wandered out to the edges, and then after the nesting was over, came back to their original range. This

pushing out and returning continued until a lengthy migration route was established.

The remote causes might explain how migration developed in the first place. But they are quite distinct from the immediate causes that prompt birds to migrate each successive year. What is it that starts them off at a certain time? Why do they stick to a fairly close schedule? They seem almost like boats or transport planes that start at a certain place, leave at a certain time, and arrive according to schedule. A boat or a plane must have a pilot to set it in motion. The pilot in a bird is its glands. The glands are the controls that make male birds sing in the spring and females lay eggs. We still do not know very much about how they work. There is a great change in these glands before the nesting season. There is another change in late summer and fall after the nesting is over. It is during these periods, when the glands are changing, that birds migrate.

According to some ornithologists, the force that seems to start these glandular changes is light—the increase of light in the spring and the decrease of light in the fall. Light, then, is the signal that tells the pilot when to take off. As the spring days become longer, the sun climbs higher into the heavens and exerts its changing influence on the glands of the bird. When the right day comes, the bird, not thinking how or why, leaves for its distant goal, to which it is guided as unerringly as a modern plane, with its complicated control board. Like a plane or a boat, winds or weather might take it off its course . . . perhaps hold it up a little, but barring mishaps, it reaches the port for which it started. Once in a while, due to some abnormal circumstance, a bird will wander far from its normal range, but this is accidental. Should a bird start for its breeding ground in Maine, it will not burn up in Salt Lake City instead, except by the purest kind of accident.

It is a constant source of wonder to us how birds find their way. We still do not know exactly what guides migration. It is not a matter of experience, for most young birds do not follow their parents, but trace the ancestral path all by themselves. Birds might follow visual guides to a certain extent. They sometimes seem to follow coast lines, mountains, ridges and water areas, but at night they cannot always see the contours of the land, and the air path is unknown to them. Much of the journey, at least, is accomplished by "blind flying."

Dangers and Adventures of Migration

Migration is the greatest adventure in the life of a bird, and countless thousands never reach their destination. They do not, as some people think, foresee weather conditions like a miniature weather bureau,

but are instead influenced by the weather at the point where they start. If it is favorable, off they go. They do not know, ahead of time, whether they are going to run into snowstorms, winds, or fogs. Sometimes there are fatal accidents when they meet such conditions. Winds carry them out to sea, sometimes so far that they are unable to regain the land. Fogs bewilder them, and not infrequently they crash into the blinding lights of lighthouses and high buildings. One catastrophe was reported where an ice storm overtook a tremendous migration of Longspurs in Minnesota. The next day 750,000 dead Longspurs were estimated on the ice of two small lakes. Longspurs in greater or lesser numbers were recorded dead over an area of 1,500 square miles. It probably took years for the Longspur populations, in some localities, to build up and replace the millions of lives lost on that one night. Birds even perish at times when crossing such bodies of water as the Great Lakes. Five thousand dead birds were counted along one mile of shore on Lake Huron after a bad storm, so you can see that the cost of migration is very heavy in life. It is probably the greatest risk a grown bird must take.

Homing

The instinct called "homing" plays a large part in migration. One of the best definitions of bird homing is "the ability to return to a known goal, over at least a partially unknown flight road." Every bird has this instinct, but some of the nonmigratory birds to a lesser extent. Homing is not necessarily the same thing as migration for, according to the above definition, it is a return to a known goal, whereas most of the migration of young birds is toward an unknown goal. Perhaps the best article ever written in English on the fascinating subject of homing appeared in the January-February, 1937, issue of *Bird-Lore*—"The Homing of Birds," by Ernst Mayr. It is well worth reading and can be used as a basis for classroom study. Doctor Mayr, in describing the phenomenon, says "it seems as if the bird were tied to its home with an invisible rubber band and that no matter what you do with it, it will be pulled back."

No one seems to know just what it is in the bird that controls this ability. There have been many explanations, but no really satisfactory ones. Some writers have contended that birds remember landmarks, but this is only possible when they are very near home in familiar surroundings. If a bird is taken from New Jersey to Ohio and released, the chances are it will return to New Jersey without much trouble even though it had never been to Ohio in its life before and could not possibly know the path. The logical question that comes up at this point is, "Isn't it possible that when the bird was being transported to Ohio

it was able to record in its brain all the turns and twists that the train or automobile made? Then all it would have to do to return home is just retrace those turns and twists." Doctor Mayr describes a very novel experiment that was made in Germany to find out about this. Two darkened cages full of Starlings were carried from a German village to Berlin, ninety-three miles away. One of the two cages was mounted on a phonograph disc, which slowly turned around and around during the entire railroad journey, making a total of about 5,000 rotations. The Starlings could not possibly remember all these turns in addition to the turns in the track. Still these birds returned nearly 100 percent, and, in fact, quicker than the birds in the other cage which were transported under normal conditions without being whirled around. Birds transported under the influence of chloroform also returned home as successfully as others, another proof that conscious memory does not play a part.

Another favorite idea about homing is that birds have some sort of undiscovered organ with a magnetic sense. Home marks zero, and no matter where the bird is, it tends to be irresistibly pulled toward zero as if by a magnet. If this were true, the steel of cities, railroads and other things would throw the birds off their course, but they do not. There are other similar ideas, such as the influence of radio waves, but none of these theories has yet been proven. To this day no "homing organ" has ever been found in the body of a bird, so the mystery is as deep as ever.



Mrs. A. M. Sprigg with a 14½ lb. channel cat taken from the Woodson County State Lake

Butler County Meets

Members of the Butler County Fish and Game Development Association held their regular monthly meeting last night at the courthouse with representatives from several townships in attendance.

Most of the business transacted consisted of reports and a discussion of proposed fish and game regulations recommended by the local organization. The majority of these recommendations have been approved and it was reported that one Kansas legislator has presented a bill proposing to increase the cost of fishing licenses to \$1.50 in order to create a fund which would be used to remove turtles and rough fish from state lakes and streams. Although it has done much of that type of work, the local organization is opposed to such action.

A vote of thanks was extended to the county commissioners last night for the coöperation in granting a bounty on coyotes and the local group pledged its full support.

The organization also went on record last night as urging all sportsmen to join some national, state or local sportsmen's club in order to assist legislators to pass laws which would be beneficial to wild life.

Barber County Reorganizes

The sportsmen of Barber county at a meeting in Medicine Lodge, February 10, reformed the Barber County Game Development Association, electing the following as officers for the ensuing year: Roy Osborn, Kiowa, president; R. G. Hall, Medicine Lodge, vice-president; Albert Farley, Kiowa, secretary-treasurer. R. G. Hall of Medicine Lodge, Jim Miller, Roy Osborn, L. F. Hensley, Kiowa, and D. R. Bell, Isabel, were elected directors of the county association.

Dr. W. N. Benefield, Kingman, director of the state association, assisted in the reorganization work and explained to the assembled sportsmen the purpose of a local group and the aims of the state association. District game protectors Jim Andrew and John Shay, and fish culturist, Seth L. Way, were among the many out-of-town guests attending this meeting.



Ed Roll, state beaver trapper and a few of the beaver pelts taken by him in Cheyenne County

McPherson County Sportsmen to Build Small Dams

Preliminary details for building a series of six-foot rock dams on the Smoky river from Marquette to Lindsborg were discussed at a meeting Friday night which was attended by about eighty sportsmen from over McPherson county.

The meeting was called by the McPherson County Fish and Game Protective Association and Ray Wright, McPherson, presided until Ernest Johnson, Marquette, was elected chairman.

Plans were discussed for rebuilding the Marquette and Lindsborg dams as well as the construction of several shallow-water dams between these two towns. The shallow dams will be built of rock, probably faced with concrete, for the purpose of creating large pools for fish to live in during the hard freezing winter months.

If the dam at Marquette is built, it is planned to secure easements along the river on both sides so that persons can fish there without being molested or securing permission first.

The association has received information to the fact that the state fish and game department might be able to provide some financial aid as well as trucks to aid in the construction of the shallow dams. Very little expense will be necessary for the association plans to provide much of the manpower necessary for the construction work.

Chairman Johnson appointed a committee of three to work out, with the state fish and game department, details of the shallow dam construction as well as to make arrangements with landowners.

To carry on this work, the county association is making a drive for membership in the association.

BAG LIMIT

I just got a limit—had very good luck
But didn't shoot pheasant, a quail or a duck.
I got up quite early and traveled the by-ways—
You see, I'm the fiend who shoots road signs on highways.

My very first shot bagged a beautiful *slow*
And I chuckled with glee when I laid that sign low—
Then I sneaked through the grass and I hid among
boulders
Ank knocked over a couple of tender *soft shoulders*.

I got three *city limits* and one sign that read
In arresting black letters *look out! curves ahead!*
Then I shattered a *stop*, but my prize shot no doubt
Was the one that demolished a *danger! bridge out!*

It was strenuous work, but I've no cause to squawk
I'm a sharpshootin' champ with an eye like a hawk.
So if you get lost, or ket killed, or pay fines,
You can thank me, Ol' Pal—I'm the fiend who shoots
signs.

—Aub Brandon in *Hunting and Fishing Magazine*.



Reese Tanner, Jim Stryker, Nate Moore and Gale Edgar, night fishing in the Neosho County State Lake

Seven Out of Ten

No sportsman ever fires a shot at seven out of every possible ten ducks—ducks which *might have been*.

What happens to these seven?

Let's see. At the start of the 1940 breeding season about forty million ducks returned to Canadian breeding grounds. About twenty-six million of these should have paired off and raised broods (allowing for excess of drakes and birds which do not breed).

These thirteen million pairs could easily have produced over one hundred million ducks.

But

of this possible hundred million, in an average year,

Drought kills	20 million
Crows and magpies take.....	15 million
Fires destroy	12 million
Jackfish eat	8 million
Other predators take.....	7 million
Flooding of nests accounts for.....	3 million
Plowing and haying, another.....	3 million
Indians and half-breeds.....	2 million

70 million

Seventy million out of a possible one hundred million ducks that never migrate southward! Ducks which, if saved, might have added to your sport.

The legal kill of ducks in the United States during a sixty-day season with a ten-bird daily bag limit is about nine million birds.

Therefore—

1. Nearly *eight times* as many ducks are lost by drought, predators, fires and other factors as are killed legally by the sportsmen of the United States.
2. Drought alone destroys *over twice* as many ducks as the sportsmen take.
3. Crows and magpies account for the loss of *nearly twice* as many ducks as the legal kill in this country.
4. Fires destroy more potential ducks each year than the sportsmen.

5. Jackfish eat about as many ducks each year as the combined kill of sportsmen in this country.

Can this seven out of ten loss be reduced?

Sure it can.

Tom Main, general manager of Ducks Unlimited (Canada), who has a better grasp of the duck picture in the greatest duck factory on the continent (western Canada) than any other person, believes that this loss of seventy million *can be cut in half*.

This would increase the duck flight by *thirty-five million birds—an increase* of just about *four times* as many ducks as the sportsmen will take this year!

If these useless—and preventable—losses are cut in half, sportsmen could take *four times* as many ducks—and still leave a much larger breeding stock for next season.

But let's suppose that this needless loss of seven out of ten ducks is reduced by *only fifteen percent*—and that is *easy* to do. Then duck hunting would be *over twice* as good as it is this year.

How can these needless losses, which account for at least seventy percent of the potential duck crop before the hunter fires a shot, be reduced?

Losses due to drought can be materially reduced by reflooding marshes where millions of ducks formerly bred—marshes which have been ruined by drainage and drought. Young ducks, which now die by the million, can be saved by establishing permanent water at key points to which they can go when their home sloughs and potholes dry up as many do every year.

Ducks Unlimited already has improved water conditions on fifty breeding ground projects totaling 800,000 acres.

During the past three breeding seasons over one million two hundred forty-five thousand crows and magpies have been killed under Ducks Unlimited supervision.

Marsh and forest fires can be prevented and controlled on areas where ducks breed in greatest numbers.

Every Ducks Unlimited project is protected from fire. Controlled burning of public marshes under Ducks Unlimited supervision has already saved many thousands of acres of good nesting cover, and hundreds of thousands of duck nests.

The loss of eggs and ducks caused by minor predators (skunks, ground squirrels, weasels, etc.) can and is being substantially reduced by Ducks Unlimited. Similarly, losses due to plowing, haying and the taking of eggs and birds by Indians and half-breeds have already been reduced, and can be still further curtailed.

Do you want more ducks and better duck hunting?

Your subscription to Ducks Unlimited is the surest and quickest way of getting both.—DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC., National Headquarters, 342 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Pratt County Organization Meets

The Pratt County Fish and Game Protective Association held its February meeting in the Hotel Roberts, February 7. This meeting was fairly well attended. Director Guy Jossierand was present and explained pending legislation. Protector John Shay, of Kingman, talked on fish and game protection troubles, and Dr. W. M. Benefiel, of Kingman, a director of the state association, talked on association matters.

The matter of projects was taken up, and the elimination of some of the crow population will be a major project. It is likely that a shoot will be held with crows substituting for bluerocks. Cash prizes will be offered.

Sportsmen Name Committees

The Northeast Kansas Field Trial association and the Atchison County Fish and Game Association, which recently merged and adopted the name of the latter organization, met this week and appointed a number of important committees.

Officers of the new organization are as follows: President, Robert P. Snowden; vice-president, W. J. Scott; treasurer, W. W. Hetherington; secretary, E. H. Anderson. The board of directors includes Ben Shaw, chairman, N. E. Miller, V. R. Tate, Elmer Dorssom and J. H. Dilgert.

The committees appointed this week are as follows: Bylaws and permanent organization—J. W. Lowry, chairman, Gerald Foley, John Foulks, John Buehler, B. P. Waggener. Publicity—Al Bennett, chairman, Roy Coleman, Steven Boneau, Wayne Clouse, George Lentz. Field Trials—W. J. Scott, chairman, J. E. George, Jake Banks, Tom Enright, Larkin Thomas, Ben Shaw, Emil Kautz. Membership—J. H. Dilgert, chairman, John Sullivan, Jake Banks, Clarence Bilimek, Roy Frazier, Dr. O. O. Barker, Jim Grimes, Harvey Reece, Gus Pope, Hub Navinsky, Lyle Rosedahl.

Also a committee was appointed to confer with the state fish and game department to represent the Missouri river fishermen. It includes Virgil Tate, chairman, Jodie Van Horn, John Lindsey, John Barkley, Ed Keith and C. B. Sowers.

Entertainment—Jess Bunch, chairman, Billy Blair, Dean Van Ness, Paul Weitz, D. C. Jeffreys, W. W. Hetherington.

Lake and ponds—Virgil Tate, chairman, Warren Hartmen, Elton Ritchey, N. E. Miller, Eugene Berney, States R. Scott.

Game refuge and farm contact—Bert Baumener, chairman, Andy Andrews, Robert Volk, Oscar Dahl, J. D. Locke, Carl Mayhew.

—Atchison, Kansas, *Globe*.

A Gift

The game department was recently notified that the late Henry Irving Maxwell, McPherson, had bequeathed approximately \$75,000 to the game department or any other like agency, for the purpose of establishing a game preserve in McPherson county. The will provides that this major bequest must be used in the establishment of a game preserve and that sufficient land must be purchased in order to stock the preserve with such native wild game as buffalo, deer, antelope, elk, quail and prairie chickens.

The project is to be known as the Maxwell Brothers Memorial. The brothers, both of whom are dead, are Henry Maxwell and J. G. Maxwell, both of whom had lived in McPherson. It will be some time before the executors of the estate actually buy the land.

Henry H. Eberhardt of Salina, and Carl A. Grant of McPherson, executors of the estate, in company with Director Guy D. Jossierand and Attorney B. N. Mullendore, recently examined many sites in McPherson county proposed as being suitable as wild-life preserves.

Closed Seasons

If any species of bass or crappie affixes itself to your fishing tackle between April 20 and May 25, or if any channel cat gets wrapped around your stringer between June 1 and June 30, all dates inclusive, it's no dice. As the commission has declared the spawning season to be as stated above it will be contrary to law, therefore, if you do not return such fish to the waters.



Nate Moore and 20 lb. 12 oz. channel cat caught in Neosho County State Lake

A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE WILD BIRDS

A great victory has been won for the wild birds of the world through the signing, on February 6, 1941, of a joint declaration of policy and program by the National Audubon Society and Feather Industries of America, Inc., believed to be in the best interests of conservation.

The outstanding provision of the declaration is that the members of the feather industry join with the Society in advocating federal and state legislation to bring about permanent cessation of all traffic in the United States in wild bird plumage of any kind from any source.

There is every likelihood that within a few weeks' time a bill will have been introduced and legislation enacted in New York state, the forerunner of similar federal and uniform state laws, which will write the final epitaph, within six years, to United States traffic in wild bird plumage.

Members of the National Audubon Society and all friends of wild life everywhere will welcome termination of a period of inadequate protection of wild birds resulting from the existence of loopholes in plumage laws, federal and state, and confusion induced by differing interpretations of those laws. Moreover, many kinds of wild birds are not protected by existing state legislation. Some states have no plumage laws whatever. Nevertheless, the campaign that was won a generation ago marked a great advance and all credit is due to those who participated in it. The legislative gains at that time were doubtless the best that could then be obtained.

The formal document was drawn with great care following extensive negotiations, and consultation with officers of the New York State Departments of Conservation and Law. Those members of the feather industry signing the declaration state that they believe that they constitute at least ninety percent of all the manufacturers, dealers and jobbers in wild bird plumage in the United States, and that they own, control, or possess at least ninety percent of all current inventories of wild bird plumage in this country. All persons trafficking in wild bird plumage, whether or not they have signed the declaration of policy, will be bound by the provisions of the contemplated legislation.

Members of the National Audubon Society and others, who have steadfastly fought for more legal protection of wild birds, will be interested in an enumeration of the most important provisions of the declaration of policy. Among these provisions are:

1. Members of the industry agree to deliver at once their entire current inventories of plumage of bald eagle, golden eagle, egret, bird of paradise and heron, to be held pending passage of new New York state plumage law. At that time these feathers are to be either destroyed or distributed to educational institutions for exhibit purposes.

2. Within one month of the signing of the declaration on February 6, 1941, and regardless of the passage of any new legislation, the members of the industry agree to file with the New York State Conservation Department complete certified inventories of all wild bird plumage owned, controlled or possessed by them on February 6, 1941. Such inventories are to be audited and additionally certified by certified public accountants. Auditors of the Society shall have the right to participate in the selection of methods of obtaining a uniform, complete, and understandable set of inventories.

3. Upon the passage of new plumage law in New York, annual inventories are to be taken in the same manner and filed with the State Conservation Department, which shall have the right at all times to check up as to the accuracy of those inventories.

4. Together with these inventories members of the industry will file sworn statements, together with waivers of their constitutional rights in the wild bird plumage. The fact that such constitutional rights exist, and have been consistently upheld

by courts in similar situations, has been at the bottom of resumption, in recent years, of traffic in wild bird plumage; thus the declaration's provision for the waving of constitutional rights in wild bird plumage inventories is essential to effecting a permanent cessation of wild bird plumage traffic.

5. In seeking new protective legislation, the Society and the industry will jointly recommend that the industry be permitted to dispose of certain of its current inventories of wild bird plumage during a period of six years after date of passage of new plumage law in New York state. At the end of that period any remaining such inventories would be delivered to the State Conservation Department for destruction or distribution to educational institutions for exhibit purposes. After that date all wild bird plumage, except that in actual use for personal adornment, would be contraband in the United States.

6. Members of the industry have approved of the provision in the declaration that on and after the date of signing thereof, February 6, 1941, no additions shall be made to their aggregate current inventory of wild bird plumage. Members of the industry will be permitted to buy and sell among themselves plumage listed in the filed inventories, but no member of the industry will be permitted to add to his stock of wild bird plumage from any other source for any purpose whatever.

7. The Society and the industry will urge that all new protective legislation shall include specific definitions of "wild birds" as including every kind of bird except "domestic fowl"; of "domestic fowl" as including only domestic chickens, domestic turkeys, domestic guinea fowl, domestic geese, domestic ducks, domestic pigeons, domestic ostriches, domestic rheas, domestic English ring-necked pheasants and domestic peafowl.

By reason of the concentration of the millinery industry in New York city, it is apparent that New York is the key state in the effort to end all traffic in wild bird plumage. It is a fortunate circumstance that one of the directors of the National Audubon Society is likewise a member of the state senate: Senator Thomas C. Desmond, of Newburgh. Senator Desmond, a member of the executive committee of the board of directors, which signed the declaration of policy on behalf of the Society, has agreed to sponsor the new protective legislation to be sought from the New York state legislature. Assemblyman Charles N. Hammond will introduce the bill in the Assembly.

Although a considerable advance will have been made when a new state law has been passed in New York, the feather industry and the Society are committed to a joint program which will seek identical comprehensive legislation in the other forty-seven states, as well as whatever federal legislation may be necessary.

Members of the National Audubon Society and friends of wildlife conservation everywhere, without whose staunch support this victory for wild birds could not have been won, will be kept fully informed as the joint program of the Society and the feather industry proceeds. Copies of the declaration of policy and program are being sent to all agencies dealing with the enforcement of plumage laws, and to members of the feather industry signing the declaration; copies will be made available to any member of the Society so requesting. If help is needed to obtain desired legislation in any state, all members in that state will be advised. In the meantime, the National Audubon Society expresses its thanks and appreciation to the thousands of men and women who, by their united voices, have so vigorously supported the campaign of the Society to gain permanent and complete cessation of United States traffic in wild bird plumage.

JOHN H. BAKER, *Executive Director.*

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
1006 Fifth Avenue

