

# KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. III

JULY, 1941

No. VII



*"IF A BIRD'S NEST CHANCE BEFORE THEE . . ."*

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CHARLES TROXEL, <i>Superintendent</i> .....	Quail Farm, Pittsburg
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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*

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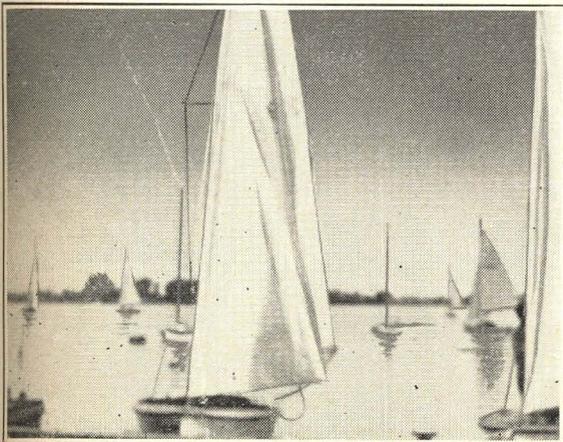
## One-half Million Visitors to State Parks

Why not plan to spend your week-ends at a state park? Many others are taking advantage of these near-to-home vacation spots. Last year nearly 400,000 visitors spent a day or more at the state parks. Arrangements have been made to entertain many more visitors this season. Most of the state parks have facilities designed especially to provide you with the relaxation you need. More camping areas have been built, more shelter houses have been erected, swimming beaches have been improved generally, and the open lakes heavily stocked with fish.

We're not having enough fun. We're wearing faces these days long enough to eat oats from the bottom of a churn just because we spend our idle moments worrying about the war, potential taxes and tomorrow. The old neighborhood itself, ordinarily a very happy part of our lives, is covered with a mantle of gloom, now that the wise-cracking lads are away at camp. Mary and Joe, a fine couple up at the other end of the block, have at last heard from their Tommy down at Camp Robinson. Joe was over visiting me the other night telling of Tommy's enthusiasm about the wonders of camp life and how fine this young army of America is being treated. I learned from Tommy's letter that the private of this new army has more to do than compare the size of cigarettes with "the old man." Joe and I, with refreshments proper and befitting two old soldiers, sat down to figure this thing out. Naturally, the conversation swung around to one of our occasional fish-

ing and camping trips, and the fun we had on them. Joe, while I was at the door arguing with Tony's shiftyeyed delivery boy, was struck with one of his occasional inspirations. Joe is of the opinion that the entire neighborhood, for its own good, should get out of doors on a camping trip that Tommy says is so much fun. That was indeed an inspired thought. Such trips could be taken very economically. Tents of varied sizes are procurable in most cities at a reasonable rental charge. The state parks have fine camping grounds and especially encourage tent camping. Another advantage is using state parks lies in the fact that they are near home and close to whatever camp supplies are immediately needed. We would especially recommend the Butler, Meade, Scott, Neosho, Decatur, Leavenworth, Woodson and Ottawa County state parks for group camping, as they are in charge of resident superintendents. These men will be glad to arrange your fishing trips in the nearby state lakes, procure boats for you at a nominal charge, or help you plan your hiking trips. The lakes at the above-mentioned parks have fine sanded swimming beaches for the benefit of the swimmers. KANSAS FISH AND GAME also is at your service and will give you whatever assistance is required in arranging your trip to a state park.

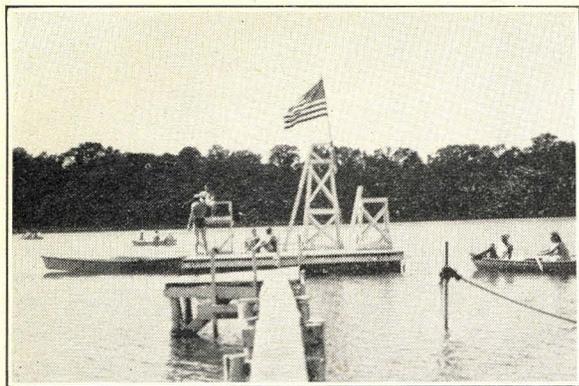
America's harvest of seafood varies from the jumbo halibut, taken by hook in the Northern Pacific, to the periwinkle, a little shellfish picked by hand off the rocks of the New England coast.



Sailboats on Butler County State Lake



Lester Smith, Meade, as His Catch Indicates, Enjoys Fishing at State Lakes



Fine Boatdocks and Diving Boards at Many of the State Parks

## Several Thousand Game Birds Soon to Be Released

The urge to produce things in huge quantities is by no means confined entirely to the OPM or other national defense organizations. The same spirit prevails at the state game farms. Superintendents Ramey, Sutherland and Troxel, capably assisted by their experienced helpers, have done a bang-up job in efficiently operating their respective game farms this year. It has been said that nearly 50,000 birds will be shipped from Calista, Meade and Pittsburg game farms this summer. That is an all-time record. We are very proud of the boys, and give credit where credit is due. They are entitled to our heartiest congratulations. The raising of game birds is a difficult task. Game birds are susceptible not only to most of the diseases common to poultry, but a few strange diseases peculiarly their own. The Kansas game farms are devoted primarily to the production of bobwhite quail, chukar partridges and pheasants. Two of these birds, the pheasant and chukar partridge, are birds from another land. These we discuss briefly.

**Pheasant.** The pheasant is something more than a glorified chicken. For twenty-five centuries it has been the favorite game bird with the Asiatics. The pheasant was first introduced into the United States by the son-in-law of Benjamin Franklin more than 125 years ago. Efforts to acclimatize the pheasants to Kansas was begun much earlier than is popularly supposed. J. B. "Bert" Doze, who formerly served the state as state fish and game warden, is of the opinion that the pheasant was brought into Kansas first about 1904. Del Travis, who was state game warden at that time, imported from England 2,102 English pheasants, and procured from unknown sources 1,303 Chinese pheasants. These birds were planted in 84 of the 105 Kansas counties. Again in 1907 or 1908, Mr. Travis liberated 2,366 pheasants and 2,200 Hungarian partridges, which were allotted equally to the 105 county clerks for further distribution. Such a method of planting

game birds would not be sanctioned by present day game bird managers.

We reprint a few of the many letters received by Mr. Travis in regard to this early pheasant effort. The letters indicate that the method used in distributing these birds was not entirely unsatisfactory:

STERLING, KAN., December 18, 1908.

Hon. D. W. Travis, Pratt, Kan.:

MY DEAR SIR: As per your request, I have made diligent inquiry in regard to the birds turned loose here. I find that in some localities, where they were taken care of, the increase has been satisfactory, while at other places I do not find any increase. It is my opinion that if proper care is taken at the start they would multiply rapidly, and would be a great benefit to the country. They would be of equal benefit to the country as quail or better for the orchards and farming interests in general. They are very industrious birds—constantly on the move—and are great insect destroyers.

Respectfully, SOLON GRAY.

EMPORIA, KAN., December 15, 1908.

Mr. D. W. Travis, Pratt, Kan.:

DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter of the 14th in regard to the results obtained from the pheasants that have been liberated in this county, will say that I know of one covey of young birds. They were seen about ninety days ago, east of town five miles, in the road. They were quite young at the time, and unable to fly. There are no doubt other birds in the county, although cover is quite heavy here, and these are the only ones that I know of having been seen so far.

Yours truly, MARSHALL WARREN.

LARNED, KAN., December 24, 1908.

Mr. D. W. Travis, Pratt, Kan.:

DAR SIR: Replying to your favor of the 14th, which was received while I was down in Old Mexico, will say we have been quite successful with the pheasants you shipped us and which we liberated in this county.

There was a number of nice flocks of these birds seen in the county this season, and they have been carefully protected by our farmers. We have good shelter and protection for them along our hedges, creeks and river, and we are quite sure they will multiply very rapidly. The Hungarian partridges have not done so well, but believe we will have better success with the second shipment, as we will not liberate them until in the spring.

Yours respectfully, E. E. FRIZZELL.

The immediate successors to Mr. Travis were not, to use a present day expression, "game bird conscious." Their official reports contain no reference to the progress of the pheasant, or to any further plantings.

J. B. Doze, while he was state fish and game warden of Kansas, in what we suspect was an effort to win the farmers' approval of pheasants, conceived the idea of distributing pheasant eggs to the ones interested in having their land stocked with this strange bird. Mr. Doze also advocated the establishing of two game farms for the sole purpose of producing pheasants.

Mr. Alva Clapp, state fish and game warden in 1929-'30, not only continued the plan of distributing pheasant eggs, but made another attempt to plant the

live birds. During the years 1929-'30 he distributed 8,000 live birds to Kansas sportsmen and farmers.

The practice of distributing pheasant eggs was discontinued with the building of the Meade County Pheasant Farm in 1940. This long-time effort to establish the pheasant as a Kansas game bird has been successful. We have had three successive open seasons in twenty-one Northwest Kansas counties. A personal survey of the area declared open, and the reports of farmers and sportsmen indicate that the birds have increased in that very area. In our opinion the ring-necked pheasant has been successfully introduced into Kansas and is now a permanent part of our game bird population.

**Chukar partridge.** According to immediate estimates, approximately 4,000 chukar partridges will be produced at the Meade County Pheasant Farm this year. This bird of Asiatic origin was first introduced in the United States by an Illinois sportsman in 1893, and more recently into California in 1929. Our foundation stock comes from the latter importation. Within the past twelve years many states have attempted to establish this bird in their game fields. It appears that the states west of the Mississippi river have been more successful than the states east of that river in attempts to plant this bird.

Some opposition to the planting of this game bird in Kansas has developed among the sportsmen. They are opposed to the bird because it has been said that the bird is tame and does not display the characteristics of a wild game bird. In our opinion several years will be required before we can accurately gauge the worth of this bird. A great deal is yet to be learned of the field requirements of the chukar partridge. When these requirements are known definitely there will be no trouble in establishing this bird in Kansas.

## Quail Distribution

We have begun the distribution of the bumper 1941 quail crop. It was necessary to begin these deliveries much earlier this year because of the quantity of birds raised at the Pittsburg and Calista quail hatcheries. We simply did not have room or facilities for holding these birds until the usual liberation date.

We intend following the same method as was employed in previous years. The game protector will accept applications for these birds and allot them to the applicant if, in the game protector's judgment, the land proposed as the release area is capable of sustaining bird life. This, of course, means that there must be available at all times, water, feed and cover free of vermin and other predatory factors.



Texans, Annual Visitors to the Kansas State Parks

## Notes from the Field

The Commission's action in setting an earlier pheasant season this year has received the spontaneous approval of the sportsmen and farmers in this section of the state. It is gratifying to report that the pheasants came through the winter in fine shape and that the current laying season seems to have been satisfactory.

The sportsmen who are contemplating a trip to the St. Francis or Goodland areas will find the farmers and ranchers extending them a genuine and cordial welcome. They look forward to their annual contact with the sportsmen.—L. DICK GOLDEN.

You can safely recommend the Meade County State Lake as being "tops" in fishing. The channel cats are showing a strong inclination to be transferred from the lake into the skillet. Anglers are well pleased with their catches.

Lester Smith, of Meade, says if he knew where he could spend another dollar and get so much value for it, spend it he would. Charles Brown, street and alley commissioner of Liberal, caught 10 channels a few days ago—the legal limit. These fish averaged 18 inches each and weighed from 1 to 1½ pounds. Tell them to come to Meade, Dave.—JOHN CARLTON.

A. R. Koch, Emporia business man, fishing near Sodden's mill recently landed a 26-pound yellow cat. Mr. Koch for the moment thought he was dragging the dam from its anchorage. The fish was caught on an 18-pound test line and required a 30-minute struggle to land. Worms were used as bait. Nice catches of channels and bass are being reported from the state lake near Reading.—HEPPERLY.

County Clerk Card, of Cherokee county, informs me that fishing license sales in that county alone have almost doubled. As a matter of fact, fishing conditions

have improved generally throughout my district. Bass fishing at the Neosho County State Lake has been especially good.—KYSER.

Fishing in the north central part of the state has been fair for the past six weeks, despite the flood waters. Fishing should be very good as soon as these streams settle. This is especially true of the Little Blue from Hanover to Barnes, and the Republican from Concordia to Clay Center, because the floods have washed deep holes in these two streams between these points.

D. M. Vincent, of Clay Center, reports some nice yellow cats taken near Clay Center. Frank Davidson and Jimmie Bowman report taking 27 channels in four days from the Republican near Concordia.

The Solomon has been up and muddy, but should be good as soon as it goes down. This river has been high enough that the dams would not obstruct the free passage of the fish upstream.

Buffalo creek in Cloud county has cleared up and several nice catches, both bullheads and channels, have been reported. This is also true of Mill creek in Washington county.—HANK BYRNE.

This lake is the favored fishing hole of the Pittsburg, Parsons and Chanute fishermen. Jack Dean of Parsons has been catching black bass from this lake ranging from 4½ to 5½ pounds. Wayne Willis, fly rod angler, has been taking 1½ to 3½ pounders consistently. Otis Allen and H. R. Boring, of Parsons, plug users, have taken home many 3¼ and 4 pound bass from this lake.—WAYNE PIGGOTT, Neosho County Lake.

Austin Logan, city of Topeka auditor, advances the claim that Lake Wabaunsee, near the city of Eskridge, is the A-1, double O. K., special extra bass lake of Kansas. He informs us that a string of 3½ pounders is not an uncommon catch of bass in that lake. Big black beetles are his idea of a more than satisfactory bass lure.

## Seining Expensive

Walter Rickel, state game protector in southeastern Kansas, has been very active in that section of the state "rounding up" the boys that won't play the game according to Hoyle. Recently he apprehended three men who have the reputation of being persistent seiners. One of these men drew a \$100 fine, another 60 days in jail and still another 30 days in jail.

It takes about 1,800 Olympia oysters—the native oyster of the Pacific Coast—to make a gallon.

## Noodlers Caught

Down in south central Kansas, two men have been persistently taking fish with their hands for many years, and bragging that they would "out smart" the game protectors. They are now very humble, contrite, and have a greater respect for the ability of the game protectors. Jim Andrew and Joe Concannon, working that territory, heard the complaints of the sportsmen of south central Kansas and decided to bring these noodlers before the court. This they did. The judge assessed heavy fines and costs against the defendants, who are not likely to ply their illegal trade for many days.

## The Pheasant in Nebraska

We are indebted to Dale Halbert, superintendent of the Nebraska Game Farm, for an informative letter regarding Nebraska's early efforts in restocking that state with pheasants. He writes as follows:

"As near as we can find out, the first pheasants were brought into the state in 1901 by private parties, and a few years later the state bought some, not over 500 pairs altogether.

"The first counties where the pheasant became numerous were: Sherman, Howard, Valley and Wheeler. When O'Connell was appointed chief warden in 1925 there was great bitterness toward the department in Sherman and Howard counties. There were mass meetings of farmers demanding that the pheasants be destroyed. O'Connell was instrumental in trapping over 30,000 birds which were put in over 50 other counties. That was the beginning of our extensive pheasant population. In 1934 nearly 14,000 more were taken from the same counties and put in our southeastern counties, but the population never has built up there comparable to our north central counties.

"The first open season was in 1927, in Sherman and Wheeler counties, for three days. Each year thereafter longer seasons and more area has been opened to hunting, and I think we can safely say no state in the union, excepting possibly South Dakota, has more pheasants at this time.

"In 1937 the state started a game farm, and last year (1940) about 30,000 pheasants were liberated over the state from the farm and the coöperative brooders.

"Personally, I think you are wise in stocking western Kansas first. We have about come to the conclusion that it does not pay to put them in our southeast area, as we have never had satisfactory results there. From about Superior west on our south border they seem to do pretty well. It seems as though altitude has something to do with it, and from about 1,600 feet they do better."

## From North Dakota

According to the State Game Commission of North Dakota, the 39,500 licensed hunters of that state bagged an average of 30 game birds each.

On the basis of hunters' reports it has been estimated that the average North Dakota hunter took 4.58 migratory water fowl; 13.14 pheasants, 7.10 Hungarian partridge, and 4.62 grouse.

### State's Fur Income Higher

A summary of the annual reports filed by trappers and fur buyers reveals that the state's 1941 income from fur resources was higher than that of the previous year. There follows a comparative tabulation for the two year period:

	1939-'40	1940-'41
Opossum .....	155,945	164,621
Badger .....	2,911	742
Wildcat .....	150	266
Fox .....	1,965	1,870
Civet Cat .....	47,219	41,752
Coyote .....	14,022	14,295
Wolf .....	1,047	1,748
Weasel .....	170	180
Mink .....	2,271	892
Muskrat .....	119,918	94,886
Raccoon .....	8,374	13,932
Skunk .....	151,800	149,264
House Cat .....	215	1,373
Value .....	\$378,873.97	\$451,683.27

### Nemaha Sportsmen Eat Fish and Want Pheasants

The Nemaha Fish and Game Development Association is in favor of getting the north half of Nemaha county stocked with pheasants.

Elmer Snyder, secretary of the Sabetha association, brought the matter before the house. He stated the national government is charging 10 percent excise tax on arms and ammunition and using this to match state funds for federally-approved game projects. Right now, pheasant stocking is federally-approved for Kansas and the western 70 counties are being stocked, with Marshall county on the east line. Snyder said he thought the north half of Nemaha county is more suited to pheasants than it is to quail and that the state would stock north Nemaha if asked.

Another request which the Nemaha association will sponsor concerns a "south half" instead of a "north half." Association members want the south half of Lake Nemaha opened to duck shooting next fall.

The business meeting followed a bang-up fish fry at the Legion cabin. Two hundred pounds of carp were fried and the 100 or more in attendance made huge holes in the stacks of good fish, served with potato salad, rolls and coffee. The feed was sponsored by Sheriff Pete Bieri and County Treasurer Gene Hart, with help of other courthouse officials and passing of the hat. Mrs. Pete Bieri, Mrs. Ella Schmedeler, Mrs. Herman Mohringer and other ladies of the courthouse connection, were cooks.

The critical moment came earlier in the day when the last train before the fry arrived. The fish were on

it. Bieri and Hart admitted their situation would have been precarious had the fish failed to get here.

Earl Wilson operated the county movie outfit to show fish reels and sound reels, on Uncle Sam's navy. The audience asked for more pictures until all available were shown.—*Sabetha Herald*.

### Garden City Association Elects Officers

There will be no change in the official personnel of the Finney County Park Fish and Game Association for the ensuing year; all officials were reelected:

Frank Shuman, president; Dr. F. S. Williams, vice-president; Ben Grimsley, secretary; E. W. Ross, treasurer.

This association plans to release about 2,500 quail in Finney county this fall.

The Garden City sportsmen have, at their own expense, erected suitable highway signs in and around Garden City, directing interested visitors to the Garden City Game and Buffalo Preserve.

### We Close the Books

The fiscal year 1941 is a matter of history. We closed the books on that year June 30. A preliminary check of the records shows that the year was a successful one from every viewpoint. The sportsmen cooperated with the Fish and Game Commission in a most gratifying manner. The county sportsmen's organizations worked effectively improving fish and game conditions in their respective communities. The state game farms operated efficiently, producing birds in record-breaking numbers. The state game protectors were particularly active in apprehending fish and game law violators. During the year 418 were charged with violating the fish and game laws, and of that number, 412 were convicted.

The sale of licenses for the fiscal year 1941 exceeded our expectations. Fishing license sales increased about twenty percent; hunting license sales also showed a slight increase over the previous year. The game seasons of the past year were for the most part satisfactory to the sportsmen.

During the year we completed the construction of Clark County State Lake and made many other improvements at the state parks.

The Fish and Game Department operated economically and well within the budget prepared by the Commission at the beginning of the year.

New England's early prosperity, the origin of the capital invested in her factories and industries today, is based on the cod fishery.

## OUR FISHES

This month we present the carp, another popular Kansas fish. Some sportsmen I know will not agree to that statement, but if they had the opportunity of reviewing the correspondence in this office they would agree with me.

The date that the carp was first introduced into Kansas is not accurately revealed in any of the Commission's records. We have been told by old-timers that 1885 was the probable year of its introduction.

The fish is to be found in nearly every Kansas stream and pond. It is a very prolific fish, a good sized specimen spawning from one to three and one-half million eggs each season. In healthiness and cleanliness it ranks first among the Kansas fish. It is essentially a vegetarian, foraging on the plants and other vegetable matter found growing in the ponds and sluggish streams.

The carp is a fine food fish, according to fish connoisseurs. For table use the fish should not be taken from polluted or stagnant water, but from clean, not necessarily clear, water. The fish should not be allowed to die either in or out of water. They should be killed and thoroughly dressed. The skin, at least that outside skin holding the scales, should be removed and the bones scored before cooking.

It is almost impossible to rid our streams and lakes of this fish because of their number. For that reason we would suggest that the anglers honestly consider the virtues of the carp as a food fish and take them for use as an item of food. State Fish Culturist Seth Way is one of the many fish authorities who sings the praises of the carp. Mr. Way was not always a carp enthusiast. He has recently discovered a way of preparing these fish that makes them a choice morsel of food.

### "THEY MADE A FIGHT FOR IT"

(A Story with Moral in Tale of the Persistence of Beavers.)

This is the story of the struggle between the mind of man and the minds of beavers which went on near Farmington, Maine, in 1940:

The beavers' dam was dynamited.  
 It was repaired overnight.  
 A 6-inch pipe was concealed in the dam to drain it.  
 Both ends of the pipe were plugged with mud.  
 A hose was rigged to drain the dam.  
 It was gnawed through three times.  
 The entire dam was removed. A complete new dam was built.  
 A scarecrow was rigged up.  
 It was torn down, divided into pieces, and incorporated into the dam.  
 The beavers were trapped and their skins nailed to the wall.  
 But at least they made a fight for it.

—From *Coronet*.

## Caught Three and One-half Pound Bass in Strawstack

There are many ways to catch fish, but Arnold Lietz, who lives in the Lyons Creek Valley, about three miles west of Herington, pulled a new one a week ago Monday, when he snagged a 3½ pound bass from a hole in his strawstack.

Part of the land on which there was an old strawstack was inundated by the flood waters from Lyons creek and the fish was imprisoned in a depression in the straw when the water receded. Hundreds of crappie and small fish were caught in fields when the water went back.

We have heard many farmers complain that wild ducks and geese were eating their wheat. Arnold can justify his catch by claiming this fish was eating his straw.—*Herington Advertiser*.

## Bass Are Hitting

The reports reaching the desk of KANSAS FISH AND GAME indicate that the bass are through spawning, and are hitting again. Harry Gregg, caretaker of the Lone Star lake near Lawrence, reports that several strings of nice bass have been taken recently from his lake. He writes:

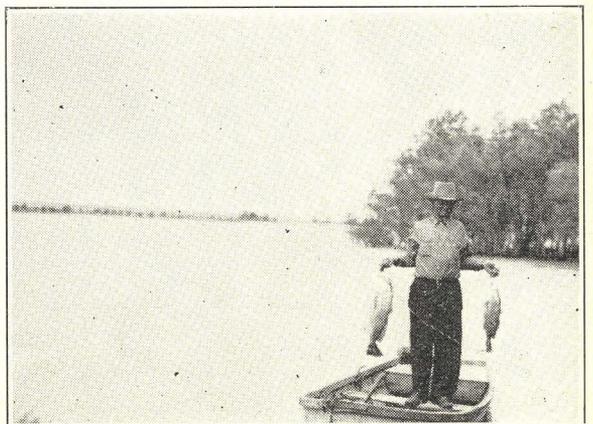
"Oscar Baker caught five bass this morning, hanging in weight from a pound and a half to three pounds. Bus Johnson caught four averaging similar in weight.

"Baker's best catch of the morning was a 17½-inch bass, 11-inch girth, which weighed two pounds and eight ounces. The bass took a flat fish plug.

"Baker entered the fish in the *Journal-World* contest and it is the second largest to date. The biggest bass was one weighing four pounds and six ounces, and 20 inches long, caught by George E. Lang, of Topeka.

"Bus Johnson had to go swimming before he caught his fish today. He lost his new rod and reel while casting, finally recovered the equipment and fished successfully."

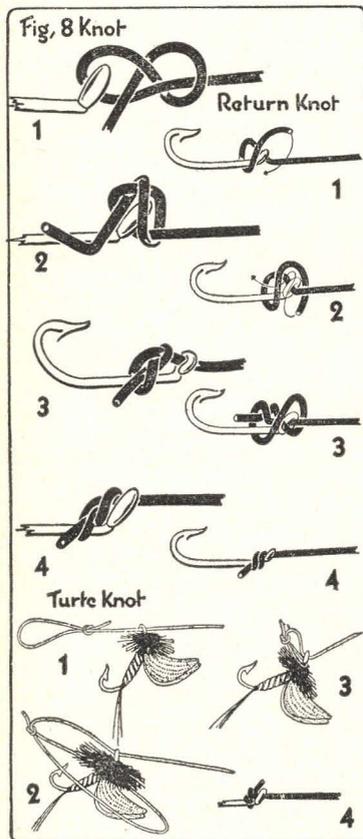
A halibut matures at the age of about eleven years; forty years is a ripe old age.



These Bandy Fish From a State Lake

## How to Tie Knots in Leaders Explained

Nylon fishing leaders, with strengths ranging from six-pound test to twenty-pound test, are now available in continuous lengths, the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company has announced. This new favorite of fishermen may be tied dry, cast dry, and straightens while still dry, the manufacturers point out. It is practically invisible in water, and does not fray or split.



A free thirty-two-page booklet, "What You Ought to Know About Nylon Leader Material," has been issued and may be obtained upon request to the du Pont Plastics Department at Arlington, N. J. This booklet gives valuable information on nylon leader material in general, and shows recommended knots for tying leader material.

The Ellsworth Game Protective Association purchased 450 pheasant eggs at Garden City as a further step in the movement to rebuild the population of this natural game bird. Settings of the eggs were taken by members of the association and several 4-H Club members, but all the eggs have not been taken as yet.—*Salina Journal*.

The young eel is ribbonlike and so transparent that print may be read through its body.

## Night Fishing

There is an indescribable charm about fishing at night, especially on some wilderness lake where the silence is broken by the hooting of some big horned owl asking "Whoo! Whoo! Who cooks for you?" Night fishing avoids the heat of the day, and other boats, particularly motorboats. The fish are less "scarey" and inhabit waters that are barren during the daytime. Often fish will be found in waters not over a foot deep during the late evening and night.

Night fishing is also productive of real results, as many fine bass, channels and wall-eyed pike have been taken after dark. Whenever possible, it is advisable for the fisherman to survey in daylight the areas he plans to cover, so that at night he will have less trouble in locating places that he wants to fish; to spot bunches of pads, stumps, rocks, etc.—in other words, know his water.

If the angler is after Kansas' famed "barbed trout" it is recommended that the fishing be done with a tight line. It is well to know that often a spotted channel will strike a bait viciously, spit it out and then grab it for swallowing on the second try. Lots of channel are missed by trying to sink the hook on the first tug.

Night fishing for channels also should be in relatively shallow but running water, as the channels get in such places to feed. They lie in wait for a minnow, crayfish or some smaller fish, and when a spotted channel moves it moves with a smuch speed for a short distance as a trout.

Most fishermen prefer luminous baits or "night-glowing" types which are covered with luminious paint. These can be started glowing by turning a flashlight on them every 15 or 20 minutes for a minute or two. There are a number of anglers, however, who maintain that commotion on the surface is the main thing, and that all the fish sees is something black against the skyline. In many states a large number of black baits are used for night fishing, or a black lure with white head or ribs.

A great deal of the casting will be done at random, and a semiweedless bait is preferable, particularly a surface type, and one that will crawl over lily pads, rushes, etc., with the least hookups. Many anglers take off treble hooks and put on doubles, or cut off the front prong of the treble hook. This makes the bait much more weedless, yet loses but little of its hooking qualities.

The new "no-snag" model of the river-runt out this year is ideal. It comes through the toughest places, and yet is a deadly "hooker-and-holder." It is the answer to fishermen's prayers for a truly snagless lure.—J. B. DOZE, *Burt's Outing Tales*.

The halibut is the largest of the flat fish.

## Wildlife and National Defense

Plans for future wildlife restoration were outlined before the Sixth Annual North American Wildlife Conference meeting at Memphis, Tenn., by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the United State Fish and Wildlife Service.

Gabrielson told the assembled conservationists that more stress should be laid on the restoration of fur animals and fish resources. He also sounded a warning against unwise use of natural resources in the name of national defense.

"One phase of the wildlife program on which we have made too little progress has been the restoration of fur animals," Gabrielson said. "At the present time, these fur resources offer the greatest possibilities for productive return to the American public."

Restoration of fur animals to suitable lands, more research into the basic biology of fur animals and a complete revision of the laws and policies governing the taking of fur animals were suggested.

"The fur laws of many states are antiquated and of very little use in protecting the resource," Gabrielson pointed out. "The pressure of open competition encourages individual trappers to get all the animals they can as early in the season as they can and this results in undue depletion of the fur animal breeding stock and in harvesting too large a percentage of the crop before the pelts are prime."

Gabrielson pointed out what he considered several defects in the fishery program.

"The most serious concerns the loss of productive waters," he said. "The area of inland waters in this country available for the production of fish life has been constantly shrinking over a great many years."

Gabrielson attributed the loss of productive waters to drainage of lakes for other purposes; stream straightening operations which have destroyed much productive water and spawning beds; pollution of waters by municipalities, public agencies and private industry; and soil erosion.

Gabrielson also said that numbers of fish are still being planted in waters which may not be able to support them and that, from the federal standpoint, there were too many hatcheries inadequately staffed and operated.

"National defense is now prominently before the public," Gabrielson concluded. "We have every reason to support any program which will carry it to success. However there are forces and interests always ready to take advantage of any program which promises to divert attention from their own selfish activities. There has been evidence of a tendency to push, as additions to the national defense program, drainage and dam construction projects, which in themselves have never had intrinsic merit enough to receive public support. Unless conservationists are alert to these things

and expose them we can expect further damage to the wildlife resources of this country with no adequate compensation to the public in return."

## Gar Control as Revealed by Angler

On May 18, J. W. Tucker, one of Mississippi's most ardent anglers, discovered a large deposit of material resembling fish eggs on a floating raft which he keeps in Eagle Lake in front of his clubhouse. The raft serves as a boat landing and a swimming pier. Mr. Tucker also noticed that gar were very active about the raft and thought perhaps their presence there at that time might have some significance. He proceeded to gather some of the material clinging to the raft and turned it in, with a report, to the director of conservation.

An investigation was made by the commission's research assistant, and a mass of material sticking and clinging to the raft was found to be gar eggs. The water was very warm and many of the eggs had already hatched. Thousands of very young gar, most of them with egg sacs still in process of being absorbed, were hanging on to the floats by a disc-like mouth structure. Others were floating at the surface of the water. These were dislodged and picked up in cheesecloth nets. The rafts, with myriads of eggs attached, were towed to the bank, lifted from the water by means of a pulley, and left where the strong rays of summer heat could penetrate the eggs.

The rafts will be replaced in the hope that other gar will deposit eggs on them. A close check will be kept on these and other floating material in the lake and at the water's edge; and any eggs or young gar found will be destroyed.

Gar eggs will hatch in about eight days after being deposited, and the young gars when only 1½ to 2 inches long, begin eating other fish. A young long-nosed gar, 2 inches in length, is reported to have gorged itself with 16 very young minnows.—*Mississippi Game and Fish.*

## Underwater Gangster

It is an established fact that snapping turtles are killers of waterfowl. When one of these reptiles detects a duck, it cunningly makes its way toward the creature, seizes it by its legs, pulls it down under water, and drags it to the bottom of the pond . . . There it tears the duck to pieces with the aid of the long claws on its forefeet . . . Snapping turtles have been known to bite completely through the blade of an oar.

The lake trout is the largest of all the trouts.

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## BULLHEADS

Hark back to the days of the barefoot boy  
In those horse and buggy days,  
When roads were roads and lanes were lanes  
Instead of broad highways.  
When you'd take a pole and a piece of line,  
And down to the creek you'd stroll,  
And you'd drop your hook in the shady nook  
Of your fav'rite fishin' hole.

Where the bullheads play either night or day  
And ready to take that worm,  
And home you'd bring a well-filled string  
From any nook or turn.

With worms for bait, either early or late,  
You never fished by the moon,  
It was always right, whether dark or light,  
In the morning, night, or noon.

But we heave a sigh, for the creek is dry  
And there is no fishin' there,  
To take its place we have well-stocked lakes  
For everyone to share.

I've tried them all, some large, some small,  
With tackle and lures galore,  
But somehow I miss, when I reminisce,  
The bullheads of days of yore.

—*W. B. Skibbe.*

