

KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. III

AUGUST, 1941

No. VIII



COMMISSIONERS

LEE LARRABEE, <i>Chairman</i>	Liberal
GARLAND ATKINS, <i>Secretary</i>	Fort Scott
JAY J. OWENS	Salina
H. M. GILLESPIE.....	Wichita
CHAS. HASSIG	Kansas City
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
CHARLEY TOLAND	Wichita

LEGAL

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

PUBLICITY

HELEN DeVVAULT	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
THOMAS GRADY, 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*

GARLAND ATKINS, *Secretary*

LEE LARRABEE, *Chairman*

VOL. III

AUGUST, 1941

No. VIII

Governor Ratner Catches the "Granddaddy of Them All"

Local fishermen have been dangling their lures in front of the "granddaddy" yellow cat in the Neosho river for the past week, but it remained for Gov. Payne Ratner to win the honor of snagging the big fellow. Last night the ruler of the fish kingdom of the Neosho river fell for the governor's tempting bait and the waters of the Neosho were churned aplenty as the huge fish was successfully landed. The fish was caught on the Geo. Robe farm.

The fish weighed seventy-five and one-half pounds, but the fishermen were quick to remind that "his tail dragged on the floor" during the weighing operations to allow for at least another half pound, so in the record books, in Governor Ratner's memoirs and in the claims of everyone "Grandpa" really weighed exactly seventy-six pounds. He was fifty-four inches long.

As an anti-climax to the thrilling fishing expedition the boys caught a twenty-three-pound yellow cat, which isn't to be sneezed at except by comparison.

Governor and Mrs. Ratner and their children, Payne, Jr. (Darb), Cliff (Teno) and Juree, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pierson and family at the Pierson cabin southeast of Burlington. The two boys had a part in the big catch and although they were not as explanatory and boisterous about the feat as were the Governor and Red Pierson, the gleams in their eyes told everyone that they had had the thrill of a lifetime.

This morning R. A. Volk, who helped with the fishing operations last night, took a number of pictures of the big catfish and Governor Ratner. At times during the posing operations the fish nearly received the verdict as the Governor "wrassled" him in front of the camera.

A large crowd of admiring people gazed at the big fish this morning as he was on display down town.

But to make a long story "worse" the fishermen, including the Governor whose veracity has never been questioned heretofore, insists that the big one really got away last night. Just what logic would lead to such a conclusion could not be learned, but that was their story, and they stuck to it.

It must have been Great-Great Grandpa.

—*Burlington Republican.*

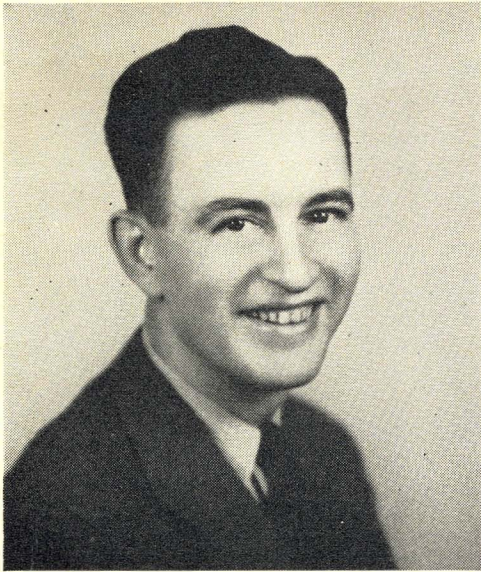


The Governor and His Catch

Commissioner Resigns

E. J. Kelly, Ottawa, democratic member of the Commission for the first commissioner district, has resigned from the Commission because of ill health and business reasons. Kansas sportsmen regret losing Mr. Kelly as he has been a true champion of their cause. KANSAS FISH AND GAME will miss his "feet on the ground" counsel. Commissioner Kelly firmly believed that the Hungarian partridge could be made adaptable to Kansas and successfully negotiated their introduction to many sections of the state. Mr. Kelly's plans for the future are very indefinite, but wherever he goes the cordial good wishes and the genuine good will of Kansas sportsmen will surely follow him.

There are about 1,500 kinds of birds in North America, north of Mexico.



Garland Atkins, Fort Scott, Commissioner-Secretary

New Secretary

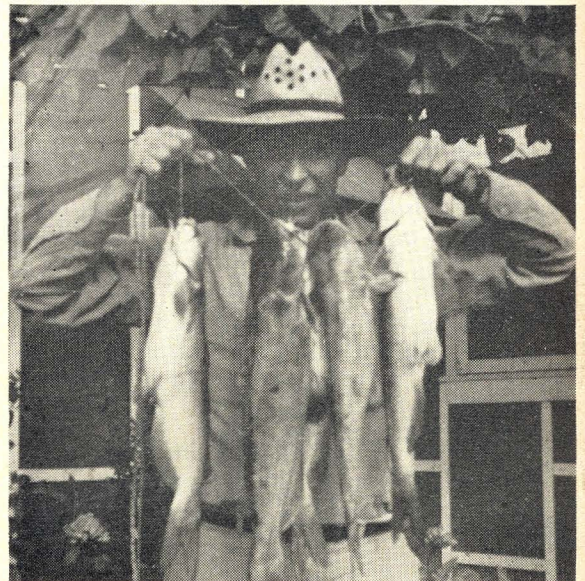
Garland Atkins, member of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission from the fourth commissioner district, was elected by the commission at their meeting July 26 to succeed E. J. Kelly as secretary of the commission. This action was necessary because of the resignation of Mr. Kelly from membership on the commission. Mr. Atkins' term expires December 30, 1942. He has been a member of the commission since its reorganization in 1939.

Be Prepared

How's the old shooting eye these days? Can you put the old blunderbuss on dead center at fifty yards? If not, we recommend a few hours target practice. The hunting seasons, you know, are just around the corner. Why not spend your idle time in ridding the game fields of predators? The game fields are literally alive with predators and potential targets. We suggest to you a one-man predator control campaign. Such a campaign will serve three definite purposes. It will increase the supply of your favorite game bird, it will gain for you the good will of the farmer on whose land you hope to shoot, and it will improve greatly your shooting eye. With vivid memories of another day, very timidly, and with grave misgivings, we recommend to you the prowling cat as your first target. We hasten to remind you, however, that we are not recommending Mrs. Brown's favorite, well-fed tabby to you, but only the cat Mrs. Brown does not want and has turned loose to go wild. But for a real eye-opener we especially recommend the old crow. It takes a very clear eye and a very steady trigger finger to bring down this wary bird. It's a real sport. Here's the way it is done,

The crow has one enemy that can be made an effective ally in the war you are to declare against him, and that's the owl. The sight of an owl alive or stuffed causes Mr. Crow to lose all sense of fear or natural caution. That's a big break for you. If you can obtain such a decoy, place it near a blind previously erected, conceal yourself as you would in duck hunting, and wait for the birds to come in. A crow call, procurable from most of the sporting goods dealers, will be of tremendous help in calling the crow's attention to your decoy. The first crow to sight the owl will immediately begin calling for his brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins to the fifth degree of kindred, to witness the destruction of the common hereditary enemy. The birds will come from every direction to take part in the impending battle. When they get within shooting range, blaze away. You will find that the crows are so intent on the business at hand that you will have a chance for the second and possibly the third shot before they have regained their wits and higher altitudes. Remain concealed, as these birds or others will return. The important thing to remember is to see that you have yourself and guns well concealed. Crow hunting addicts have told me that in their opinion the crow is possessed of a sixth sense that enables it to spot a gun in the rumble seat of an automobile. Crows are always on the alert for potential dangers except when an owl or cat has been sighted. Some hunters make use of the cat for a decoy, but the owl is universally preferred.

Hawks, too, are predators, destroying much of our game bird population, but hunters are urged not to kill hawks promiscuously, as many of the species are beneficial to our wildlife. It is best to pass up the hawk unless you are sure that your target is either a Cooper's, Sharp-shinned or Goshawk.



B. W. Mitchell, Wichita, proud of his catch—and who wouldn't be—from Woodson County State Lake.

The Seasons Open

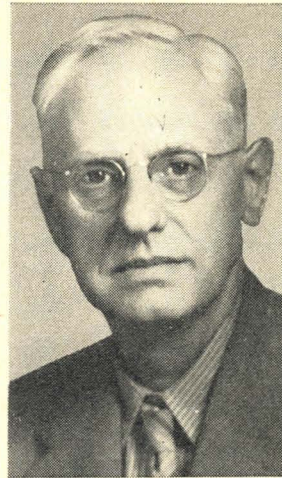
Now that the season on doves, rails and gallinules is about to open in Kansas, we feel that this is the appropriate time to discuss briefly one of these birds.

The Dove. In Kansas this bird is known as the mourning dove, the turtle dove, the wild dove or the dove. The name generally accepted by ornithologists and game men is, the mourning dove. Its call, which can hardly be considered a song, may strike the listener as a note of deepest mourning or a note of tenderest love and devotion, depending entirely on the mood of the listener. The nest of this bird, which is a makeshift of loosely assembled twigs, is to be found in the branches of low trees, bushes, briar patches, on the ground and even on window sills of occupied homes and offices. The nest will usually contain two white eggs. The incubation period is thirteen days. During the nesting season the doves have an inspiring fidelity to each other and a strong sense of responsibility to their nests and young. Both male and female take turns in sitting on that nest, the male assuming this responsibility during the day and the female during the night. 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 commonly referred to as pigeon milk. The number of broods ordinarily raised by these birds during the season is from one to three. It is distributed over practically all of North America. It breeds from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, south into Mexico, locally in California and in some sections of Latin America.

The mourning dove prefers a vegetable diet, but frequently eats insects, particularly grasshoppers. It has been classed as a migratory bird, and in that character protected by the federal migratory bird treaty act of the United States, Dominion of Canada and Mexico.



W. G. Whitaker poses with a 12-pound channel cat taken from Leavenworth County State Lake at Tonganoxie.



Charles Hassig, Commissioner First District, Kansas City, Kansas

New Commissioner

Gov. Payne H. Ratner has appointed Charles H. Hassig, 57, Kansas City, Kan., as a member of the commission to succeed E. J. Kelly, Ottawa, resigned. Hassig, a democrat and sportsman, will be commissioner for the first commissioner district. His term will expire December 30, 1941. The new commissioner is a Kansas City, Kan., druggist, and comes to the commission wholeheartedly supported by the sportsmen of Northeast Kansas.

To Improve Lakes

The Commission at the meeting at Pratt, July 26, took action looking forward to the improvement of the Ottawa County State Lake near Bennington, and the Clark County State Lake near Ashland. The Commission proposes to lower these lakes to the necessary level and plant therein productive feed and protective shelters and cover.

State Skeet Shoot

The Arkansas Valley Skeet Club, Wichita, will be host to the large number of skeet shooters expected to attend the state skeet shoot at Wichita, August 30-31. This will be one of the most interesting skeet events ever held in the midwest. Skeet shooting is an exciting sport. It differs from trap shooting in that shots are fired from different stations and angles, comparable to that kind of shooting the hunter encounters in the actual game fields. The officers of the Wichita organization are: H. C. Cary, president; T. B. Hayes, vice-president; and R. C. Wise, secretary-treasurer.

There are over 2,500 kinds of mammals in North America.



George Hess, Madison, took this string of 4 and 12-pounders from the Woodson County State Lake.

All Hawks, Owls Not Bad

Killing beneficial hawks and owls because they think these much-maligned birds are harmful is a common error made by many individuals, according to May Thacher Cooke, an ornithologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

"Our records show that of 1,250 hawks and owls killed in recent years by citizens who thought they were destroying harmful birds, 1,100 of the feathered creatures were actually helpful to man and only 150 birds were harmful species," the Service bird expert said.

Contrary to popular opinion, many species of hawks and owls do not prey on poultry or destroy farm and garden crops. The beneficial birds eat field mice, rats, ground squirrels, pocket gophers, and other rodents; grasshoppers; insects; and other pests.

Since 1920, when the Service began keeping bird-banding records, about 11,200 hawks and owls have been tagged with light, numbered metal bands. Of these, some 9,900 were beneficial to man's interest and about 1,300 were harmful birds.

Among the victims of the "war on hawks and owls" were the red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, Ferruginous rough-leg, barn owl, barred owl, and screech owl. These are all beneficial species.

"You can't trust your eyes," Miss Cooke warns. "Recently a farmer shot a hawk he 'saw' killing a chicken. When he picked up the hawk, he found a barn rat in the bird's claws."

Many hawks are fast-flying birds, often called "darters." The harmful species include the sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, and the great horned owl.

Nice Lake—Nice Fish

We have taken our own advice—and found it good. In the July issue of this publication we suggested the greater use of our state lakes as suitable recreational areas for your idle moments. Recently we visited and fished the Finney County State Lake, northwest of Kalvesta. Here is a fine lake of 324 acres, well stocked with channel cats, bullheads, drum and crappie. The catching of bullheads there is a simple matter. In no time at all you can boast of having taken the legal number of these fish. One, in our fishing party, fished for channel cats exclusively. In half a day's effort he landed seven fine channel cats averaging about two pounds each, and one that tipped a pair of honest-weight scales at ten pounds. Anglers who visit this lake should take their boats with them as there are none available at the lake site. But you can take our word for it that hip-boot fishing is very good here, and we personally recommend this lake to you.

Pheasant Crop Good

The 1941 hatch of pheasants appears to be exceptionally large, according to the reports reaching KANSAS FISH AND GAME from farmers on whose land breeding stock had been placed. Many young birds are reported in counties where heretofore pheasants had never been seen. One farmer, for instance, reports that he has observed seventy-six pheasant nests on his land. Because we have received so many favorable and similar reports, we are further convinced that our efforts to stock the state with this grand game bird will not be in vain. The old complaint uttered by those who opposed us that this bird would not thrive below the thirty-ninth parallel, and in Kansas particularly, is no longer heard. This happy condition is due in a large measure to the farmer himself, who has taken a renewed interest in our effort to stock his land with these birds.

Help Needed

The time is now at hand when the angler has an opportunity of being of much service to the game department and to his own sport as well. Many ponds, lakes and streams under normal conditions go dry at this time of the year, with the result that many fish are lost. Anglers should report such conditions to the Game Department and the fish will be salvaged by our fish trucks and transported to living waters. Fish rescue work is not only one of the most important conservation measures, but it is one that should be given prompt and immediate attention wherever such activity is necessary.

Dove Hunting

Kansans generally are not enthusiastic dove hunters. We seem to have developed a sentimental aversion to this form of sport. This is not as it should be. The birds nest and rear their young in Kansas and spend their winter in the Southland where dove hunting is enthusiastically pursued as a sport. We should make use of them while they are in the state and during the legal open season. There is little danger of the bird becoming extinct; its very nesting habits preclude such a probability.

Dove hunting differs but little from duck hunting in methods. One method of hunting doves is to walk or flush them from the field. This method requires the fastest shooting, as the birds are rarely seen until they are in flight. The flight is usually in wide circles almost invariably ending near the point from which they were flushed. Because of this habit they can be marked down and again flushed for another shot.

A few hunters prefer waterhole shooting, but this, according to experienced dove hunters, is not a satisfactory method, since the shooting time is limited. The birds, and game protectors, have a discouraging habit of appearing at the waterholes just about sundown.

One other plan, and a good one, is to cruise likely-looking dove territory prior to your hunting trip, to determine the flyway from roosts to feeding areas. After this has been determined, take your stand early in the morning on the shooting day and await the singles, doubles and flocks that are sure to pass your stands. Then the fun begins. The birds come in boldly and fast. They will often drop to within a few feet of you, although swiftly seek higher altitudes just at the moment you think you have a dead bead on them. A peculiarly wavering flight causes the best of marksmen to score many misses.

To the novice dove hunter we give this advice. Use a small sized shot. Keep yourself concealed, as the birds are easily alarmed and always on the alert. As a safety precaution, don't shoot at low-flying birds without a go-ahead signal from your hunting companions.

The most pressing need in the national movement to restore the nation's wildlife resources is an effective means of reaching the owners and users of land to advise them of the relatively simple and inexpensive practices that will restore environment conducive to increase wildlife populations, according to officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

More persons have heard owls than have seen them, because most owls are active at night.



Ross Busenbark with a few of the many pheasants raised by the Riley County Fish and Game Association.

Black Bass Protected By Many States

The sale of black bass, a practice once common and always bitterly opposed by sportsmen, is steadily diminishing. According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, thirty-nine states have banned the sale of this fish at all times regardless of where taken. The remaining nine states prohibit the sale of black bass under certain conditions. Of these Colorado, Missouri, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming prohibit the sale if taken within these states. Tennessee does not permit the sale and shipment if taken from certain waters, while Georgia and Maryland prohibit the sale at certain times regardless of where taken.

Fair Exhibit

The fish and game exhibit displayed at many county fairs last year has been enlarged and expanded for the benefit of this season's fair visitors. Tentative arrangements have been made to have this exhibit at the following fairs.

Coffeyville	August 5-8
Colby	August 12-15
Osage City	August 21-23
Stockton	August 26-29
Parsons	September 1-4
Garnett	September 5-6
Osawatomie	September 11-13
Free Fair, Topeka	September 7-13
State Fair, Hutchinson	September 15-19
Blue Rapids	September 23-26
Sedan	October 1-4
Winfield	October 7-10
Kansas Livestock Show, Wichita..	October 14-19
Hillsboro	October 23-26

This exhibit includes several tanks of fish, a few of the fur-bearing animals native to Kansas, and a variety of birds produced at the three state game farms. Motion pictures are also a part of this exhibit.



Guy Crawford and C. Owenson took these ten fish totaling 47 pounds from the Leavenworth County State Lake.

1941 Inventory Shows Waterfowl's Status "Generally Satisfactory"

The status of North American waterfowl is generally satisfactory.

That is the substance of a report made recently to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The report is based chiefly on data obtained from a nationwide inventory conducted in January.

This inventory, Doctor Gabrielson reported, indicated that the continental waterfowl population is about 70,000,000, or more than double the numbers estimated in 1935, but only slightly larger than the 65,000,000 total reported last year.

BEST GAINS IN WEST

The gains of the past year, it was pointed out, were not uniform throughout the country. The most important increases were reported from the Central and Pacific "flyways," a term used to describe the four geographic regions in which the birds' migration routes have been grouped.

"Gains in the Central and Pacific flyways are very gratifying," said Doctor Gabrielson, "because these two regions have for several years showed the slowest recovery."

The largest gain for any species throughout the country was reported for the gadwall. Other species showing gains were the black duck, baldpate, green-winged and blue-winged teals, shoveler, scaups, and blue, white-fronted, Canada, and cackling geese. Red-head and ring-necked ducks showed considerable decrease.

INVENTORY NOT A CENSUS

Inventory figures, it was emphasized, are not the results of detailed counts that could be called a census. They were described as numerical estimates that serve, along with the results of investigations, to indicate proportionate trends in the waterfowl populations. The estimates, it was explained, are made according to a standard system and taken chiefly by the trained field staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The corps of field workers, under the leadership of the service's five regional directors, use every available means to cover the wintering grounds of the ducks and geese. In addition to the staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service, these workers include personnel from the Army Air Corps, Naval Air Service, Coast Guard, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, National Park Service, Civilian Conservation Corps, state game and fish and forestry departments, universities, colleges, and others.

HUNTERS CLOSE TO COMPLETE HARVEST

While describing duck and goose conditions as "generally satisfactory," Doctor Gabrielson pointed out that there has been a marked leveling off in the upward trend that was conspicuous in the waterfowl increases during the early years of the restoration program.

"This," he continued, "indicates that under the regulations in effect for the shooting season of 1940 the sportsmen came perilously close to a complete harvest of the year's crop of wild fowl."

Doctor Gabrielson speculated that this conclusion would be surprising to hunters in areas where "blue-bird weather" kept the waterfowl quiet on feeding and resting grounds. He viewed the increased harvest as "probably due to the growing numbers of shooters," pointing out that the sales of duck stamps, which are required of all waterfowl hunters over sixteen, have increased from 635,000 in 1934 to more than 1,200,000 in 1940.

With nearly twice as many hunters in the field, he explained, the total bag for the country would be materially increased even though individuals took fewer birds.

Referring to the fact that hunting regulations had been somewhat liberalized in 1938 and still further in 1940, Doctor Gabrielson said: "It appears that we have about reached the limit of such action if we are to continue steadily toward a goal of adequate restoration of this highly important natural resource."

"Furthermore," he pointed out, "there are plenty of headaches, as the 1941 inventory showed that there are some species, such as the redhead, that continue to be in a precarious condition."

It was not until the discovery of North America that the world fur trade got into its stride.



Leslie Rich, Perryton, Texas, with a 32-inch, 40-pound flathead, taken from Meade County State Lake.

News From Everywhere

Charlie Sessions, managing editor of the Topeka Daily *Capital*, charges Alf M. Landon and Milt Tabor with mathematical machinations. These two famous fishing partners, he says, are not content with simply dividing their joint catches, but go so far as to increase and multiply their fish as well.

The current fishing contest sponsored by the Lawrence Daily *Journal-World* reveals that many record-breaking fish are being taken from the Lone Star Lake near Lawrence. Fred Kahn, secretary of the Douglas Sportsmen's Association, advises KANSAS FISH AND GAME that the number one fish so far entered in the bass division of the contest weighed nearly five pounds and was caught by C. J. Elliott of Lawrence. W. L. Danner of Lawrence, with a bass weighing four pounds seven ounces is contending for second place in that division. Oscar Baker and Mrs. A. O. Stansbury, both of Lawrence, have entered fish weighing one pound thirteen ounces and fifteen ounces respectively in the crappie division.

The Ottawa County State Lake near Bennington, is providing a lot of fun for the anglers of that section of Kansas. Fritz Bosch recently caught a three and one-half pound small-mouth bass and Doctor Philbrant a two and one-half pounder from that lake, according to Superintendent Dameron.

The Leavenworth County Fish and Game Development Association has announced the discontinuance of its dandy monthly bulletin. We look forward to its resumption after the national emergency has ended.

Fishing at the Leavenworth County Lake has been good this season. Crappie and bluegill have been ex-

ceptionally active but no large ones, mostly from seven to ten inches on crappie and from six to eight inches on bluegill. Since the first of July there has been some nice cats caught at this lake. N. G. Whitacker, of Lakeview, recently caught one that weighed twelve pounds. Miller, of Tonganoxie, caught one weighing seventeen pounds and ten ounces. The bass are beginning to hit at this lake. All in all I am of the opinion that bass fishing at this lake this year is better than during the season last year.—LEE G. HENRY, *Superintendent*.

Claims for more than one-third of the money appropriated by the 1941 legislature for coyote bounties already have been filed with the state.

The 1941 Session set up the first state-wide bounty law in Kansas history, authorizing payment of \$1 for each coyote. A \$35,000 appropriation was made for the 27-month period ending July 1, 1943.

However, in the past three months 65 counties have presented claims for \$13,161. Rawlins topped the list with \$667 and Cheyenne followed with \$603. Haskell asked only \$1.

The auditor's office said it would ask the far northwestern counties to investigate and be sure that none of the bounties were paid on Nebraska and Colorado coyotes.

Harry Edwards, Kansas City, Kan., informs us that he has had one good day at the Scott County State Lake. We quote from his letter:

"While making my territory in Western Kansas I often steal a few moments to wet a line in the likely looking waters out there. The other day while short-cutting through the Scott County State Park I decided to try my luck in that lake. The few moments I intended to spend there stretched into four hours, but during that time I caught ten channels averaging a pound and a half each."

We appreciate this letter from Mr. Edwards, as it sustains the statement of Superintendent Bond Hale that channel catfishing in that lake has been exceptionally good this summer.

The design of the 1941 "duck stamp" which must be purchased by all migratory waterfowl hunters over sixteen years old, has been taken from a Ruddy duck drawing by E. R. Kolmbach, according to a commissioner of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service.

Skunks are, on the whole, beneficial animals. They eat largely, mice, grubs, worms, and insects that are usually damaging on farms.

Wild turkeys are easily domesticated.

A Coon Hunter Speaks Up

DEAR SIR: Recognition of the coon hunters is long overdue. It is one of the nicest sports and one that has the poorest protection. Some may say, "Oh, only the back-woodsmen hunt coon." This is untrue. Some of the best and highest type sportsmen in Kansas hunt coon. I know of numerous lawyers, bankers, doctors and merchants who hunt coon. They do not hunt for money, and would not if there were plenty of coon, and I know no one can make money hunting.

Coon hunting is an expensive sport. A good coon hound is worth from fifty to two hundred dollars. Most hunters have two or more and must feed them all year for a few nights' sport during the open season. We do not hunt every night during the open season. Bad weather cuts our hunting down to two or three nights a week, and in a dry season, very few coon are taken.

We must have better sportsmanship toward wildlife. A lot of coon hunters judge the success of the hunt by the number of coons taken. It reflects no glory on a dog to be able to tree a bunch of baby coons and still less on a hunter who will shoot the whole bunch out of a tree. He is just spoiling his and other hunters' future chances. It is alright to shake down a few to give the young dogs a fight, but to go out and kill every coon you tree, that's really hurting our coon clubs who are restocking coon.

The trapper laughs at the "innocent" coon clubs who are spending a lot of money each year to buy coon to be released. Sure, we're all helping the trapper. He is going right on with his "devil's sport" until there are no more coon to catch. If we keep on restocking them, he can call us a bunch of suckers. Naturally, we will keep on releasing coon. But we must stop coon trapping. The coon hunters are not entirely against the trapper. He has plenty to trap—mink, skunk, muskrat, the more valuable fur bearers which have no following other than the trappers.

We must have a bag limit on the number that can be taken in any one night. It should be not over two for any kennel or party of hunters, and be unlawful to shoot them out of trees with a gun. A season limit of ten would suit the majority of hunters.

I am in favor of a special coon stamp, value to be determined by the game commission, to be purchased from the fur buyer for each coon pelt sold. Pelts shipped out of state should require the stamp be purchased from the county clerk or any license agent, this money to be used in restocking coon.

Our case is simple and plain. We coon hunters want a share of the money we turn over each year in the form of hunting and trapping licenses. We want more coon released, and we want them protected from the steel trap and the game hog. We believe that a share of our expenditures should be returned to us in the

form of reasonably protected coon. In the past our weakness has been the lack of coöperation between the State Game Commission and the coon hunters and protective associations.

Our state has several thousand coon hunters and in the past there has been no unity of action. Now we have a score or more of organized coon hunters' associations with hundreds of members, unified in our demands for protection of the coon.

Coon hunting is strictly a sporting proposition and we are asking your help in saving this sport for the sportsmen of Kansas.—Sincerely, CHARLES DE VANEY, Red Hills Coon Hunters.

Wing Loose, Fancy Free

The shifting of the migration routes and breeding ranges of many species of wild birds is an interesting phenomena observed in recent years by ornithologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The shoveler, or spoonbill, duck is a popular wild-fowl that even now appears to be shifting, or at least extending, its breeding range, according to F. C. Lincoln, service biologist in charge of investigations on the distribution and migration of birds. The shoveler has been considered a western bird whose normal breeding range was west of the Mississippi river, and American bird students were astonished a few years ago when a few shovelers were found in the breeding season at the Pymatuning State Refuge in Pennsylvania.

Later shovelers were discovered nesting on the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware, and last year, 18 nests of shovelers were found on the refuge. Extreme drought is one possible reason advanced for the eastward shift of the species formerly considered as confined to the Great Plains and other western regions.

The ring-necked duck is another migratory bird that has moved or added to its breeding range. Previously this species was seldom seen in the maritime provinces of Canada, Maine, and other Northeastern states. Now, the ring-neck is one of the common breeding birds in Maine and New Brunswick, ranking among the waterfowl in that section of the country.

Not only game birds but the small song and insectivorous birds seem to participate in these shifts of migration routes and breeding ranges.

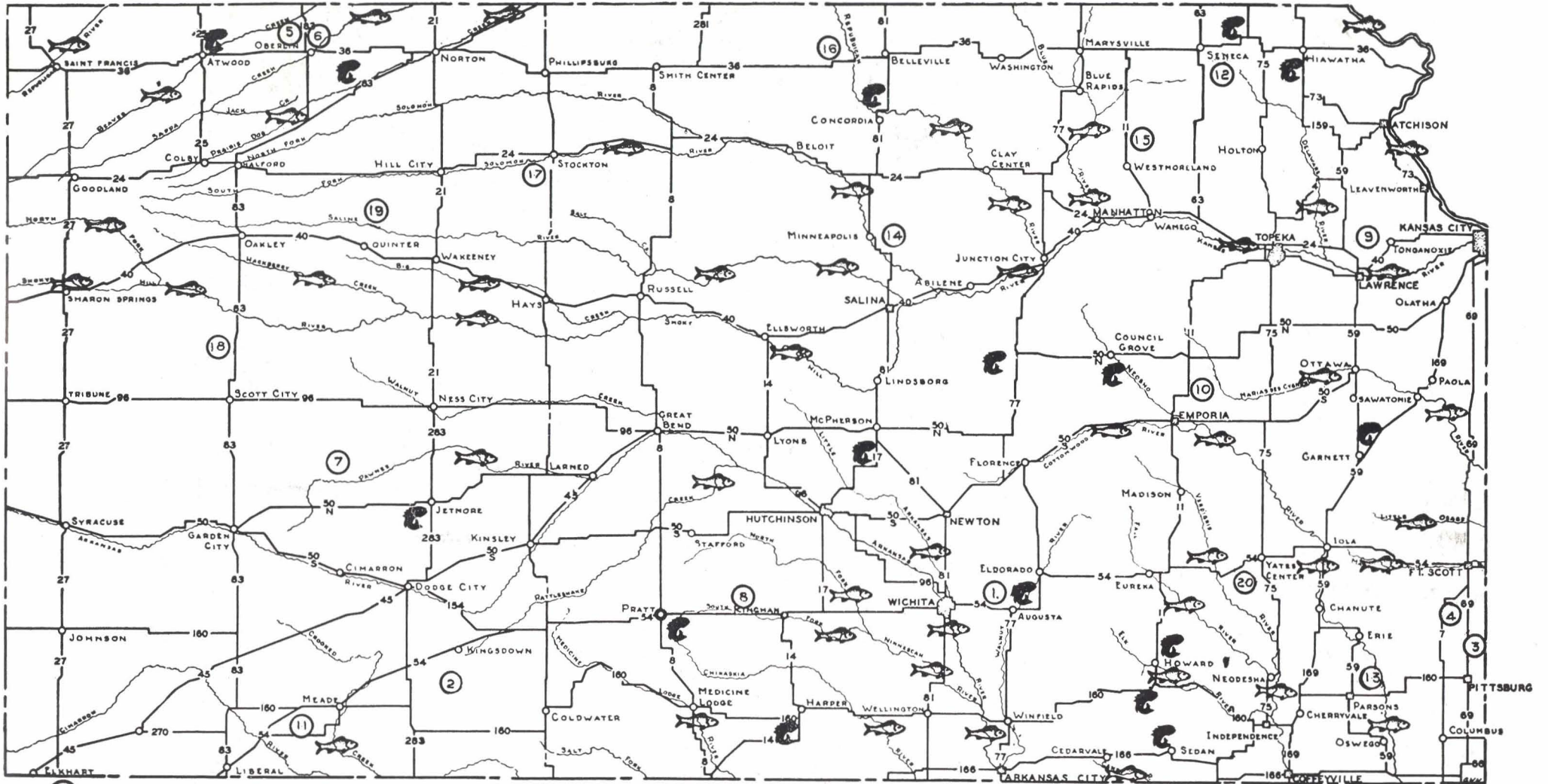
In Colonial times the familiar robin was far less abundant than it is today. Probably the bird was confined by the limited number of areas of natural clearings. With the arrival of the white men who pushed westward, clearing the forests for farms and towns, the robin spread from its localized areas into the new clearings. Being tolerant of human beings, the robin has since become so abundant that its range is almost continuous from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

NOTICE

The 1941 quail stamps are on sale now at the offices of the county clerks.

Because the state is this year celebrating the Coronado Cuarto Centennial, these stamps were printed in red and gold, the Coronado colors.

If you want to help protect, preserve and perpetuate the quail—another famous Kansan—buy your quail stamp now.



② State Lakes

🐟 City and County Lakes

🐟 River and Stream Fishing

1. Butler County State Park
2. Clark County State Park
3. Crawford County State Park No. 1
4. Crawford County State Park No. 2
5. Decatur County State Park No. 1
6. Decatur County State Park No. 2
7. Finney County State Park

8. Kingman County State Park
9. Leavenworth County State Park
10. Lyon County State Park
11. Meade County State Park
12. Nemaha County State Park
13. Neosho County State Park
14. Ottawa County State Park

15. Pottawatomie County State Park
16. Republic County State Park
17. Rooks County State Park
18. Scott County State Park
19. Sheridan County State Park
20. Woodson County State Park