



Kansas Fish and Game

VOL. XIX

WINTER, 1962

No. 3



KANSAS FISH AND GAME

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT PRATT, KANSAS

Published Quarterly by

THE KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Pratt, Kansas

VOL. XIX

WINTER, 1962

No. 3

Commissioners

G. G. BOLING, Leavenworth Chairman W. LLOYD BROWN, Columbus Commissioner
HARLAN BOXBERGER, Russell Secretary FRANK LOMBARD, Enterprise Commissioner
CHARLES HULME, Great Bend Commissioner

Administrative Staff

Headquarters, Hatchery, Pratt, Kansas

GEORGE C. MOORE, Director

FRED WARDERS, Assistant Director MAURINE MCCLELLAN, Account Clerk I BARBARA PATEE, Clerk Stenographer II
GEORGE VALYER, Information EDITH SCANTLIN, Secretary I CARLENE SEWING, Clerk Stenographer II
ROBERT TODD, Information BONNIE ROSE, Clerk Typist I JANICE BOOI, Clerk Stenographer II
ROBERT WARD, Accountant II NANCY WILT, Clerk Stenographer I SHIRLEY CAHALEN, Clerk Stenographer II
CATHERINE WAY, Account Clerk II THEANNA YOUNG, Clerk Typist I
ROSE ELLEN SMART, Accountant Clerk I LOUISE HARRISON, Clerk Typist II

Fish and Game Division

SETH L. WAY, Superintendent, Fish Hatcheries Pratt
ROY E. SCHOONOVER, Chief, Fisheries Division Pratt
FRANK SCHRYER, Fishery Biologist Hays
WILLIAM COLE, Fishery Biologist Pratt
ROBERT HARTMANN, Fishery Biologist Frontenac
JOHN RAY, Fishery Biologist Pratt
DAVE COLEMAN, Chief, Game Division Pratt
BOB WOOD, Game Biologist
HARRY SMITH, Superintendent, Meade County
Pheasant Farm Meade
BYRON WALKER, Superintendent, Quail Farm Calista
CHARLES TROXEL, Superintendent, Quail Farm Pittsburg
WARREN MOORE, Cheyenne Bottoms
Refuge Manager Great Bend
BILLY F. KING, Marais des Cygnes
Refuge Manager Pleasanton
GLENN DAVIS, Maxwell Game Refuge
THEODORE DREES, Finney County Game Refuge Garden City
RICHARD EGGEN, Chief, Field Services Pratt
CHARLES HENDERSON, Land Management Pratt
WILLIAM HANZLICK, Land Management Pratt

District Game Protectors

*A. W. BENANDER, Topeka JOE CONCANNON, Lansing ALVIN MICHEL, Lakin CLAUDE BLAIR, Scott City
*H. D. BYRNE, Concordia ERNEST CRAIG, Erie ROY MCKINSEY, Holton BOB NEASE, Hugoton
*EDWIN GEBHARD, Meade KENNETH CAMPBELL, Ottawa ERNEST HUSLIG, Great Bend MARVIN MEIER, Ellis
*CLEMENT GILLESPIE, Arkansas WALLACE FERRELL, Marysville JACK McNALLY, Eureka MICHAEL SHANLEY, Dodge City
City TOM CRISPINO, Parsons JOHN J. SHARP, Cottonwood Falls HOMER BURKHART, Maise
*A. E. KYSER, Savonburg GLENN HURST, Larned GEORGE SHAW, Garnett ROYAL ELDER, Manhattan
*GEORGE WHITAKER, Atwood LEON HOPKINS, Lincoln PAUL LIES, Garden City GENE HITT, Pratt
*JAMES BRYAN, Cherryvale WILLARD JONES, Herington JOHN SPENCE, Horton JIM HAYNES, Yates Center
*FLOYD ANDREW, Anthony ELMER CRUMRINE, El Dorado CARL SUENRAM, Moundridge LESTER HOUSER, Ellsworth
*E. D. BRYAN, Kansas City KENNETH KNITIG, Goodland CLYDE UKELE, Norton GARY HESKET, Mankato
*JAMES CARLSON, Salina ED BOND, Lecompton J. D. LICHLTYER, Hill City EDWIN LYBARGER, Hutchinson

* Area Supervisors

Legal

NOEL MULLENDORE, Attorney, Howard

State Park and Lake Superintendents

J. W. DESBIEN, Cowley County State Park Winfield
EUGENE SHEPHERD, Decatur County State Park Oberlin
HAROLD PETERSON, Ottawa County State Park Minneapolis
RAYMOND YOUNG, Scott County State Park Scott City
LESLIE FREEMAN, Clark County State Park Kingsdown
BILL GREGORY, Crawford County State Park Pittsburg
A. M. SPRIGG, Woodson County State Park Yates Center
HARVEY HARRIS, Leavenworth County State Park Tonganoxie
DEAN W. SMITH, Neosho County State Park Canton
R. J. CLARK, Montgomery County State Park Independence
R. G. HALL, Barber County State Park Medicine Lodge
MARVIN HAMILTON, Lovewell Reservoir Mankato
E. D. GROVE, Brown County State Park Hiawatha
D. R. BELL, Atchison County State Park Atchison
ALVIN AYERS, Pottawatomie County State Park Manhattan
EARL RICHARDSON, Webster Reservoir Stockton
JIM PIPER, Osage County State Park Carbondale
A. L. CLARKSON, Wilson County State Park Nemaha



Kansas Nears Big Game Status

By Bob Todd

In 1959 a report was published by the Kansas Academy of Science,* which stated: "If present trends continue, Kansas deer herds should reach harvestable proportions in five to ten years."

It appears the trend is continuing and it is quite likely Kansas will have a deer season nearer to five years than ten. In 1959, when the results of the study were published, the estimated deer population of Kansas was 8,768. In 1960 the estimate placed the deer population at 9,095 and in 1961 the estimate runs to 10,686.

These figures should not be construed to be accurate due to the censusing methods. But since the method of estimating the population remained the same throughout the years, the increase is noteworthy.

From 1960 to 1961 the increase,

* Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Vol. 62, No. 1, 1959.

according to the estimates, amounts to 18 percent. Backing up these figures are the incidence of deer kills investigated by fish and game officers. In 1958 118 deer kills were investigated. In 1960 the figure rose to 150 and in 1961 the figure was 203. Deer kill investigations do not give an accurate basis for estimating the amount of deer herd increase, but they do point up the increase.

When one considers that deer were considered to be extinct in Kansas at the turn of the century and that in 1955 the total population in Kansas was estimated at only 725, the 203 deer kills investigated last year by fish and game personnel certainly points to an increase.

The creation of more deer habitat in recent years is probably the main factor in the rise of the population. Historically, Kansas had large numbers of deer. The white-tail deer, most numerous now, probably roamed over the whole state, and the mule deer probably

roamed over all but the eastern one-third. Deer were reported to be common in Kansas as late as 1884, but by 1904, they were considered extinct. They were still reported extinct in 1933.

In the 1930's and 40's, the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission as well as private individuals planted deer in various parts of the state. During this period, deer were increasing in neighboring states and no doubt many moved into Kansas.

By the early 1950's, signs of deer were seen frequently in numerous sections of the state and it was apparent that deer were making a comeback in Kansas.

Modification of habitat and excessive hunting are probably to blame for the original decline in the deer population. By the same token, reversals of these practices are probably responsible for the comeback being made now.

An increase in woody growth along our stream valleys and an increase in woody growth and

shrubs in our flood plains have come about from droughts and the construction of dams to stabilize the flow of water. The droughts and dams have enabled seedlings to continue their growth and development, thus providing both food and cover for deer.

Stocking, and more importantly, migration of deer from other states have provided the seed animals.

Complete protection by the law, enforcement, and co-operation on

the part of the public has allowed deer to multiply.

When will Kansas have a deer season? That is hard to say. The Kansas Academy of Science report said five to ten years. It was written in 1958 and would make the date somewhere between 1963 and 1968.

Dave Coleman, Chief of the Game Division of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, says

he expects to see a limited season by 1965.

But these are estimates. Before a definite date can be given, a detailed study will have to be made. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission plans to hire a qualified big game biologist to make this study in the near future.

This man will develop accurate methods of censusing deer, determine their distribution, relative

(Continued on page 18)



Youngsters such as this whitetail fawn are getting along very well in Kansas; so well in fact that in 1961 the deer population rose an estimated 18 percent. Improvement of habitat is the primary reason for the comeback of the deer, but co-operation on the part of the public with respect to complete protection for deer also figure heavily in their return and increase.

Moore Outlines Commission Goals

The commissioners of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission officially hired George C. Moore, former chief of the Georgia Game Division, to be director at their August, 1961, meeting. The action became effective October 1. Moore arrived a few days early and on October 7, he formally thanked the commissioners for hiring him and outlined his goals for the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. Moore's complete statement follows.

Statement of Objectives: A Fish and Game Program

By George C. Moore

It is with considerable pride that I accept the job as Director of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. I am grateful for the confidence the Commission members have placed in me. Given a little time to plan and develop a program, I am sure the faith the Commission members have shown in me will be fulfilled.

Naturally I am not in a position to outline a detailed program nor am I in a position to fully project the needs of the Sportsmen of Kansas, but I can assure every sportsman that I will build a sound program based on established facts and will see that it is implemented in as efficient and objective manner as possible.

The staff and I have gone over the current program and have discussed some of the needs that will make the Fish and Game program second to none in the United States. I have been impressed with the caliber of personnel of the Commission and their enthusiasm toward their work. I have also been impressed with the many potentials in Kansas. I intend to establish sound research programs to determine how we can fully develop these potentials. Once we know how to best manage these resources we intend to develop them to the fullest, assuring a continuous brood



George C. Moore

stock yet utilizing the surplus for the pleasure of as many people as possible. The fisheries program will certainly entail the construction of additional water areas but just as important each lake must be utilized according to the best scientific practices.

The game program will be geared to expand both the number and range of all species of game now indigenous to the state as well as carefully evaluating the possibility of introducing exotic species. In no case will we be pressured into a "fly by night" program; our methods will be thoroughly tested. Once a crop is ready to be harvested, we will attempt to see that it is utilized to the fullest by the maximum number of Kansans. To

accomplish this will entail the establishment of game management areas that will be intensively managed by the Commission as well as extensive management on as much land as practical. Since the purchase of land will necessarily be limited we will determine if large tracts can be obtained for management through co-operative agreements between the Commission and large land owners, both public and private.

We can visualize a bright future for the hunter and fisherman but we must also have the faith, patience, guidance and sympathy of the sportsmen. We intend to establish a sound plan and keep those, the sportsmen, who pay the bills, informed of our progress.

Another First Step Is Taken

Toward More Public Hunting

At the December meeting of the commissioners of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, the first step was taken in a program to create more public hunting on property presently owned by the Commission.

The designation of Finney County State Lake and Park was changed

to Finney County Wildlife Management Area. The park comprises 854 acres, of which 324 originally was under water. The lake, built in 1934, has silted in to the point that less than 100 acres of water remain.

The lake's value for fishing has decreased greatly, and the commission felt the wildlife value should now take top priority. Fishing will continue at the lake so long as it remains, but it will become a secondary benefit.

The area will not be simply thrown open to public hunting. Intensive management is planned, which will greatly increase the amount of game present on the area. Work will proceed slowly and carefully since this will be the first venture of this kind in Kansas.

The new designation for the land, Wildlife Management Area, has special meaning, too. The area will be similar to a refuge, except that special efforts will be made to get a high game population on the area.



The land from the bottom of the picture to the outcroppings across the valley provide a measurement of the width of the area. The land runs to the north (right) for another half mile or so and to the south (left) down to the lake. At present there is heavy cover over most of the area. However, food may be a limiting factor for wildlife. The planting of food plots for wildlife will probably be the major work required to get a dense wildlife population on the area.



This view of Finney County Wildlife Management Area is from the east, near the upper end of the lake. Rich, heavy cover grows down to the floor of the valley. From there the mud flat, which is filling the lake, extends barrenly across to what was once the west bank of the lake. To the north, vegetation is moving down on the mud flat. A few years ago the area in the extreme right of the picture was as barren of vegetation as the mud flats of the center are today. There is little recreational value to a mud flat, but as nature reclaims it, wildlife makes use of the vegetation.

Public hunting comes in as a tool of management. Hunters will be allowed to control and harvest the excess game population. Special regulations may be invoked to limit or expand the hunting pressure on the area. Thus hunters might be allowed to take more or less than the statewide bag limit from the area.

Finney County Wildlife Management Area will, to some extent, be used for a guide in opening other state lakes and parks to public hunting. Many of these areas are now under study to see if it might be worthwhile.

Many of the lakes have land areas around them, currently ref-

uges, which could and should be utilized by the public for hunting. In one park there are 1,402 acres, of which only 185 acres are under water.

This park, or part of it, could conceivably be used as public hunting lands. By the same token, if game populations reached a point where refuges were needed, hunting could be stopped on the area and in effect, the park would become a refuge again.

The idea of using part of the state lake areas for public hunting came as a result of surveying the possibility of getting much more public hunting lands in Kansas.

A great deal of public hunting land is being made available at the federal reservoirs, in the southeast Kansas strip pits, and in a few other areas. However, these lands are not enough and the Commission is looking for additional areas.

Utilizing the lands around the state lakes is one of the ideas that has evolved. Since the Commission already owns the land, the only cost will be that of management.

The creation of food plots and additional cover will be the main part of the management projects.

The program under discussion is not designed to interfere in any way with fishing at the lakes.

(Continued on page 18)

The Hearts of Hunters

Reprinted from September, 1961, issue of the Illinois Medical Journal.

By Julius M. Kowalski, M. D.

The only big game hunting that hundreds of thousands of able-bodied men do and ever will participate in, and some women, too, is the quest of deer. Under efficient game management this species has increased to the point of becoming a hazard to motorists in some suburban areas of the United States, and counties now are open that have not had a deer season for fifty years or longer. With the exodus to the woods in late fall there inevitably follow the headlines: TEN HUNTERS DIE FROM HEART ATTACKS IN WEEK.

Such startling statements are indisputable. Their ominous portent warrants further inquiry, because from statistical methods it is possible to derive ridiculous conclusions.

If a man garbed in hunting clothes while driving to or from a deer habitat succumbs to a heart attack, he is considered by the press as a "hunter death." The same man on another day traveling the same route as a salesman and afflicted in like manner would be reported as an "unfortunate death." Surprisingly enough, 26 percent of heart attacks occur during mild physical activity such as driving a car or normal housework.

If a hunter stopped at a motel en route and expired during the night, he would be among the ten hunter deaths reported for that week. But evidence supports the fact that 23 percent of coronaries occur during sleep and 40 percent occur from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m. when the average hunter is engaged in nothing more strenuous than holding four aces or bending an elbow. Rest, the panacea for all ills, is exactly what 27 percent of patients were engaged in when they got their heart attacks. If our hunter was sitting quietly on a stump near a runway and his atheromatous plaques of long

standing suddenly occluded a coronary vessel, he too would be among the maligned. From the foregoing we deduce that three-fourths of all coronaries occur while the patient is asleep, resting, or engaged in mild activity!

But what about the Herculean efforts of the hunt during inclement weather? The slogging through marsh, over hills, the battle through brambles, which leave one bowed, breathless, and fatigued; the jangling of adrenals with every questionable moving shadow and snap of twig? Alas, only 2 percent of heart attacks are accompanied by severe physical activity. And moderate activity as performed in the building trades was the effort expended when 10 percent of the patients were struck. The innocuous automatic activity of walking was the pursuit of 13 percent of heart attack cases.

To gather for several days to a few weeks 100,000 men whose ages range for the most part from the late 30's through 60's clad in red or yellow with firearms in hand, and extrapolate this figure into a recognizable community, it then becomes a city of at least half a million inhabitants. Coronary deaths occur in such communities with methodic frequency each week of the year, and there is no public cognizance of this except for an occasional outstanding citizen. But the autumnal headlines have their day.

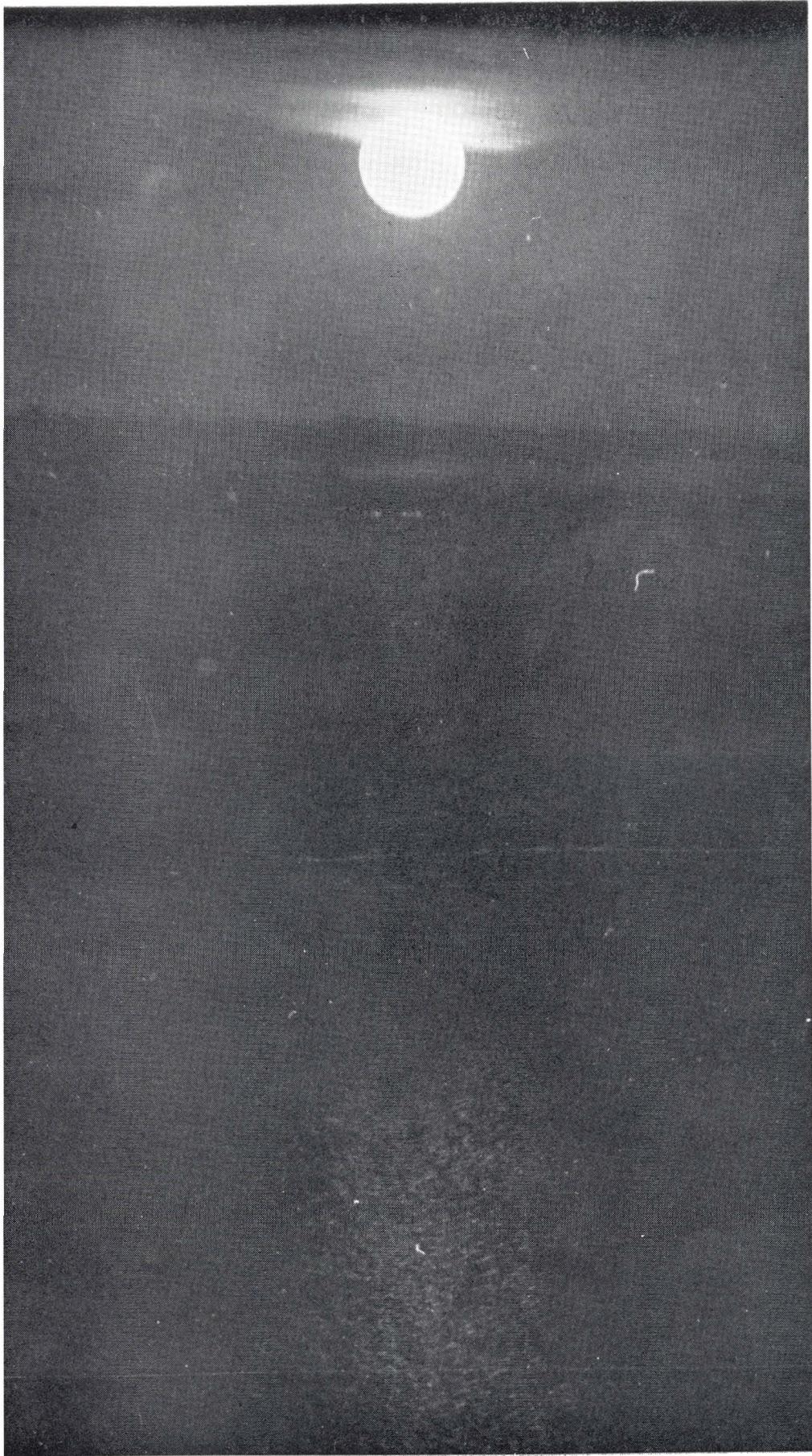
Cardiac emergencies arise in the field as well as elsewhere, but their diagnosis and treatment are more difficult at certain times. Often a seemingly healthy patient asks his physician for a few simple rules by which he would recognize a coronary in himself or his hunting companions. He knows of the pain and radiation in the left shoulder and arm. He knows too that what often appears to be a gastrointestinal upset may be more serious than that. Deep boring, unremitting pain substernally persisting for

hours indicates to him a grave condition. These findings associated with pallor, sweating, and uneasiness indicate the onset of shock, especially if the pulse becomes rapid and thready.

It is mandatory now for the afflicted to remain at rest being made as comfortable as conditions permit. Above all, he must be kept warm. To walk for aid or exert any physical effort with such findings is to trudge to almost certain death. The Finnish lumberjacks, rugged woodsmen that they are, were recently studied in this respect, and the deaths or serious complications were in direct relationship to the activity expended, as in walking, after the onset of coronary symptoms. Witness too the number of silent coronaries found by ECG or autopsy examinations. The patient's past history after careful interrogation may reveal that persistent neuritis in the left arm and hand years ago; or an upset stomach that lasted about a week; perhaps that painful pleurisy in the middle of the chest long ago could be the clue. Yet these patients remained at rest for a number of days or weeks, had no doctor, and probably used some nonspecific home remedies, and eventually recovered from their attacks.

In the field when a coronary is suspected, the prime consideration is to combat shock. Absolute rest is imperative. Move the patient only if this can be done by litter and with no physical expenditure on his part. Aid must be sought with dispatch. If the distances are great, medical aid and appropriate transportation must be brought to the suspect.

In every deer hunting area there lives an almost legendary septogenarian who has put venison on the table for many years. He no longer joins in the drive across the lower 40 but sits quietly upon a stump. And there he probably will die.



The moon glides silently through the black sky, casting eerie shadows on the earth below. But the earth below is not so silent as the sky. Down by the creek a man and a boy stalk noisily through a maize field, pausing every so often to listen for "Ole Buster" to "open up."

The Night Hunt

Kansas Fish and Game magazine thanks the Solomon Valley Coon Hunters and Sportsmen Association for their aid in making the following centerspread. Special thanks is due to Delmar Shoemaker, Kevin Wilson, Waldo Wilson, Rex Henningsen, Harold Shoemaker, Curtis Shoemaker and George Stikes. They and their dogs provided the hunt from which these pictures were made.



Coon hunting is a good sport for man and boy. For both it is a new world of dark shadows and silver meadows. It is the music of the old lead dog who finally opens up to confirm what the young dogs have been frantically barking about for some time. It's a coon. The trail is hot and keeping up is hard for man and boy—man with short breath and boy with short legs.

* * *

"I think they've got 'im treed." A breathless pause. "Yea. Let's git movin'." The dogs sit, stand, circle, sit, jump, shiver with excitement and keep barking treed. Their faces pointed skyward say "He's up there." The breathless hunters arrive, but the tree is too small to suit Mr. Coon and he jumps out as the first flashlight beam strikes him. The chase is on again.





But this time Mr. Coon gambled on a short cut across a field and lost. Sam, a son of old Buster and a credit to his sire, catches up with the coon and rolls him. The field explodes with the sounds of the battle as Sam moves in for the kill.

* * *

In a second the rest of the dogs are there. Mr. Coon fights hard; hard enough to defeat an inexperienced dog; but the experience of these dogs is his epitaph.

* * *

The battle is over and two young sportsmen hold up the prize. The chase was long, the battle bitter and victory sad but sweet. Coon hunting involves your emotions more than most kinds of hunting. But no matter what your quarry, coyote or cottontail, if you respect and admire the animal you pursue, it is a sport. If you don't, it is cold-blooded killing.



Some Prefer Winter

Editor's Corner

Along about this time of year, there is little hunting and fishing activity. A few people are out trapping, a few are still taking an occasional shot at a rabbit, and most of the fishermen are restlessly awaiting the warm days of spring.

But a few hardy souls are to be seen here and there traipsing along, all bundled up with fishing rods under their arms. Fishing is the number one outdoor sport in the summer time. It is a lowly also-ran in the winter.

Do these adventuresome folks, who brave the cold, catch anything? Most of them do. And a great many of them will tell you they'd rather fish in the winter than in the heat of summer.

Spring and fall, especially spring, are the favored times for all fishermen. At these times the fish seem to bite best, the weather is pleasant, few insects swarm to the attack and the mood created by emerging or decaying vegetation sets a perfect scene for the contemplative sport of fishing.

But what about summer and winter? Why do many fishermen continue to fish in the summer and only a few venture into the cold of winter? Obviously spring and fall conditions are the best. It must be that fishing has a value all its own, a value that persists regardless of weather, insects, heat, cold. But this value is an intangible associated somehow with just being outdoors with Mother Nature, regardless of her mood.

All we can truly compare are the incidental nice and bad things about fishing at one time as opposed to fishing at another time.

I've heard comments from ardent winter fishermen to the effect that they wouldn't be caught dead out fishing after June 1, nor sooner than September 15. On the other hand, a great many summer fishermen

say in effect that a man has to have a twisted mind to fish in the winter. They claim their gear is in storage from November 1 to March 15.

Hearing both such declarations has led me to inquire as to specific reasons. Some of the reasons I heard follow:

IN FAVOR OF WINTER FISHING

1. The fish bite better in winter than in the heat of summer.
2. Stink bait don't smell so strong when it's half-frozen.
3. If you dress right, you are more comfortable in winter.
4. The air smells cleaner in the winter.
5. Fish taste better out of cold water.
6. It fills in the gap between hunting season and the real good spring fishing.

AGAINST FISHING IN WINTER

1. Ice on the line and in the guides.
2. The bait freezes.
3. The fish don't bite.
4. The fish don't fight hard in the winter.
5. The wind gets too a man more with the leaves gone.
6. Just can't keep warm.

FOR SUMMER FISHING

1. The fish bite better in summer than in the cold of winter.
2. Bait is easily available and effective.
3. It is generally cool and comfortable near the water.
4. The air carries the smell of things around you (speaking of such things as flowers, etc., of course).
5. Summer's when sane men were meant to fish.
6. More daylight hours in which to fish.

AGAINST SUMMER FISHING

1. Stink bait really stinks.
2. Insects swarm all over you.
3. The fish aren't schooled up.
4. Snakes are out in numbers.
5. Too many fishermen out; crowded; boaters, too.
6. Have to fight your way through the leafy underbrush to get to a good fishing hole.

From these answers it would appear that the difference is just a matter of looking at things from slightly different angles.

In recent years the winter fishermen have been winning converts rapidly; so rapidly in fact that I feel this little bit of investigation is almost justified.

The investigation is not through, however. Somebody once said you have to try it to believe it or see it to write it or do it yourself to get it right, or something like that. Anyway, I'm gonna give this winter fishing a try in a couple weeks and report my findings to you 'bout a year from now. *Bob Todd.*

In Next Issue

In the next issue of Kansas Fish and Game magazine there will be a story to bring you up to date on progress at Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

The story will include pictures taken of the area just before the gates are shut and water begins backing up. It will tell of the original plan for developing the area for all kinds of recreation as well as flood control.

The proposed Prairie National Park, lying to the east of the reservoir, disrupted the original plans for use of the areas around the lake, but alternative plans are being studied. In the next issue, progress to date will be reported.

Barber County State Lake

Fifteenth of
A Series on

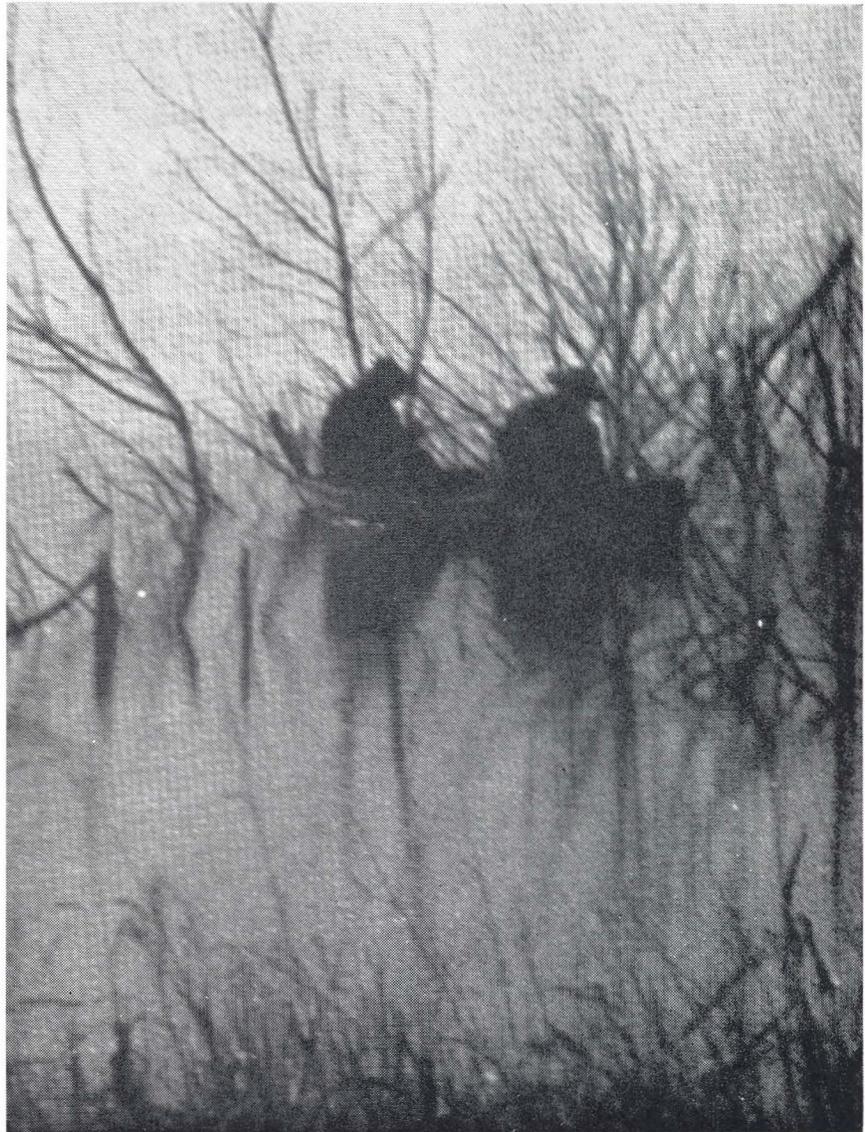
The State Lakes Of Kansas

By George Valyer

Dark, chill waters lapped at the shore and a pale sun oozed through a partially overcast sky. The chilly breeze from the southwest made a coat feel pleasant. An occasional flight of greenwings or pintails over the lake gave indication to the late fall season.

Out on the lake a small rowboat was tied to the branches of some submerged willows and a pair of crappie fishermen were busily occupied in dunking minnows. Occasional activity aboard indicated at least some success. On a nearby bank, an elderly woman with a cane pole patiently waited for some action on the end of her line. Even though Thanksgiving had come and gone, the lure of fishing was still stirring the residents of Barber county, Kansas.

As I traveled farther up the shoreline on this late November day, I could recall the hot summer day when I had been there last. At that time the lake was literally surrounded by fishermen and numerous boats dotted the water. Bass and bullheads had both been hitting then and many long strings of the latter species were in evidence everywhere. Plug fishermen were



clustered around a point on the upper end of the lake on the west side where the bass were feeding. Now and then someone would get a solid strike and all activity would cease while envious eyes watched the lucky angler battle his fish.

Barber County State Lake is just a stone's throw from the city of Medicine Lodge and the residents of this south-central community are pleased, indeed, with the fishing opportunity so close to their back door. Although their enthusiasm of the first year has settled into a feeling of prideful acceptance, the

people of the area are still delighted with this body of water and do not hesitate to tell you so. Only one of the persons contacted seemed to be indifferent about the presence of the lake and he was fishing there at the time.

The past two summers have brought on a few complaints from some anglers, not against the lake or the fishing, but in regard to the presence of parasitic worms in the flesh of some of the bullheads taken from the lake. These worms are the common yellow grub which may infest any body of water in



Barber County State Lake is just a stone's throw from the city of Medicine Lodge and the residents are pleased with the lake at their back door. The hillside to the east of the lake has become a popular building site and many new homes now have a "lake view."

Kansas at any time. This parasite has a complicated life cycle and the adult worm lives in the upper digestive tract of wading birds such as the herons. While the birds are feeding in the water, eggs from the parasite find their way into the water where they hatch into tiny swimming organisms. The organisms move about in the water for a time and then attach themselves to snails where they live and develop. After the period of growth, the grub leaves the snail and moves about until it comes in contact with a fish where it penetrates the skin, forming a cyst with the worm inside. To complete the cycle, an infected fish must be caught and eaten by a wading bird, thus allowing the adult grub to again lay eggs which find their way into water.

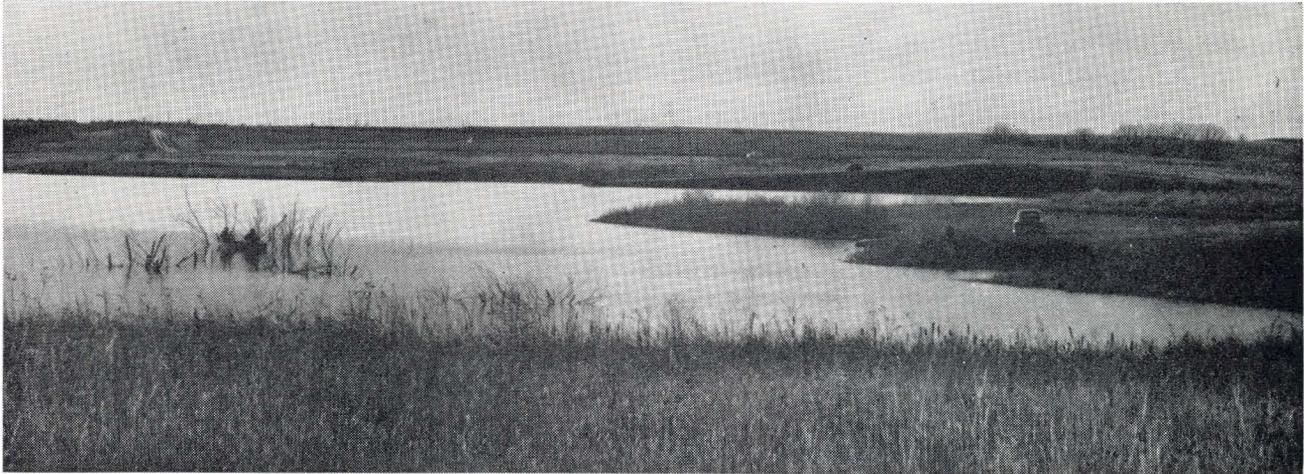
The presence of yellow grubs was more pronounced in bullheads taken from Barber County State Lake during the summer of 1960

than in the summer just passed. Creel census was taken by employees of the commission both years and the number of bullheads infested with these parasites showed a definite decline in 1961. Authorities who have made intensive studies of these parasites state that they will not affect humans in any way. They would do no harm even if injected in living form. Fish which are host to yellow grubs may be eaten without worry but most persons prefer to remove the flesh in the infected area. If the fish is exceptionally heavily parasitized, it would probably be best to destroy it.

Needless to say, there is no treatment for this parasite. Any chemical strong enough to eliminate them from any water would also kill all the fish. These grubs have evidently infested only bullheads at Barber State Lake and are on the decline in this species.

Barber County State Lake lies in a hilly tract of grassland which totals 189 acres. The lake itself contains 64 surface acres of water and is readily accessible from U. S. Highway 281. The dam lies across a draw which passes through the middle of the town of Medicine Lodge. The hillside to the east of the lake has proved to be a popular building site and many new homes have been erected with a "lake view."

Construction of the lake was completed in 1954 at a total cost of \$91,000. This figure includes the purchase price of the land which was slightly over \$14,000. The shores are popular locations for picnics and the facilities include tables and grills. Sanitary facilities are located both on the east and west sides of the lake. The shoreline is easily accessible most of the time through a system of roads leading to all except the extreme upper portion of the lake. During periods of



Even though Thanksgiving had come and gone, the lure of fishing was still stirring the residents of Barber County. In the summer, the lake is often literally surrounded by fishermen and numerous boats dot the water.

heavy rain, portions of the roads become quite muddy and access is limited to the dam area. A surfaced boat launching ramp is located on the west shore and is heavily used during the summer months.

The lake contains good populations of channel catfish, crappie, black bass, bluegill and bullheads. Several large channels were taken this past summer, much to the delight of the local fishermen. The largest we heard about weighed eleven pounds. Evidently the channels are making good gains in this lake. Although not too many bass are being taken they are running good size. Several have been caught weighing above five pounds. During the summer, respectable bullheads are easily taken by most fishermen. The crappie and bluegill take is also great at various times.

Although camping at this lake is not as popular as at some others, a few tents are seen each summer, mostly on the west shore near the dam. Accommodations and restaurants are plentiful in nearby Medicine Lodge and are utilized by those who come to fish from a distance. All in all, Barber County State Lake has much to offer. Maybe you'd like to try it some time.



The shores are popular locations for picnics and the facilities are located both on the east and west sides of the lake. The shoreline is easily accessible most of the time through a system of roads leading to all except the extreme upper portion of the lake. A boat launching ramp is located on the west shore.

News from Other States and Around

SOUTH DAKOTA—The second year of a five-year study of the black-bird problem in the vicinity of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota has been completed. As last year, this is a co-operative undertaking with participation by personnel of the Denver Wildlife Research Center, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota State College at Brookings, South Dakota, and Sand Lake Refuge. Spring and early summer work consisted of a census of territorial male birds, number of female birds per male, nesting success, and total number of birds produced. It was found that only a small number of black-birds are produced in the Sand Lake area compared to peak populations that occur during the corn damage season.

A banding program has been initiated to aid in a study of the movement and population trends of blackbirds. Investigations are being conducted to improve trapping techniques, scaring devices, and chemical repellants. A tight-husked variety of hybrid corn is being tested, and the value of decoy crops, such as grain sorghum and sunflowers, is also being determined.

TEXAS—Post-hurricane biological surveys have indicated that "Carla" did little, if any, damage to whooping crane wintering habitat on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Matagordo Island, although roads and facilities will require extensive repairs and replacement.

It now appears likely that "Carla's" extensive salt water purging of the refuge will result in restoring the whooping crane food supply over considerable areas where an excess of precipitation in the past two years has had an adverse effect. Blue crabs, a favorite brackish water food of the whooper, were discovered by the surveys to be more abundant than previously in certain areas, and greater numbers of other marine decapods were

also observed in the low-lying lake and bay habitat where the cranes seek the majority of their food. However, 200 bushels each of wheat, milo, and corn are being shipped to Aransas for supplementary food if needed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department advises that Mrs. Barbara Hinds of Pelham, N. H., has a raccoon "bread line." It started several years ago when one female raccoon visited her to accept food handouts. Now the same raccoon returns each year with her litter of new young and Mrs. Hinds has had as many as 15 of the "bandits" on hand to feed at one time.

JAPAN—Japan in 1960 became the first nation in the world to catch six million tons of fish in a single year, the National Wildlife Federation reports from information released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The world catch for 1960 rose six per cent to a new high of 37.7 million metric tons, of which Japan took 6.2 million or one-sixth. The figures include all seafoods, excluding whales and seals.

BALTIMORE—The National Wildlife Federation has received word that when the car of a Baltimore sportsman became sluggish and threatened to stop running, the owner took it to a mechanic on the assumption that troubles were the result of fall weather. The sportsman was right. The mechanic found that squirrels, preparing for winter, had stuffed the car's air filter full of hickory nuts.

ARIZONA—Nine Indian reservations in Arizona issue special archery permits and, on at least one reservation, the San Carlos, archers who opened the deer season found themselves on the short end of an odd situation. Apparently the Indians had chosen to open their own season at the same time and pale-face hunters were tramping the

ranges with bows and arrows, while scurrying up and down the reservation roads were numerous pickup trucks full of redmen deer hunters, with rifles pointed in all directions.

MINNESOTA—A new use has been discovered for the Polaroid camera during a recent fire in Minnesota. State forest ranger Bernie Ahlm took pictures of the fire from the air while flying at 1,500 feet and then landed nearby where fire suppression chief Don Wilson was waiting to see the films. Immediately available pictures were a great help to fire crews in planning a drive against the fast moving blaze.

COLORADO OUTDOORS—Metal strips for banding birds are inscribed: "Notify Fish and Wildlife Service, Wash., D. C." It is said they once bore the inscription, "Wash, Biol. Surv.," an abbreviation of "Washington Biological Survey."

This was changed, so the story goes, after a disgusted farmer wrote to his local game and fish department office, "Dear Sirs: I shot one of your crows the other day and followed instructions attached to it. I washed it, bioed it, and served it. It was turrible. You should stop trying to fool people with things like that."

TEXAS—Duck population along the Texas coast showed a definite decrease this year over 1960, in a waterfowl inventory taken by biologists of the Texas Game and Fish Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The inventory along the coast, made November 18-22 inclusive, showed an estimated waterfowl population of 910,899 as compared with 1,463,500 for the same time last year.

The biologists estimated the duck population at 695,514 this year with 859,600 in 1960; the goose population at 188,794 as compared with

437,600 last year, while the coot population estimated was 26,491 as compared with 166,300.

Because of bad weather, considerable area in the Corpus Christi-Lavaca segment had to be omitted.

The survey was made by Charles Stutzenbaker, Game and Fish Commission biologist, with E. B. Chamberlain of the Department of the Interior, flying a Gruman Goose, as pilot observer. All the important waterfowl habitat was covered between the Sabine river and the Rio Grande, with small exceptions, according to the report.

Last year, the heaviest waterfowl concentration was in the area between the Sabine and Galveston Bay. This year, the heaviest con-

centration was in the area between Corpus Christi Bay and the Rio Grande.

The heaviest decrease in species percentage-wise was of the Northern Mallards, where there was a drop of 25,000 birds. The pintail population held steady, as did the Canada Goose. Snows and blues, however, showed a heavy decrease.

MARYLAND—Scientists probing man's newest frontier are calling on nature's most successful holdover from the old frontier for some answers to their problems. Now officially enmeshed with the nuclear age is America's woodlands wizard, the white-tailed deer, possessor of multitudinous plaudits for guile, grace, and gentility, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Thyroid glands from freshly killed Maryland whitetails are being used to measure the fallout of radioactive iodine from Russian testing. The glands are shipped under refrigeration to the State of Washington where they are analyzed by the General Electric Company in a cooperative project involving the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Maryland and the Atomic Energy Commission. The radioactive material, designated Iodine 131, is formed in nuclear blasts, and it arrives over this country with other fallout elements. Deer pick up the iodine while drinking water or eating twigs, grasses and other vegetation. The thyroid gland is a storage point for the iodine in the body.

Deer are not the only animals which collect and store iodine. All mammals, including humans, and fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds do this also. Deer are being used for the study because the Natural Resources Institute scientists already are collecting and studying them for other purposes.

NEW MEXICO—A New Mexico conservation officer stopped to question a hunter whose actions appeared suspicious. During the interview the officer's dog jumped up on the fender of the hunter's pickup truck and set itself in a perfect point, indicating the spare tire. The officer then asked the hunter if he had shot any quail and, confronted by the unmistakable attitude taken by the bird dog, the hunter admitted he had shot one. The spare tire harbored eight game birds, and the thoroughly subdued hunter was hustled off to court.

FROM NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATIONIST MAGAZINE—We have our troubles with deer, but New Zealand's problems begin where ours leave off.

So abundant have deer become in that land that serious erosion results from the nearly complete eat-outs of woodland cover in many areas.

To stem the rising deer tide, the

Note to the Boy with a Christmas Gun

Merry Christmas, young man—and how could it be otherwise with the thrill of finding the dreamed-of "twenty-two" or shiny shotgun under the tree?

You should be especially proud of such a present, for it's evidence that your parents have gained respect for your ability to use good judgment and take good advice. Those are qualities of maturity . . . of manhood, and you must not disappoint them.

For you should know, young friend, that a gun is a gift that requires giving in return. It means surrendering the foolishness which sometimes goes with boyishness, and that is not always easy—especially when in company of other lads your own age.

Today, and for all your tomorrows, you must realize that ownership of a gun is a treasured right, and a weighty responsibility.

You must realize the reasons for the regulations which restrict your use of firearms for yet a while. This is to give you time to show that you've "gotten your growth" in judgment and skill as well as in size and age before you can go it alone.

Safety requires that the parent or guardian accompany a young shooter, in the hope that those adults will help and advise as well as supervise. For them the gift of a gun should only begin with his giving.

In your young hands, lies the future of shooting in this country of yours. You will find, as you grow older, that there are many who would take your gun from you. Some of these are well-meaning people who fail to understand how certainly the right to keep and bear arms is this nation's heritage and strength.

Others, it is certain, are persons who do realize it, and are enemies of freedom.

When you commit some careless or reckless act with your gun you give these people another weapon to use against you and all gunners. Pledge to us that you will never shame the name "sportsman" or "hunter," and we welcome you with pride and understanding.

For I too remember a cold Christmas morning and a tinsel tree . . . and the wonder of my first real gun.—DON L. JOHNSON, *Eau Claire* (Wis.) *Leader*.

New Zealanders have adopted measures that would, in some cases, bring joy to the hearts of our big game hunters, and some others—tears of anguish. On the joy score, one may hunt deer there without a license, any time of year and there is no bag limit. What's more, the government will furnish the ammunition.

But even that hasn't brought about the desired control so—and here's the anguishing note—the government hires professional hunters to help out, and they take as many as 2,000 deer a year.

Big Game

(Continued from page 4)

abundance, food habits, and other needed data. He will report his findings to the game division and work out a system of harvesting and management that will not hurt the deer population, but keep it from multiplying beyond those numbers that the food and cover will support.

Present estimates place the heaviest concentrations of deer in north-eastern Kansas and in the scrub-oak sections along the southeastern border of the state.

The first season for deer in Kansas will probably be restricted to these areas and others with heavy deer populations. The season will probably be short for gunners and moderate for bow hunters.

In any event, deer are increasing fast in both numbers and distribution within Kansas. Barring unforeseen and unlikely reversals in the current trend, Kansas is rapidly heading toward being a big game state.

This article is not a shot in the dark. The course is dimly lit, but matches are being struck to throw more light on the subject. KANSAS FISH AND GAME will keep you informed as each new fact is discovered.

Deer hunting in Kansas is a reality.

Even so, the deer are gaining; the problem worsening. So if you don't mind travelling a few thousand miles for your deer—New Zealand will welcome you.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—According to a feature article in *The Evening Star* (Washington, D. C.) for July 17, about the selection of Captain Virgil I. Grissom for the second American-manned space flight, sport fishing played a role in the Captain's pre-flight preparations. Immediately after their final pre-flight physical examinations, Captain Grissom and his back-up astronaut Colonel Glenn both went fishing in the surf at the Cape Canaveral base in order to relax before the countdown. Although Colonel Glenn found the fish uncooperative (and went off looking for turtles), Captain Grissom hooked a bass in the surf and ate it for breakfast. It is gratifying to know that fishing—the nation's leading form of outdoor recreation—is playing an important part in fitting the nation's astronauts for their unique occupation.

First Step

(Continued from page 7)

Normally only a small part of the actual park areas are used in connection with fishing, camping and picnicking activities. One current idea visualizes that the use areas would be zoned off and hunting would be allowed only on the "excess" land.

Hunting in many areas would be restricted to only some of our game species and would probably be permitted only during part of the year. In most cases, shotguns would probably be the only hunting weapon allowed.

In any event, the change is likely to take place at many of our lakes. Will the state lake in your area be opened to public hunting? We don't know yet. The study is just beginning. However, it is expected that all reclassification that is to take place will be done in the next five years.

With the Cover

While a Kansas snowstorm creates a landscape of great beauty for human eyes, it also creates a crisis for our wildlife.

The snow crushes the grassy cover to the ground and piles drifts over the low-growing fence row cover. It buries food supplies in the fields and frequently coats the standing feed with ice.

Where can wildlife go? What will they eat? The many tracks crossing an open space in a cedar shelter-belt, as in the cover page, attest that the wildlife moves into the heavier cover such as hedge fences, shelter-belts and other thick, sturdy growths.

The many tracks in the open places point out that wildlife is very concentrated at times such as this. Food will probably be scanty,

but adequate for a few days, maybe longer.

However, the same loss of cover which forced the small game animals to the heavy shelter also leads the predators, hawks, owls, coyotes and foxes there. The small game can escape through the tangled undergrowth for a while, but as food supplies run short, the animals weaken and fewer escape the predators. If this snow lasts too long, and the animals are concentrated too long, disease may reach epidemic proportions and kill off many of the animals.

Kansas is fortunate to have as much heavy cover as it does. However, there is room for much more and it would undoubtedly go a long way toward increasing the wildlife population of the state.



National Wildlife Federation Photo

Leave Wildlife In The Wild

Edwin J. Frick, D. V. M.
Kansas State University

Every once in a while someone captures a young skunk, racoon, coyote, rabbit, squirrel or other type of wildlife and proceeds to make a pet of it. Sometimes they succeed for a while and the young wild animal becomes quite a cute, amusing and attractive center of interest to the neighborhood. Usually, however, the wild orphan is not properly fed or it injures itself trying to escape and very often in the process of taming the keeper gets bitten or scratched.

A high percentage of them die after a period of suffering under such unnatural conditions. If the

wild pet should survive to adulthood it is certain to bite anyone who makes a quick move toward it. It's wild instinct for survival demands that it defend itself first and reason afterwards. It may be sorry but it acts first.

When it is grown it becomes a problem and its novelty wears out. Now it assumes a nuisance care under most home conditions. Furthermore it is not trained to cope with nature in the wild and can hardly be turned loose.

With some exceptions, Kansas law declares that no person shall possess any wild animal or wild bird except during legal open season on such species. The exceptions include, a possession period for game legally taken during an

open season; that a person may possess a wild creature if purchased from a licensed game breeder; that some birds, bluejays, crows and sparrows, for instance, may be legally taken and possessed at any time. The law provides for a fine up to \$100 for a first offense.

Skunks and racoons are the principal spreaders of rabies in the middlewest and the fox is the spreader along the east coast. Fleas and ticks on wildlife are also known to spread a number of virus diseases. So let us forget the childish dream of wanting to be a great animal trainer and leave all wildlife, especially the young, where they belong in the wild or else in a zoo. It is better for you and yours and also for our wildlife friends.

FACTS ABOUT HUNTING ... FOR SURE

FROM THE PRIMGHAR BELL

Reprinted in The Iowa Conservationist

Once upon a time there was an expert hunter. He read all the outdoor magazines, listened to the sages around the barber shop, compared notes with other experts (so classified if they agreed with him) and was top gun in the local weed patches. That hunter was me and it was some time ago and I'm no longer an expert. A quarter-century afield has made me discard most of the things I've read and heard about hunting . . . but what I do know is for SURE.

This store of outdoor wisdom, gathered over twenty-five years of boondocking and chore-dodging, falls into four broad categories:

PEOPLE: (1) A hunting partner usually oversleeps. (2) A wife sleeps deepest when her duck hunter wants his breakfast. (3) The guys in the next blind are game hogs. (4) If you wonder where to hunt, ask a barber. (5) Blessed be the camp cook, the wife who cleans game and the partner with two candy bars.

EQUIPMENT: (1) Hip boots leak only in cold water. (2) A knife can't be too sharp. (3) When matches are fewest firewood is wettest. (4) For a drippy nose, a wool glove beats any bandanna. (5) Never be the only man in the party with a game pocket in his coat.

CRITTERS: (1) Foxes are not fit to eat. (2) While a duck is still coming at you, shut up. (3) Squirrels can't lie still for over 20 minutes. I can't sit still for over 19. (4) Geese aren't smart; they're just smarter than most hunters.

OTHER THINGS: (1) Fences are always two inches higher than my legs. (2) Your shot was lucky; mine was skillful. (3) Bird dogs are optimists; pheasants are pessimists. (4) There is no greater faith than a small boy's defense of his birdless dad. (5) The last hills are the highest.

These are the only hunting facts that I'm dead sure of, for I've never seen exceptions to them. There's lots of stuff I'm half-sure of. It seems fairly certain that wives save up the year's odd jobs for hunting season and that small boys like to carry rabbits or empty shotgun shells just as much as they ever did.

PRINTED BY
JEAN M. NEIBARGER, STATE PRINTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS

1962



29-1987