

KANSAS FISH & GAME



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KANSAS FISH & GAME



November-December, 1973

Vol. 30, No. 6

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COVER PHOTOS

Front cover—Doe mule deer in heavy cover. Ektachrome transparency by Ken Stiebben.

Back cover—Winter snow scene. Ektachrome transparency by Ken Stiebben.

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POLICY STATEMENT

One item of business at a recent meeting of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has slipped public attention, yet it may be one of the most important actions taken by the commission in a long time.

The item, adoption of an official statement strongly supporting private ownership of firearms and sport hunting, was unanimously approved by the five-man board of commissioners.

Drafted by the commission's game division, the statement is a strong, sound one declaring that the topics of sport hunting and firearms ownership "are closely related to management of wildlife and cannot be separated."

For the hunter the statement is one of praise since "the hunter, through payment of license fees, special permits, and excise taxes on sporting firearms and ammunition, pays for virtually all wildlife management in the United States. Such management is not limited to those game species he actively pursues but extends as well to the numerous species appreciated simply for their aesthetic values."

To those who oppose hunting, the statement also tells it like it is. "The anti-hunting advocates contribute little, if anything, to the active management of the resources for which they profess to have concern."

While hunting long has been regarded as an important tool of game management, it has become increasingly apparent that with gun control, sport hunters may eventually lose this tool. When this happens, wildlife management as we know it today will fall by the wayside.

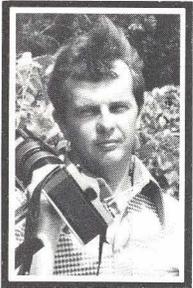
For this reason, the KANSAS FISH & GAME magazine staff has included the entire position statement in this issue's centerfold news release insert. We hope every sportsman will read this statement and actively lend their support to the commission's action.

As the statement says, "The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission is of the opinion that private ownership of firearms is essential to successful attainment of obligations for management of the state's wildlife resources and that further restrictions on legitimate ownership and use are unwarranted."—LEROY E. LYON.

Bowhunting for Beginners

By Ken Stiebben
Staff Photographer

AS MY FEET hit the cold floor I realize the first breath of winter has pushed it's way down from the north country. I awaken Bob and while dressing, we discuss the wind direction and the best way to approach our tree stands.



Stiebben

Bob Larsen is an insurance man from Manhattan. He's been a good friend and bowhunting companion for the last three seasons. Bob took a nice deer two years back while I have yet to score. Last year we saw plenty of deer, but they were out of range or protected by timber. When you hunt with a stick and a string there is no margin for error.

While dressing, my thoughts race back to the past two seasons. I hope our luck will change.

Or is it luck?

I mentally chastise myself for all the past mistakes. This year we feel we have done everything right. We are hunting in 150 acres of timbered area next to the Arkansas River. Sand hills and plum thickets are scattered throughout and the area is bordered by alfalfa and wheat.

We have scouted this area well and have built two tree stands near fresh deer trails. Deer signs—droppings, a fresh scrape and bed grounds, surround our blinds. Our hunting tackle is well tuned and matched, broadheads honed razor sharp.

So this morning, optimism hangs heavy in the air. After breakfast, while driving to the timber, we both comment about that special feeling of knowing we'll see whitetail. And maybe, just maybe, one of us will get that clean shot we have searched so hard for these past seasons.

I park the car in the farmers yard and know he's not concerned. We have made friends with this good man many years ago, and he'll probably just roll over in his bed mumbling something about those crazy bow-hunters. It's still a good hour before any kind of light and we have a short hike to the timber. The tree line looms out of the darkness. Bob stops to whisper a farewell and good hunting.

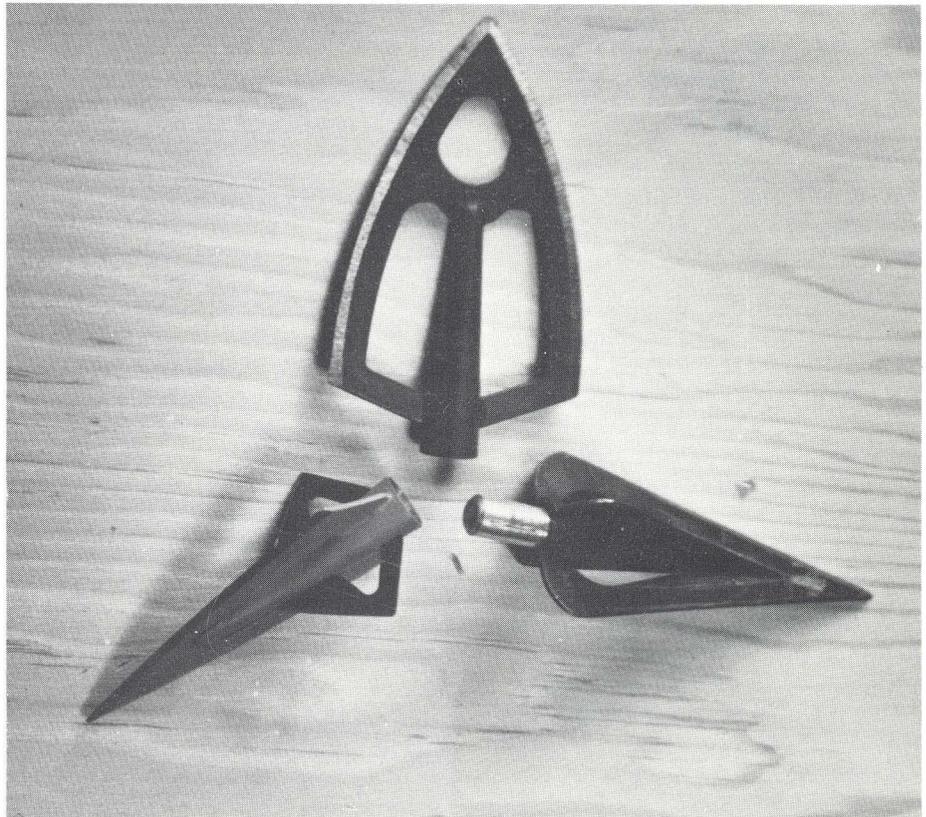
Even though our tree stands are less than 100 yards apart we must each

approach from different directions. Only two or three steps into the timber Bob is lost from my sight and hearing. I know I won't hear from him again unless he shoots a deer or it is time to call it quits. We take our bow hunting seriously.

We allow plenty of time to approach our tree stands. In the past years we have hurried directly to the blind only to find out later we had spooked deer ahead of us. So, from this point on even though it's still quite dark, the hunt actually begins. My hands and face feel the sting of this cold October morning. I must suppress the urge to hurry.

Slowly I approach the blind. The coyotes are active and their distant mournful howls seem to surround me. At the base of the tree I attach a small cord to my bow and arrows then lay them flat on the ground. After climbing into the blind I draw the hunting gear up to me. Mentally I question whether I have allowed enough time for the breeze to wash my ground scent from the ever searching nose of the whitetail.

Beginning archers should make sure they buy a high quality steel broadhead.



Photos by Ken Stiebben



Pre-season preparation, like scouting for deer trails, can pay off once the season begins.

They should be moving soon and now there's nothing to do but wait.

The faint glow of eastern light slowly gives way to streaks of magenta and gold. The wildlife world awakens with morning light. The sound of small claws on bark tells me a squirrel is nearby. A sudden burst of wings overhead and various species of bird life begin their day's search for food. In the distance a bob-white favors me with a whistle. For the bow hunter this is a special time of day. I know the whitetail are moving and all it takes now is some luck.

Famed bow hunter Fred Bear once said, "When looking for deer, never look for the whole animal. Instead learn to look for small movements. The flick of a tail or ear. An outline of rump or head."

I once spotted a deer when it blinked. I was checking plum thickets and was looking right at its head but it blended so well with the surroundings that it took that small movement to draw my attention.

This morning however it's different. In a small clearing where a minute ago there was nothing now stands a whitetail doe. She's 30 yards out

moving down the trail toward me. The morning light has not yet penetrated the heavy timber and she looks almost grey. Her nostrils flare emitting ghost-like vapor as she tests the air. As she works her way slowly down the trail, I adjust my position to meet her.

My tree blind is situated so that I must let her walk past me to present the right angle. She is ten yards away as I pull my Red Wing hunter back to full draw and anchor in. I remember to pick my spot. Don't shoot at the whole deer.

She stops to check her back trail and I release the shaft. The arrow flies true. As the deer wheels away from the sound of the bow I see feathers disappear just above the heart and know the deer is finished. She takes two or three jumps into the brush and is lost from my sight. But I am confident she is mortally wounded and cannot be far.

I sit down to calm my shaky nerves and congratulate myself for waiting for that close clean shot. I waited only about 15 minutes before trailing this deer because I'm positive of that shot. I find the arrow beside the

trail, it has passed completely through the deer. The 44 pound hunting bow had done its work well. Not 20 yards away lies the deer. It's still hard to believe, my first deer and I've taken it with a stick and a string. I can't wait to tell Bob so I started a slow stalk towards his blind. I whistle a low bob-white call—no answer. Thinking there may still be deer in the area, I decide to get back to the business of field dressing the deer.

Thirty minutes later and the job nearly complete, I hear a low whistle and answer back. Shortly Bob steps out of the timber with a big grin on his face. I can't believe what he is telling me. He too has scored—an eight point buck has fallen to his bow. We finished my deer then found Bob's about 60 yards from his blind. He had a nice shot right through the lungs.

We couldn't believe our fantastic luck. After three years of hunting we both score on the same day ending three years of the most frustrating yet rewarding years of hunting anyone could hope to have.

Stories such as mine or Bob's can be heard with small variations wherever archers gather; after shooting a state tournament or during a practice round on your own club's course. As the light grows dim on a long summer evening, archers gather round to discuss a new bow, a new release or perhaps a new broadhead.

Invariably the talk will get around to last season's deer hunt. I count myself as one of the fortunate few who have had the pleasure to hunt the whitetail deer in a primitive fashion. To be able to sit back and listen to other bow hunters relate their tales of a successful hunt or a near miss is pure pleasure. To hear a bow hunter's voice grow soft with admiration in describing the movements of an approaching whitetail makes a man want to hunker down by the fire and listen till the early hours of morning.

This then is what bow hunting is all about. The quality of the hunt is most important. The whitetail is too beautiful an animal to spoil with a crippling shot. So if you plan to hunt with a primitive weapon, learn to use it properly!

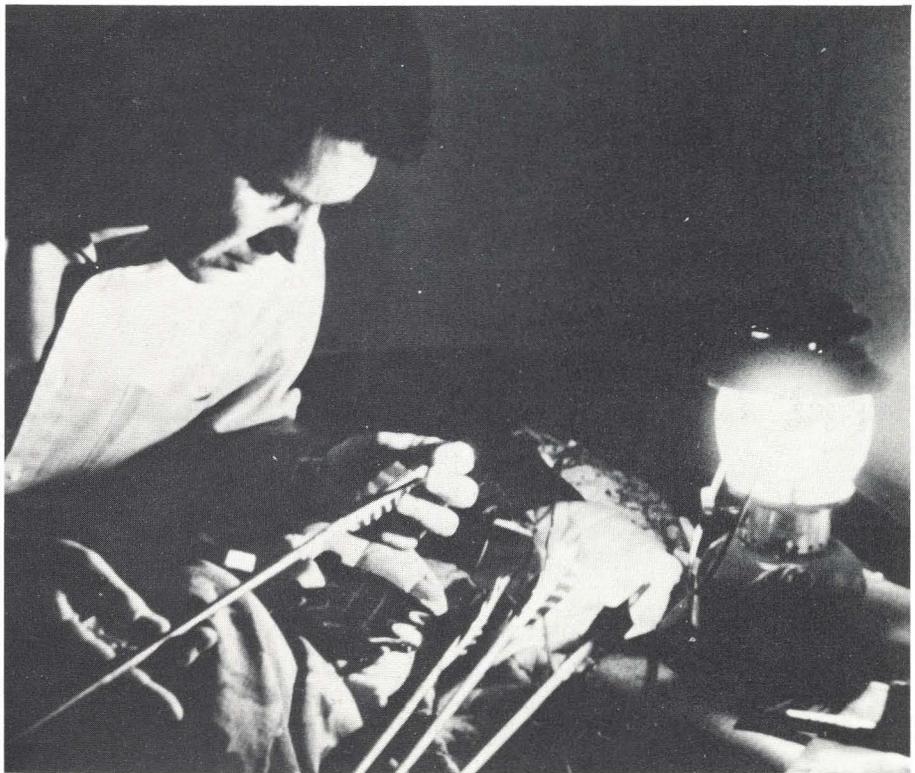
Every archery club in the state will have a few members who are successful bow hunters. Seek their advice before you buy that bow. Note boxed enclosure of a list of all clubs throughout the state. Pay a visit to some of the club ranges.

There are many methods these proven hunters use that the beginning archer will find useful. Terms like anchor point, shooting the gap method, point on, walking the string and cocking point.

What do they mean?

Find out for yourself before you take on whitetail. Remember you're going to meet this deer in his own backyard, you're the intruder here and he will spot you nine times out of ten. The most common error most beginners make is buying a bow that is much too heavy for them.

You should hunt with as heavy a bow as you can properly handle. For most beginners recommended bow weights are from 40 to 45 pounds. Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission records show these weights



It's important to check all your archery equipment carefully prior to the hunt.

The author, left, and hunting companion Bob Larsen of Manhattan with Larsen's buck.



to be the most popular among deer hunters. If however, you consider yourself to be above average strength and size you may want to try a heavier bow. A good test is to draw the bow back to full draw and see how long you can hold it without shaking. If you can't hold the bow more than ten or 15 seconds you should try a bow two or three pounds lighter.

ARROWS

Three types of arrows are wood, aluminum and fiberglass. Wood arrows are usually the least expensive but are subject to change with weather. They will warp and sometimes splinter when shooting. Aluminum arrows are supposed to be very fast and usually adapt to various broadheads quite well. But if you slap a tree with this arrow you may have a flat spot and at very best some straightening to do. Fiberglass arrows are heavier and thereby give better penetration. Also I've found they take more abuse than wood or aluminum.

As a beginning archer, consider a good quality fiberglass arrow.

Probably the most important piece of equipment you buy will be the hunting point or broadhead for your arrows. There are many varied types of broadheads but only three or four worth taking to the field. Here in Kansas, many hunters use the Bear Razorhead. I have seen some of Pearson's Deadhead in the field and Herter's offers some fine broadheads.

One of the most interesting I have seen is the Wasp. It has a heavy steel point and three razor inserts. No worry about sharp broadheads, just change razor inserts and that heavy steel point was made for busting through bone. Let me caution you on two items. The long needle nose broadheads are of no value. In fact, they do more harm than good. That long point will often curl back on impact with bone thereby losing penetration and wounding a fine animal.

Make sure when buying that broadhead that you are in fact buying a high quality steel point. Many less expensive broadheads are found upon close inspection to be plastic or of plastic construction.

QUIVER

A good quiver is essential. There are three things to think about when buying that quiver. It should give quick access to the arrows with a minimum of movement. Secondly, it should be quiet. Most importantly it should offer a protective cover for those razor sharp broadheads.

More and more bow hunters are using a good quality bow-quiver. This accessory attaches to the side of the bow and should solve most of your problems. Another added feature of a bow-quiver is that it can be used to conceal the human outline. If you plan to use this type equipment, remember to practice shooting with the quiver on the bow. Your bow will react differently with the attachment and arrows on it.

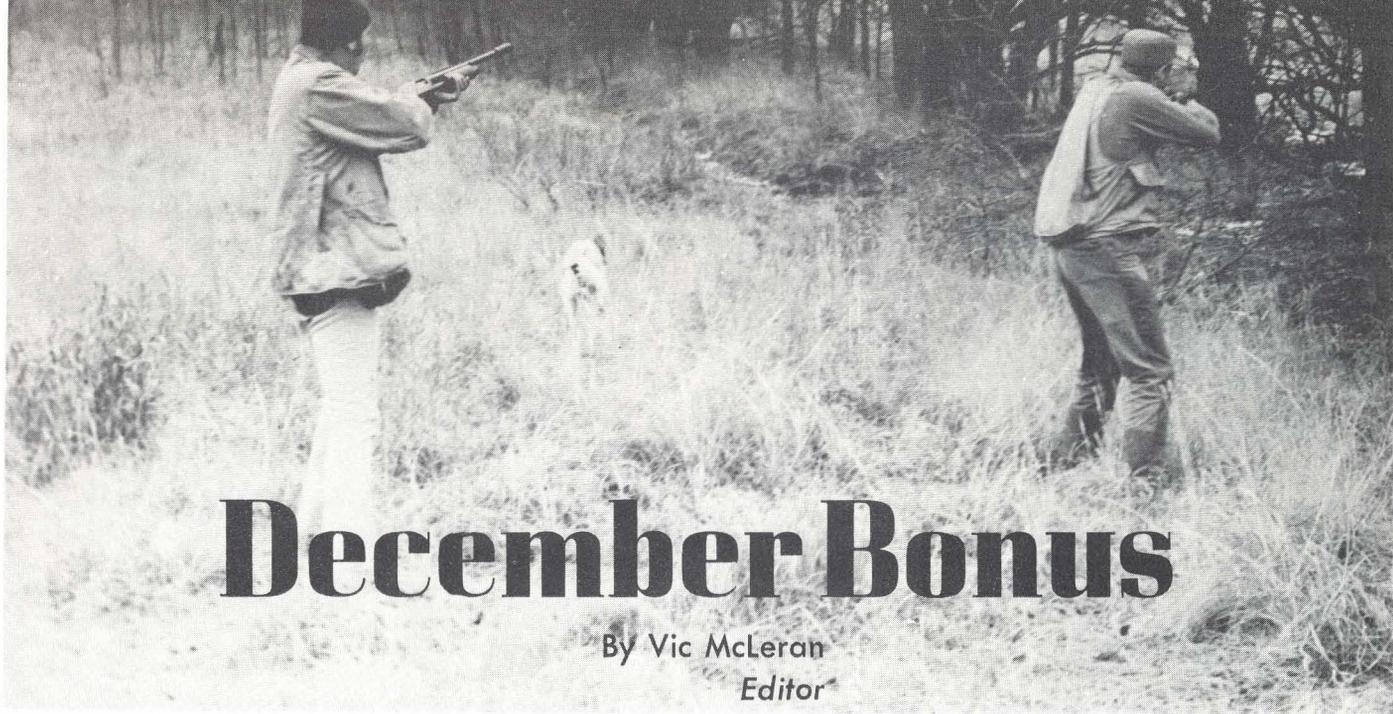
Each successful bow hunter has his own method, and can offer some helpful hints that will enable you, the beginner, to better enjoy your first years in the field. Seek sound advise from these experienced archers. Be patient

and wait for that close, clean shot. Leave those 50 yard shots for Robin Hood.

Norman Strung, author and hunting guide, pretty much says it all with this

statement. "To hunt deer, you must first learn to move with the rhythm of nature, not of man. Therein lies the challenge, and a good deal of the worth, of deer hunting."

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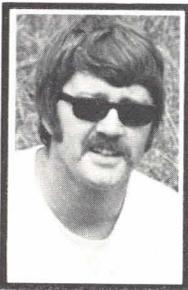


December Bonus

By Vic McLeran
Editor

"PIG STAND," said a cheery voice at the other end of the line. "Hey Bub, are there any quail left down there in your part of the country?"

Bub allowed as how there might still be some quail in Montgomery County.



McLeran

schoolchildren read this magazine.

But he did assure me his dogs could find some birds. Bub Angleton runs a pleasant little place on the east side of Coffeyville called the Pig Stand. He specializes in cold beer and some of the tastiest barbecue sandwiches in the state. Bub also does a little quail shootin' on the side.

I told him I'd be down in a day or so to see what the late season quail hunting was like. It was the last week in a raw December and I knew most of the fair-weather quail hunters had racked their shotguns for the season.

The mercury had dropped to 11 degrees above zero a couple mornings later when I pulled up at Bub's place. With me was Stanton Eli, a foreman at Funk Manufacturing Co. and an avid quail hunter.

We found Bub busy loading two English setters and a lean little pointer bitch in his pickup. "Little chilly this morning boys," Bub volunteered, tossing a couple boxes of No. 8's in the cab. Eli muttered something about anti-freeze. I just shivered.

"Let's run down the street and get some breakfast," Bub suggested. "Give those birds a little time to thaw out and move around some."

While we were waiting for bacon and eggs at the cafe, Angleton talked about our chances of finding birds. "No problem," he said optimistically. "With a little luck we should limit out by early afternoon." Glancing out the window at scudding gray clouds full of snow, I wished I could share his optimism. "Besides," I thought darkly, "the guy has never seen me shoot."

After breakfast and coffee, we headed out of town in a northeasterly direction. "There's a couple places up here where I think we can get into some birds," Bub said. "Most of this season has been rainy or snowy and I don't think the birds have been hunted too heavily. And now with this drop in the temperature, I doubt if we'll see many hunters. May even have it to ourselves," he added.

This situation holds true for the majority of bird hunters—the nastier and colder the weather becomes, the fewer hunters you see afield. This is especially true late in the season when, in addition to the colder weather, birds are wary and harder to find than they were earlier. It's the old law of diminishing returns in effect—the more difficult quail become to locate, the fewer hunters you find who are willing to put in the time and effort required to bag the birds. But for the minority of dyed-in-the-wool quail hunters, there's still some excellent though difficult shooting to be found late in the season.

About 20 minutes later, we pulled off the county blacktop and onto a lightly traveled farm lane bordered on both sides by an osage orange hedgerow. "This is it," Bub said, pointing to an adjacent milo field which was flanked on one side by multiflora rose and blackberry thickets on the other.

Shivering in the early morning cold, Eli and I shucked No. 8's into our shotguns as Angleton turned out the dogs. The little pointer bitch started out fast, quartering one end of the milo while the setters fanned out

Christmas isn't the only nice thing about December—the quail hunting is often then at its best.

slightly behind and to one side of her, tails waving frantically and noses to the ground.

"The birds'll be lying tight in this cold weather," Bub said as we moved into the milo stubble. "Dogs might have a little trouble in this cold but they should find some birds as it warms up a little." The pointer was out a little too far to suit Bub so he whistled her back in closer.

We got action sooner than we'd expected.

On the far side of the field one of the setters was nosing around excitedly at the edge of a large brush pile which was overgrown with blackberry brambles. "The setter's gettin' birdy Bub," Eli hollered. About that time the setter locked down on a beautiful point, one leg tucked, head slightly turned and tail up in a rigid curve. The other setter and the pointer edged in behind, then stopped, honoring the first dog beautifully.

We fanned out and eased in behind the setter, positioning ourselves so at least one of us would get a shot no matter which way the covey flew.

"Whoa, steady now," Angleton cautioned the quivering setter.

Suddenly the air was full of brown feathers and noise.

If I live to be 100, I don't guess I'll ever become thoroughly accustomed to the early-morning explosion of that first covey rise. The buzzing, whirring noise, the adrenalin, the sound of shot-guns and the smell of burnt powder—it's all there in the day's first covey

Winter mortality claims a number of quail annually, like the frozen bird shown here.



Bub Angleton's pointer and bob-tailed setter lock down on a covey of quail.

rise. And for me at least, there's often that sinking feeling and the realization that, "I did it again, tried to shoot the whole covey instead of concentrating on a single bird."

This covey was no exception.

And as Angleton and Eli walked out to help the dogs find their birds, (Bub got two and Stan dropped one) I just stood there shoving more shells into the Browning and talkin' ugly.

"What happened, they surprise you?" Stan asked, trying to be cute. I just glared at him.

"Man, that was a nice-sized covey," Bub said, stuffing quail into his game bag. "How many birds did you get?"

I glared at him too.

I've noticed this more or less natural phenomenon which occurs among hunters, especially when one of them is having a bad day. After several misses, a guy has to say something to salvage the old pride. That's when the excuses start to fly.

For instance, I blamed that particular miss on poor reflexes caused by some Scotch snakebite medicine Eli had forced on me the night before. I'd tried to tell Eli there weren't any snakes out in December but he allowed as how a man couldn't be too careful. "Besides," he'd said, "it's

good for colds too." So, after considerable deliberation and a discussion of about 14 seconds, I agreed—and kept agreeing till the wee hours. As a result, my shooting was a little shaky that morning. In fact, it was a little shaky the whole day!

Then too, it's always been my misfortune to hunt with what I call natural wing shots. These are guys with exceptional speed, reflexes and coordination. Guys like this drop quail so quickly you swear they're shooting from the hip. They're the type who go to the skeet range and break 25 straight—the first time out. Angleton, for instance, used to box a little and still keeps himself in shape. The guy's got reflexes of a teenager. And Eli, he used to play a little golf. In fact, he played so well he was Coffeyville's four-ball champ three years running.

The average quail shot like me just doesn't have any business hunting with these guys. Like, I said, a few misses and the excuses really pop out.

"I saw where several of those birds went down," Bub said. "Let's try and pick up some singles."

With the dogs up ahead working through edge cover, we moved in behind. Rounding a small break in thick sumac cover, we found the little



pointer bitch locked down in a quivering point. Easing in to flush what we thought was a single, we got a pleasant surprise—another large covey of 15 birds or so rocketed up from the brush.

For me, it was an instant replay.

“You’d probably have taken more birds with your camera,” Eli said, leering vulgarly as he took a quail from one of the soft-mouthed setters. Angleton chuckled at Eli’s humor. “Don’t be too hard on him Stan, not everybody can hit these quail like you and I.”

I told Bub I really appreciated that.

Later, as we began kicking up singles, I got lucky and finally rolled a couple of birds. Nothing spectacular but it was a pleasant relief from the earlier trend.

About 10:00 we took a break for coffee. Bub broke the ice in a small creek and let the dogs water. Sitting there drinking coffee and talking, I noticed a beautiful cock quail about six feet away—frozen stiff.

“Winter mortality,” I said, picking up the frozen bird.

“Hey look Bub, he finally got one,” Eli chuckled, pleased at his wit. Ig-

noring the creep’s feeble attempt at humor, I thought about how many other quail perished this way each winter.

Survival of the fittest—it’s nature’s way of insuring that only the hardiest quail survive to breed the following spring. You can’t really argue with the principle but still, it seems like sort of a waste.

“If more guys hunted the late season, chances are somebody would have harvested this bird,” I said. “That way he wouldn’t have been wasted.”

“That’s true,” Bub agreed, “but most hunters won’t get out on a day as nasty as this. And you’re not gonna’ kill any quail in front of that TV. Today for instance, have you seen any other hunters, heard any shots?”

He was right. We had it to ourselves. And as the day wore on, and the weather got worse, I could understand why. A raw cutting wind had shifted to the northeast spitting traces of snow as it whipped down through the gulleys and across the fields. For an hour or so the hunting remained constant but my shooting was like the weather—it got worse!



Eli’s cocky grin indicates he just dropped two birds on a covey rise while the author went 0 for 3.

After some particularly fancy dog work by Angleton’s pointer, I told Bub if he ever wanted to sell the little pointer bitch, I’d sure like a chance at her.

“Vic I wouldn’t even give you that dog, let alone sell her to you,” he said.

“Why not?” I asked, knowing I shouldn’t have.

“Because she’d get frustrated with you shooting over her all day,” he replied. “A man’s got to hit a bird every now and then to keep the dogs happy.”

I just kept walking.

By mid-afternoon, we decided to call it quits. Walking back to the truck with a nice mess of quail and some tired bird dogs in tow, we talked about the day’s hunt.

“We saw nearly a hundred quail today,” I said, finding it hard to believe the birds were still that plentiful.

“Yeah, and a lot of hunters won’t believe that,” Stan said.

“Well, they’re sure missing some bonus shooting by not hunting this late,” Bub said. “Why, I even know some guys who can’t hit quail and they still enjoy the late season,” he said, looking my way.

I had to agree.

Even with all the verbal abuse, this late season quail hunting was still a real bonus.

Stanton Eli and Bub Angleton, both of Coffeyville, pause during a late season quail hunt.



Photos by Vic McLeran

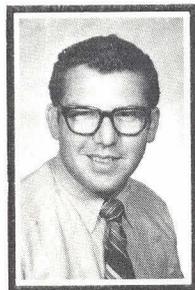
The Reloading Game

By Farrell Brewer
Staff Writer

KANSAS SPORTSMEN have before them one of the most liberal hunting seasons in modern times. The question facing many though is "how can I afford the ammunition for this liberal

season"? This is a question a lot of shotgunners would like answered. So what's the answer?

Should a shooter cut down on hunting or give up practice completely? One practical answer to the cost problem is to



Brewer

reload your shells. Reloading is simply the safe, easy and uncomplicated procedure of replacing the expended components of a shotshell. These are the primer, powder, wads and shot. The empty shell casing most people throw away after each shot represents nearly half the cost of a new shell.

A paper case can be fired and reloaded about four or five times. Compression formed plastic cases can be safely reloaded 15 or 20 times.

Today, thousands of shotgun owners, from hunters to national trap and skeet champions, shoot reloaded shotshells.

Equipment too costly you say? Not at all! Modern presses to reload any gauge start near \$25.00 and hand loaders start around \$6.00. Over a period of time the savings mount up and the reloading equipment will pay for itself many times.

Reloading shotshells with modern equipment is a safe operation when carried out in accordance with accepted practices. Ignition and propellant components (live primers and powders) are quite stable. They withstand any ordinary handling and can be stored in suitable locations for comparatively long periods of time. There

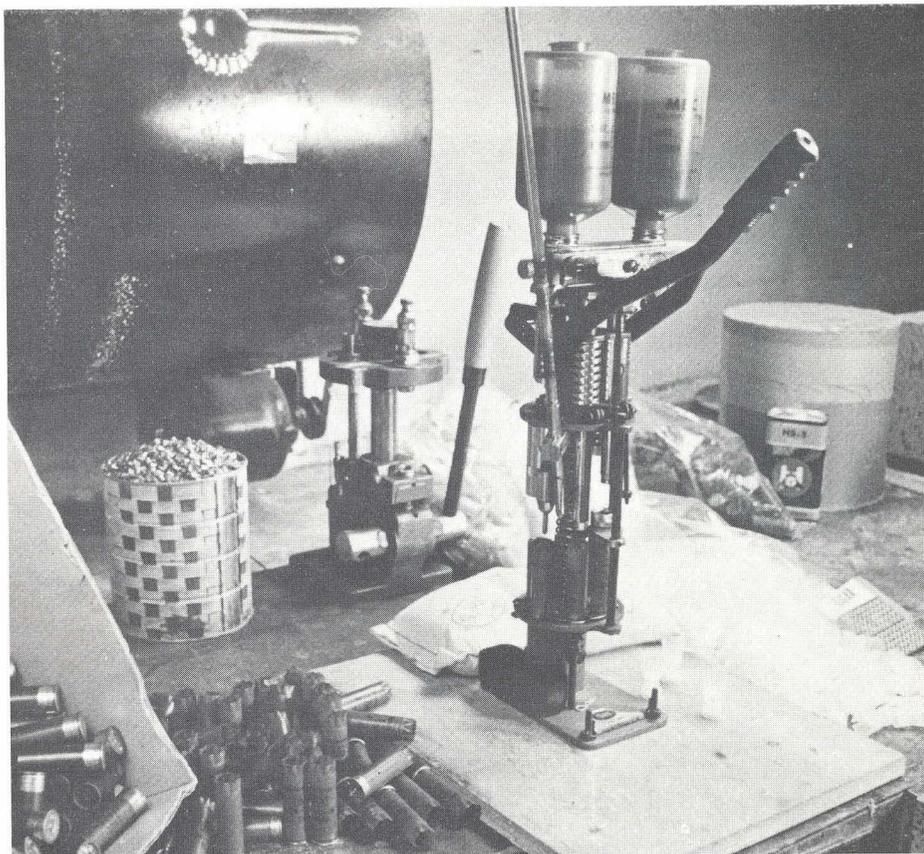
are of course, precautions which should be observed. For example, never store live primers and powders where they can be reached by children or found by those not acquainted with the possible hazards of careless handling. A safety precaution would be to lock up these reloading components. Don't store components where they may be subjected to wide variations in temperature and humidity. Keep live primers in a sealed container. Keep powder containers tightly closed.

In general, shotshell loaders come in three types. The first type consists of a number of separate parts which

are used manually to deprime, re-prime, and resize the shell, insert wads, recharge with powder and shot and crimp the open end. Such a kit may be the choice of the person who reloads perhaps 25 or 100 shells for the bird season or occasional rounds of trap. Used carefully it will produce uniform loadings in both paper and plastic shells. This kit is on the lower end of the price range in loading tools. While it is the most economical to load with this type of tool it is time consuming and it is easier to make mistakes. Follow the manufacturers recommendations to the "T".

The single stage reloading press is

Before selecting your reloading equipment, it's best to talk with someone knowledgeable about reloading.



Photos by Ken Stiebben

Fish and Game

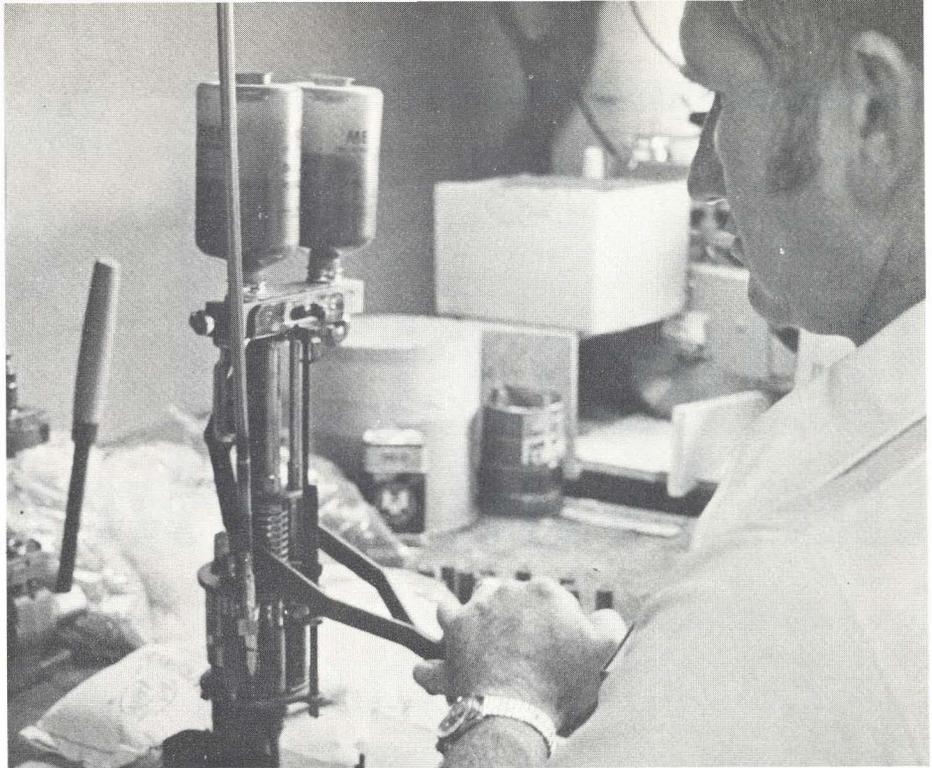
similar to small arbor press. It has a stationary stage, or platen, on which a single shell is placed at several stations for depriming, resizing, etc. This type of a loader usually comes with shot and powder containers, or hoppers, and is fitted with either a manually or automatically operated charging bar which measures and drops given amounts of powder and shot.

This semi-automatic reloading press automates many of the hand operations required with the two types just described, and is popular with gun clubs and many individuals who reload shotshells in quantity. Such a press requires close attention to the loading sequence as it has a carrier taking as many as six or more shells in progressive stages of loading from deprime to the final crimp. On some loaders of this type the shell carrier is advanced automatically at each stroke of the actuating lever. On others it is operated manually. Usually the charging bar is automatically shifted and on some units the live primers are fed automatically from a magazine. Some units are fitted with powder and shot dispensing drums having interchangeable measuring sleeves or bushings.

From this thumbnail sketch of loading equipment you should be able to picture which tool would best suit your needs. Before you select a reloading tool it would be advisable to discuss it with a friend knowledgeable in the reloading field. If this is not possible, sporting goods stores that handle reloading equipment usually have someone who is an expert in the field to assist the novice in the selection of equipment.

As noted earlier in the article, paper shell cases are not capable of being reloaded as many times as the compression formed plastic shells. This can be a major factor in determining how much you can save by reloading. If you are going to be replacing cases more often, the savings will not be as great.

There are several aids you can build yourself to help in the reloading process. One is a shell holder, simply take a block of wood and drill holes in it $\frac{5}{16}$ " deep, equally spaced to ac-



Reloading shot shells with modern equipment is a safe operation when carried out in accordance with accepted practices.

commodate a dowel rod that will slip into the shotshell you are reloading. This will make a good tool for holding empty shells. A board to hold live primers can be made very simply by drilling $\frac{5}{16}$ " holes $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep to accommodate the primers.

Another essential is a clean working area for reloading operations. Clean all unnecessary items from the area and arrange components in an orderly fashion in the work area.

The actual reloading procedure merely requires following a few simple hand movements. Take it slowly at first to avoid missing any item, or performing any steps out of sequence. Follow implicitly the instructions furnished with your equipment. If the charging bar on your loader is manually operated, manipulate it properly, using a positive, fairly fast hand movement—not a quick, hard snap or a slow, jerky motion. Unduly slow shifting of the bar can result in slightly heavier than normal charges of both powder and shot, a quick snap may result in lighter, less uniform charging.

Always swing the actuating lever through the full stroke, all the way down and all the way back to the stops at both points. Don't release the lever at the end of the down stroke, then permit it to snap back to

the up position. This can agitate the powder in the container excessively and may result in appreciably heavier charges being thrown by the loading bar. If you accidentally spill or drop powder or shot when loading, some may find its way into the mechanism of the loader. Stop everything and do a thorough clean up, paying particular attention to any shot pellets that may have worked under the shell carrier or dropped into the reprimer. A shot pellet or any other small, hard object in the reprimer may fire a live primer. A remote possibility perhaps, but a precaution to be kept in mind. Never try to seat a live primer by any means other than that provided by the loader's reprimer. And don't for any reason punch out live primers with the loader deprimer, with a nail pin-punch or other tool. This could also detonate the primer. A good rule of thumb is to inspect each shell when it is finished to see if it is of the quality you want to shoot in your gun.

Remember modern loading equipment and components are safe when they are used safely. Above all never smoke during the reloading process. If you are loading several boxes of shells it is recommended that you take a break during the process, this will help you remain alert and load good shells.

Return of the Wild Turkey

By Vic McLeran
Editor

It's A LONG WAY from the sprawling King Ranch in Texas to the sandy riverbottoms of southern Kansas, but the Rio Grande wild turkey made the trip in good shape. And since he's been here, the turkey has established himself so well that Kansas once again has a big game bird.

Although the eastern wild turkey was once a resident of parts of Kansas, the birds have been extinct here for years. The Rio Grande was probably never common in the state.

The wild turkey's success story in Kansas started back in the late 1950's. At that time the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation was involved in an intensive wild turkey program aimed at establishing the birds throughout much of their state. They had succeeded in building up a large flock just south of the Kansas-Oklahoma line near Arkansas City.

Then, in 1958, Oklahoma's wild turkeys developed wanderlust. For one reason or another, they drifted north across the Kansas border and set up housekeeping along the Arkansas River. About this time several Kansas game protectors had an idea. Why not trap some of the "Oklahoma" turkeys and transplant them to other areas across Kansas in hopes of establishing a resident population?

So the game protectors borrowed a net from Oklahoma game biologists and trapped 26 wild turkeys. The birds were then crated and shipped to several release sites across the state.

The results of this first transplanting effort weren't too productive. Rio Grande turkeys do best in areas which have an annual rainfall of 20-30 inches. This means much of Kansas is too wet to provide good Rio Grande habitat. Birds transplanted to eastern Kansas didn't do very well in the humid areas.

Not much else was done with our

were begun during the winter of 1963-64.

Winter, for a wild turkey biologist, is a busy time of year. Since the birds are then in large winter flocks and the food supply is often then at its lowest, the turkeys are easiest to trap during this period. They're drawn into an area by baiting the site with grain. Once the birds become accustomed to feeding in this locale, blinds and nets are set up.

In early trapping efforts, biologists used cannon nets which were hurled over the feeding birds by explosives.

Landowner cooperation coupled with progressive game management practices are responsible for the return of this magnificent game bird.

immigrant turkeys until 1962, when the Kansas flock near Arkansas City numbered about 150. The Commission then formally initiated a turkey program designed to increase the birds' numbers to a point where a hunting season could be established. Bill Peabody, a game biologist, was hired to design and spearhead the new program. Under Peabody's direction, trapping and transplanting activities

During later stages of the program however, electronically-triggered drop nets were used. Trapping efforts that winter were fairly successful and a number of birds were trapped and transplanted to new locations. The next year, authorities from the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission entered negotiations with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in an attempt to obtain additional Rio

KANSAS FISH & GAME

NEWS

P.O. BOX 1028
PRATT, KANSAS 67124



EDITORS NOTE: The following news items have been condensed from the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission's weekly news release. Compiled by the Information-Education Division the release is mailed to news media throughout the state. In coming months, we'll select items of interest for inclusion in this news insert.

News contact: Ross Harrison

Phone— 316/672-6473

RELEASE _____

TURKEY APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE OCT. 29.

PRATT--Kansans who want to apply for a turkey permit for the April, 1974 season should write to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission after Oct. 29.

Commission officials said persons seeking an application for a turkey permit should send a request addressed: Turkey Permit, Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas 67124.

After receiving their application potential hunters will have to Dec. 14 to return their completed applications to the Commission. A drawing will be conducted Jan. 8 to determine the 400 successful applicants.

####

KANSANS LOOK TO DEER AS MEAT REPLACEMENT

PRATT--Meat prices may have been a prime factor in encouraging an almost 30 per cent increase in the number of Kansans seeking deer hunting permits for seasons this fall.

Darlene Ellings, deer permit clerk of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, said the cutoff date for deer permit applications is about two weeks past and that about 21,100 persons have put in their applications.

About 17,000 of the applications are for firearm deer hunting permits, but biologists set a quota of about 9,000 to be available. Last year there were 13,000 applications for firearm permits with about 8,000 permits allowed by biologists.

A public drawing will be conducted Aug. 14 at FF&G Commission headquarters, Pratt, to determine the lucky 9,000 permit getters for the Dec. 1 through Dec. 9 firearms season.

Archery permit seekers this year totaled 5,400 where only 4,100 sought archery deer hunting permits last year. Archery permits are not limited like firearms, due to the low success rate of bow and arrow hunters.

Big game biologist Bill Peabody, Emporia, said gas shortages in some mountain states where many Kansans traditionally hunt elk, antelope and deer may be one factor encouraging more of them to stay home and hunt. Also, some mountain states have raised permit costs, making the \$10 Kansas fee more attractive.

####

POACHING INCREASES: COMMISSION REQUESTS HELP

PRATT--An urgent appeal for assistance by citizens of Kansas to help halt the rapid increase in poaching of game was voiced today by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

"With the hunting seasons still ahead of us, 1973 has already been a nightmarish year for poaching and unless 1974 sees an easing of skyrocketing meat prices, the situation will probably get worse," said Fred Warders, Pratt assistant director of the commission.

According to Warders, game protectors throughout the state report that the poaching problem is leaping to mammoth proportions. Last week five field-dressed deer were found in a field near Baxter Springs and near Chetopa three more deer carcasses were found. Similar incidents are occurring elsewhere and will probably happen in nearly every section of the state before spring unless citizens become more involved in attempts to halt illegal activities.

It has been conservatively estimated by game biologists and district game protectors alike that for every deer taken legally, there may be two or more killed illegally. Such high numbers of illegal kills pose a severe threat to the state's deer herd since hunting seasons are set to allow only a controlled harvest of surplus animals without jeopardizing the resource.

"Throughout the state our men are putting in 14 to 16 hours per day trying to get on top of the poaching problem but to date they have had little cooperation from landowners, sportsmen and other citizens in reporting complaints," Warders claimed.

"We only have 65 game protectors who are responsible for protecting our wildlife resource in 105 counties. There is no way this small force can halt the increasing incidence of game poaching without citizen help," Warders said.

All game protectors can be contacted through the county sheriff's office. If a person does not know the telephone number of the game protector in his area, he should immediately contact the sheriff's office whenever he suspects any illegal act is occurring. The sheriff's office will then contact the game protector either by telephone or two-way radio.

"Many landowners and other citizens are reluctant to become involved for fear of retaliation from the violator," Warders said. "Therefore, I suggest that citizens refrain from becoming directly involved but rather they should get all the information they can. If they can do this without being noticed by the poacher, so much the better."

Warders said a description of the person or persons involved can be of great assistance. If you recognize them, provide the names and their addresses if known.

Likewise, a description of the vehicle is important and a license plate number is valuable. Jot down a few notes about the violation, such as the date, time of day, type and color of vehicle, etc, then relay the information immediately to your local game protector or sheriff's office.

"There are several tips which can alert citizens to illegal activity," Warders said. Shells on the roadway, vehicle tracks into fields, spotlights at night--all are clues that illegal poaching may be occurring.

"While the public has been quite apathetic to date, as far as deer poaching and other illegal activities are concerned, involvement may prevent loss of livestock and other property as well as aiding us," Warders said. "Poachers aren't particularly selective when it comes to choosing between a deer or cow."

"With the dove season opening on Sept. 1, we are also asking sportsmen to report any suspected illegal activity as they go afield. We are requesting sportsmen to be thoroughly aware of laws and regulations before they go afield and to conduct themselves accordingly," Warders stated.

"With just a little help from everyone, we can continue to have deer and other game in Kansas. Without the help of citizens, our state's deer herd and other wildlife species will be in extreme danger."

####

PHEASANT, QUAIL PROSPECTS DOWN

PRATT--Forestry, Fish and Game Commission officials today said indications are that statewide populations of pheasants and quail are down from last year.

July counts by rural mail carriers, coordinated by the commission show 23 per cent fewer pheasants were sighted and 20 per cent fewer quail on a statewide basis.

Norman said he was looking for the pheasant population to decline this year in keeping with the history of the ups and downs of the bird in Kansas. He said population trends show they peak out about every 10 years or so and that since they peaked out last year, this year or next was set for a decline.

Pheasant and quail seasons are Nov. 10 through Jan. 31. Four rooster pheasants are allowed in the daily bag, with 12 in possession allowed on or after the third day of the season. Hunters can take eight quail and have 24 in possession on or after the third day.

###

DEER PERMIT COMPLAINTS FLOOD FISH & GAME

PRATT--Nearly 8,700 Kansans have just saved \$10, but many of them are madder than hops about it.

They are persons who applied for, but failed to get a Kansas firearm deer hunting permit. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission had set the quota of deer hunting permits at about 9,000 in the spring, but by the end of July more than 17,500 potential hunters had sent in their 10 bucks to apply for a firearm permit.

The public drawing Aug. 14 for the lucky 9,000 left almost half of the appliers without a permit. And the phones at the Pratt headquarters of FF&G Commission have been ringing off the walls from calls by disappointed potential hunters. They'll get a refund check in about two weeks.

Game Chief of the commission, Lee Queal, Pratt, said this year's rate of application is 36 per cent higher than last year's, while there were only 11 per cent more permits available. Archery applications increased about 26 per cent.

"Most of the added interest," said Queal, "probably comes from the high price of meat, encouraging more persons to try for the comparatively inexpensive venison in addition to high quality of the sport."

Queal explained that of the nearly 9,000 permits available, half of them are set aside, by law, for landowners and half for general residents. In some regions, like northwest Kansas where deer hunting interest is high but permit quotas low, only 40 per cent of the landowners who applied got permits. And, only 20 to 25 per cent of the general residents were successful.

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"There is an obvious need to set a limit on how many permits we can issue," he said. "If we let all of those who applied get a permit, our deer herd would be overharvested in some areas and hunter success would be disappointingly low. Our quotas are set to assure the highest harvest possible on a continued basis," said Queal.

Queal said his staff has investigated alternatives to the present system of issuing permits. So far alternatives have been impractical or uneconomical.

"We considered not letting those who were successful in getting a permit one year apply again the following year or two," he said. "Eventually this would result in years where the 50/50 balance between landowners and general residents would be disrupted. There would be too few interested landowners eligible to apply in some years and the general residents would have to make up the difference. However, the law says we have to issue the permits on a 50/50 basis."

Queal said prohibiting those persons who actually bagged the deer from applying for a year or two also would result in complications. "I think we would wind up with people not reporting that they got a deer in hopes they could apply again the coming year. This would be disastrous to our management plans which are based on precise information of age and numbers of deer harvested each year," he said.

"In order for this second alternative to work," said Queal, "we would have to go back to spending upwards of \$40,000 a year on deer check stations alone. We would much rather put this money into habitat that would produce more game."

Check stations are where deer hunters must report their kill to FF&G officials located at numerous points over the state. These haven't been used in Kansas for the last two years. Instead, hunters are asked to mail information to commission headquarters regarding location, species and sex of the deer taken. The main effort being the collection of teeth which aids in telling the age of the deer. Age structure of a deer herd is a key criteria in making future season recommendations.

"The commission will continue to review potential solutions to the deer permit problem," Queal added. "We appreciate the hunter's concern, landowners particularly, when they do not get a permit. Hopefully, the price of meat will go down sometime and competition for deer permits will lessen so things will get back to normal."

####

WEATHER SLOWS INCREASE IN ANTELOPE

WALLACE--Pronghorn antelope numbers in northwest Kansas have charted another increase, but at a lesser rate than in previous years, according to an aerial survey made by the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

Game biologist Bill Peabody, Emporia, made the flights over Wallace, western Logan and southern Sherman counties, the major range of antelope in Kansas. Last winter's record snowfall of 72 inches in the Goodland area and the following wet spring are thought to have hurt production and survival of young antelope.

Of the 134 proghorns sighted, about one-fifth were fawns. Peabody said that in previous years, fawns have made up almost one-third of the total number of antelope. Since mortality of adults is low, the percentage of fawns in the herds is a good indication of how much the herd has increased, he explained.

He estimated the number of antelope in northwest Kansas to be at least 600.

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"Trap-transplant operations have established antelope in the Red Hills of Barber County in southcentral Kansas, but they are scattered and population estimates are difficult to make, though they are much less in number than the High Plains antelope.

According to Lee Queal, chief of the game division, the pronghorn population has reached a stage of development that a limited permit-only hunting season would not affect their population growth. He said a recommendation for such a season may not be too far off. Future management considerations also include trap-transplant work to establish antelope in other areas of the state, the Flint Hills for example.

####

SPOTTED BASS RECORD BROKEN

COUNCIL GROVE--Newell Julian, Council Grove, has again reclaimed the state record for spotted bass with a four-pound, two-ouncer taken from the city lake here Sept. 9.

Forestry, Fish and Game Commission officials have just confirmed the record fish which was taken on a jig with worm. Julian held the spotted bass record in 1970 with a three-pound, 15¼-ounce bass caught from the same lake. His present record is just one ounce more than one caught by Ben Dwyer, Wichita last year at Marion County Lake.

####

FEWER DUCKS, MORE GEESE

PRATT--Fewer ducks and more geese is forecast for the coming Kansas waterfowl hunting seasons, according to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

Waterfowl biologist Marvin Schwilling said although the flight forecast for ducks in Kansas is down about 30 per cent from last year, the Oct. 6 season opener may be as good as last year because ducks are migrating earlier this year.

"Summer drought conditions in southern Canada where most of our ducks are produced will result in fewer ducks coming to Kansas," said Schwilling. But he said lack of production in Canada has prompted earlier duck flights.

"Those adults which didn't bring off a brood are leaving their nesting grounds earlier this year. That means at least for the opening week of duck season we should have more ducks in the state than overall figures indicate," explained Schwilling.

The waterfowl expert said Lake McKinney, west of Garden City, already is reporting more ducks there now than there has been at this time for the past several years. Although the state's most popular waterfowl area, Cheyenne Bottoms in Barton County, reports about half the number of ducks it had in 1972, Schwilling said many more ducks are scattered throughout the county in rain-filled potholes.

In southeast Kansas the Neosho Waterfowl Management Area reports more ducks now compared to last year, but to the north about 100 miles at the Marais des Cygnes WMA there are significantly fewer. Schwilling said ducks probably are scattered throughout the northeastern area too because of the numerous water areas.

Overall, Schwilling said abundance of food and water in the eastern two-thirds of Kansas should find ducks scattered, in fewer numbers, but arriving earlier than last year.

-more-

The duck season is Oct. 6 - 21 and Nov. 10 - Dec. 23 east of U.S. 283; west of U.S. 283 the season is Oct. 6 - 21 and Nov. 10 - Jan. 8. The daily bag limit is 100 points. Hunters should check their 1973 Guide for Hunters, now available from County Clerks and other license vendors, for the point system breakdown.

On geese, Schwilling was optimistic, stating this year should be one of the best seasons ever.

"Most geese, that come into Kansas are produced in northern Canada which this past summer provided ideal nesting conditions. I expect to see larger numbers of the three main species in Kansas, white fronts, Canadas and snows, beginning to come into the state around the first week of October," said Schwilling.

Snow geese, both the white and blue phases, are more common in the eastern third of the state. The Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, near Burlington, Elk City Reservoir, Brown State Fishing Lake, Neosho and Marais des Cygnes WMAs will again be popular areas for geese in eastern Kansas.

Canada and white-fronted geese will be moving through the western half of the state in greatest numbers, according to the biologist. Schwilling pointed out this year that hunters are restricted to one Canada goose a day, whereas they were allowed two up to early December for the past several years. Also, the Canada and white-fronted goose ends about two weeks earlier than the season on snow geese.

The Central Flyway Council and U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife made this more restrictive season to allow for an increase in the late-migrate giant Canada populations," Schwilling said.

Goose seasons this year are: Canada and white-fronted geese, Oct. 6-21 and Nov. 3 - Dec. 16, with a daily bag limit of one Canada and one white-front and a possession limit of two Canadas and or one Canada and one white-front; snow geese (white and blue phase), Oct. 1 - 21 and Nov. 3 - Dec. 28, with a daily bag and possession limit of five and five.

####

INDIANS DON'T NEED LICENSES

PRATT--Although Kansas Indians do not need to purchase trapping, hunting, or fishing licenses, or pay fees for upland game bird stamps and big game permits, they still are under the same regulations regarding these sports as are other state residents.

The 1973 Legislature extended the Indian exemption which had applied only to purchase of a hunting and fishing license. To qualify for the exemption, then and now, Indians must reside in the state and be registered on the tribal rolls of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Lee Queal, game division chief of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, said Indians also have to take their chances along with everyone else in competing for the limited number of turkey and firearm deer permits. They don't have to pay the \$10 fee, however, if they are successful in getting a permit.

During the past summer when the rate of application for deer permits was almost double the number of permits available, 39 Indians applied and 22 were successful in getting their permit.

####

HUNTING AND FIREARMS
POSITION STATEMENT

Opposition to sport hunting and to private ownership of firearms in the United States is becoming increasingly organized and is apparently growing in influence. Kansas, although a society with strong rural ties, is not immune to these changing philosophies.

Such opposition to hunting and firearms ownership is most frequently argued on the basis of separate issues. However, both topics are so closely related to management of wildlife resources that they cannot be separated. Defense of both activities must be united.

Hunting is maligned as being the primary cause for declining wildlife resources as well as being inhumane.

It is a proven and well known fact that all wildlife forms, given adequate habitat, possess the biotic potential to perpetuate each species. This biotic potential provides population surpluses which may be harvested without adverse effects upon individual species.

Modern wildlife management techniques permit agencies such as the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to appraise the population status of various species in the light of changing habitat conditions and weather phenomena. Thus, specific hunting regulations can be imposed to provide a safeguard against overharvest.

The quantity and quality of wildlife habitat in relation to climatic conditions provide the predominant limiting factors upon any wildlife population. Prohibition of hunting will not permit wildlife populations to increase beyond the carrying capacity of the habitat on which they depend.

Man evolved as a hunter as did the coyote and hawk. Our game species evolved as the hunted. Man as a hunter is as much a part of the world ecosystem as a coyote hunting for food; his hunting activity, therefore, is not inhumane. It is no more unnatural for man to kill a rabbit to eat than for a coyote to perform the same act. Although man need not hunt for a living, his urge to hunt is still viable and should be permitted to thrive. Modern sport hunting is safely regulated so its influence is lost among the multitude of natural controls which annually govern game population levels.

While hunting is a permissible factor of almost any small game or waterfowl management program, it assumes an indispensable role in regard to management of big game herds. Greater longevity and survival rates among big game permit these species to increase to a level where they may severely overbrowse their native range, compete with domestic livestock, cause agricultural crop damage and become a hazard to rural vehicle traffic. Control of population levels can best be achieved through regulated hunting.

Hunting is a healthful, enjoyable form of outdoor recreation. In 1970, approximately 203,000,000 man days were spent in the United States in hunting activity. Over 3,000,000 man days are spent annually in Kansas with no adverse effects on our wildlife resources. Those who would prohibit hunting would deny the privilege to over 228,000 licensed hunters in Kansas while at the same time do nothing positive for the wildlife resource itself.

The hunter, through payment of license fees, special permits, and excise taxes on sporting firearms and ammunition, pays for virtually all wildlife management in the United States. Such management is not limited to those game species he actively pursues but extends as well to the numerous species appreciated simply for their aesthetic values. General tax monies are rarely used for wildlife management. The anti-hunting advocates contribute little, if anything, to the active management of the resources for which they profess to have concern.

The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission is dedicated to sound management of the state's wildlife resources. Hunting is a bonified activity in the management process. To continue hunting in this perspective, it is necessary that private ownership of firearms be assured.

Firearm ownership is specifically stated as a right in the United States and Kansas Constitutions. While the original intent was to provide for protection of self, property and country in a young, remote and growing nation, hunting should be and is recognized as a legitimate use of firearms.

Most sporting firearms in use in Kansas are shotguns and rifles, but assured private ownership should not be restricted to these types. Pistols and revolvers, while less frequently used, are suitable hunting firearms for such species as squirrel and rabbits as well as for predator hunting.

The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission is of the opinion that private ownership of firearms is essential to successful attainment of obligations for management of the state's wildlife resources and that further restrictions on legitimate ownership and use are unwarranted.

###

PLASTIC BROADHEADS ILLEGAL

PRATT--Hunters who pursue deer with a bow and arrow must be specially prepared and equipped if they are to be successful and if they are to stay within the law, reminds the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

Kansas deer archers, numbering 5,500 this fall, a third more than last year, are in final preparation for their 71-day split season, Oct. 1 - Nov. 25 and Dec. 15 - 31.

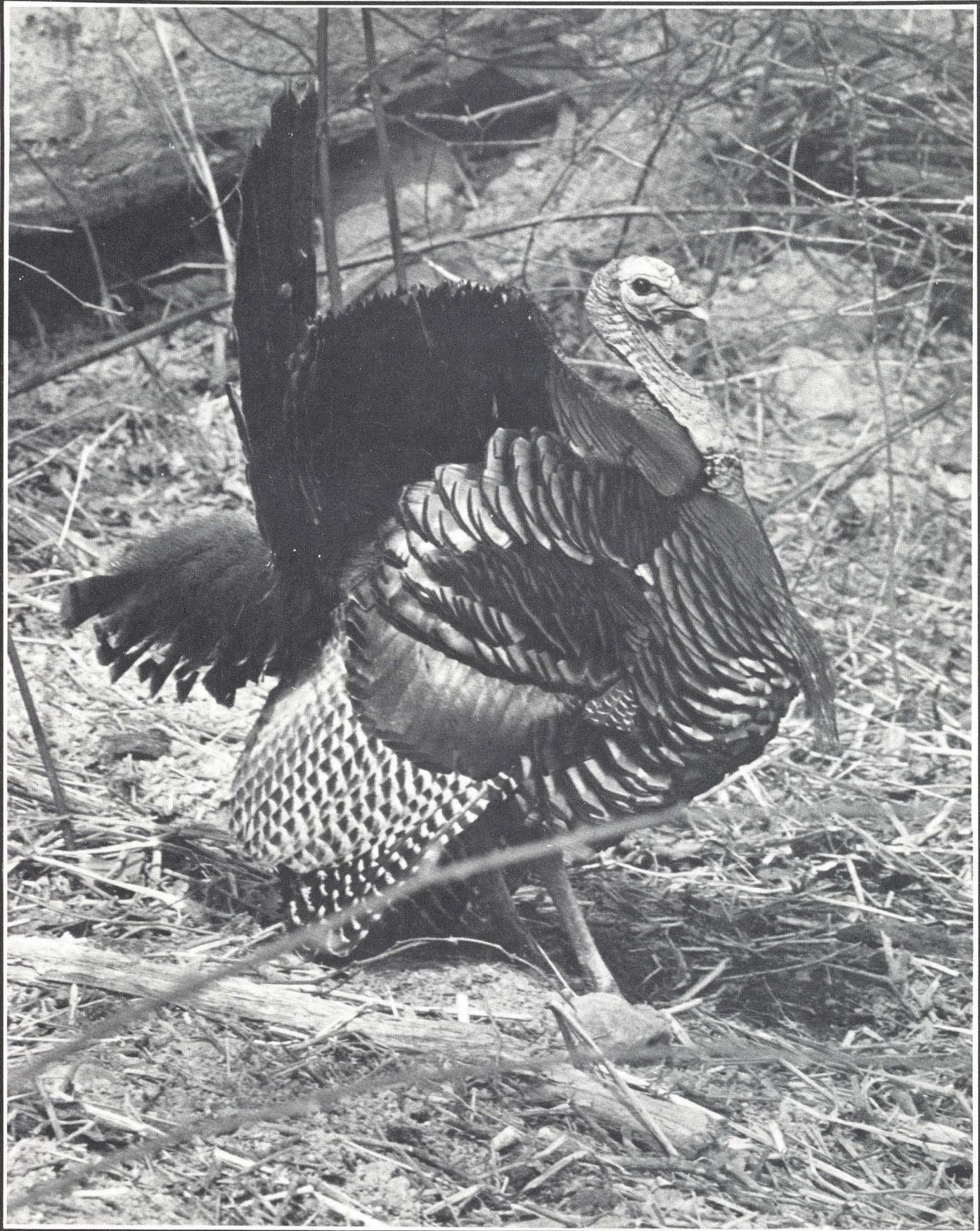
"There are definite regulations controlling the quality of archery equipment," says Lee Queal, chief of the game division. "Most veteran archers are aware of these, but there will be a lot of new archers this year who should any special attention." In addition, more restrictive regulations were passed by the commission this year.

Part of the archery regulations state that broadheads of metal must be used and that plastic-cored broadheads are illegal. Deer biologist Bill Peabody has run impact tests on broadheads with plastic cores and has found they shatter on impact, making them ineffective on deer.

Serpentine, or cork screw edged broadheads, and "cookie cutter" broadheads also were made illegal due to their ineffectiveness. Not illegal, but of poor quality are the broadheads with long, needle nose points, which tend to curl back or break on impact, according to Queal. Bows must be of at least 35 pounds of pull and have a draw of 28 inches.

Hunters are also reminded that if they are successful they must tag their deer as per instructions in the 1973 Deer Hunting Information bulletin which also covers other deer regulations. Successful hunters have 36 hours to report their kill to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission and unsuccessful bow hunters have 10 days after the end of the season to report.

###



Leonard Lee Rue

Grande wild turkey stock. At the time, wildlife biologists on the famous King Ranch were interested in establishing a lesser prairie chicken population on their spread. Kansas Commissioners agreed to trade two of our lesser prairie chickens for each Rio Grande wild turkey the Texans could provide. The deal was eventually completed and we received 125 turkeys.

These hardy Texas birds were transplanted to 12 different release sites and the wild turkey was on the come-back trail.

In 1965, Peabody was promoted to Big Game Project Leader. The Commission then hired a young biologist from Illinois named Steve Capel, who assumed responsibility for the Rio Grande program in Kansas. I recently talked with Capel about the Commission's turkey project. Although Capel is now south-central game manager and no longer associated with the turkey program, he was in charge of the project during some of its most productive years. Kent Monte, big game project biologist at Hays is currently in charge of the turkey program. Since the Commission recently established a spring season on gobblers, I felt prospective turkey hunters would be interested in the story behind this magnificent game bird's return.

I asked Capel what biologists look for when selecting a release site for the turkeys. "Generally we look for a park-like stretch of riverbottom timber on sandy terrain," he answered. "Turkeys seem to prefer it when the trees aren't too close together and where there's not too much undergrowth."

"Then too, the site should contain a few large mature cottonwoods with numerous lateral branches. The turkeys use these trees as roosting sites during the night. Extensive grasslands with relative few roads should be close by. The birds usually do better when there's little human activity to disturb them."

What about the landowners on whose farms and ranches the biologists' activities were conducted?

Ken Stiebben



Wild turkeys are trapped during the winter with drop nets after being lured into an area with grain.

"The farmers and ranchers were just great!" Capel exclaimed. "We went in and signed up landowners on each side of the river once we'd selected a release site. They gave us permission to manage the birds by netting, checking and making brood counts. They also agreed to allow some hunting on their land but they retain all landowner rights as far as determining who can hunt."

When releasing birds at a new site Capel said four toms are released along with eight hens. "Turkeys are polygamous and one tom can service several hens," he said. The larger flocks from which transplants are taken, are never trapped to less than 40 birds.

Biologists take surveys of the wild turkeys in both summer and winter. The summer counts are called brood surveys and give an indication of brood size as well as productivity of the various hens. "The brood surveys also give us background data which will help us evaluate effects of hunting turkeys in the upcoming spring

season," Capel explained. "Other states have learned that a spring hunting season doesn't hurt the turkey population since only excess toms are taken. By recording brood survey data, we'll have some numbers to work and compare with," he said.

During the winter, personnel from the Fish and Game Commission plus various landowners make counts of turkeys on the winter ranges. These totals are called the minimum total head count. "We realize we miss some birds so it's considered a minimum count," Capel explained.

In planning for a hunting season on turkeys, biologists felt they needed a state flock of at least 1500 birds. "The birds have increased every year except one since 1962," the biologist said. "Last year's winter flock count was 1400 and the winter survey this year should exceed 1500. Surveys like this give us some idea of how many birds can be safely harvested during the coming spring season."

Historically, winter counts have shown the Rio Grande wild turkey

doesn't build up as quickly in the eastern part of his range as those turkeys in the more westerly reaches of the state. "Because of this difference, we're issuing fewer permits in the south-central area than for the southwestern region," Capel said.

The biologist said he felt Barber and Morton counties would provide some of the best turkey hunting in the state. "These counties both contain some excellent turkey habitats," he added.

Up until now, trapping and transplanting has been the biologists' biggest management tool. But what about the future? "Management plans for the future will depend on whether or not we find additional habitat which is suitable for transplants," Capel explained. "We're continually scouting for good areas. There's a possibility the western slope of the Flint Hills in Butler, Chase and Cowley counties might prove suitable for some transplanting operations."

The spring hunting season will also serve as a management tool. Capel explained: "The spring season will allow sportsmen of Kansas to utilize the annual surplus of gobblers by harvesting these birds. There's also the possibility that hunting may provide a side benefit for the turkeys too. We've had some indication our Rio Grandes are losing their natural fear of man. This is understandable since they've been protected ever since we started working with them. But one or two seasons of hunting should re-instill this innate fear and help the Rio Grande regain his original wariness."

I asked Capel if there were any factors which would severely limit the spread of the wild turkey's range. "Only lack of proper habitat," he replied. "Predation, disease, adverse weather conditions, mowing and cottonwood logging can all limit turkey populations but none are very serious yet. We don't have any major turkey predators in Kansas. Bobcats, because of their stealth and climbing ability, may take an occasional roosting turkey but it's probably a rare thing. Roosting turkeys are difficult even for a bobcat due to the position they take on the limb. I've watched them light

on a limb then work their way out from the trunk until they reach a point where the branch dips and bows. Roosting in this position, they're automatically warned when a predator tries to climb out on the limb." What about coyotes?

"Coyotes scarcely even get a second look from wild turkeys," Capel explained. "I've watched coyotes pass through large flocks of turkeys, often within several feet of the adult birds. There seems to be a mutual respect involved. I think the coyotes seem to realize the Rio Grande is too big and strong for him. They probably get an occasional poult or sick adult but the damage is negligible."

Great horned owls probably take an occasional young turkey and coons and skunks will eat turkey eggs if they find them unattended by the hen. All in all though, biologists feel wild turkeys are bothered very little by predation in Kansas.

Disease is another limiting factor on wild turkeys. "The Rio Grande is extremely susceptible to diseases of domestic fowl—things like fowl cholera and coccidiosis. In fact, we try to avoid releasing wild turkeys near farms or ranches which have domestic poultry," he added.

Bad weather in the form of late spring rains can give the young poult pneumonia which is often fatal. And spring flooding can inundate nests or nesting sites.

Alfalfa mowing during nesting season can wipe out entire clutches. "I've seen as many as six or seven nests in one field destroyed by mowing," Capel observed. Extensive timber operations can hurt the wild turkeys too. "All the cottonwood logging that's going on in the state right now is bound to reduce the number of available roosting sites," the biologist said.

Even with these various limiting factors, the wild turkey has done alright. As Capel said, "Obviously, since we've had a continually increasing flock of turkeys, the limiting factors aren't bothering them much."

How does the Rio Grande wild turkey's future look?

"It's good as long as the habitat lasts," Capel replied. "Like all other wildlife, turkeys need prime habitat which contains adequate food and cover."

It's good to have wild turkeys back again. Let's hope they're around for a long time.



Ken Stiebben

Kansas Fish & Game Interview

With all the ill-fated introductions of exotic animals into the United States, the ring-necked pheasant brought to this country from Europe and Asia in the late 1800s stands almost alone as a phenomenal success. Since his chancy beginnings in Kansas around the turn of the century, the ringneck has spread statewide except for an area in the southeast part of the state. Annual harvest of pheasants by Kansas hunters has approached one million birds in at least one of the past 12 seasons, but in more than one season the annual take has been half of that. These ups and downs in hunter success are a constant source of confusion for most hunters. And the rationale behind setting the pheasant seasons and bag limits is unknown to a lot of others. To shed a little more light on the Kansas pheasant situation KANSAS FISH & GAME Magazine put some questions to Jim Norman, supervisor of game research for the Forestry, Fish & Game Commission since February of this year, probably the most noted authority on pheasants in Kansas. He is a Kansas State University graduate with a degree in wildlife conservation. Norman worked as a pheasant researcher with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for three years before coming to Kansas as project leader of small game research in 1962, a position he has held at Hays until his recent move to Pratt to supervise all game research. In addition to these duties, Norman coordinates federal apportionments to the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, about \$1 million annually, which are generated through special excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and fishing gear.

KF&G: What are the prospects for the pheasant hunting season this year?

NORMAN: According to our July rural mail carrier survey, pheasant populations are down throughout the state compared to the 11-year highs we recorded last year. In the prime pheasant country of the northwest the pheasant population index was down about 25 percent and in the southwest down about 20 percent. In northcentral the index is down 30 percent and it's off about 40 percent in the southcentral, with the northeast part of the state down about 10 percent. Statewide, the survey shows the population index is down 23 percent.

KF&G: Why such a decline from last year?

NORMAN: It would be very difficult to pinpoint the reasons, but I believe the June-July drought in the west, where most pheasants are produced, had something to do with poor nesting success. The spring surveys showed we had many more hens than last year, but conditions were obviously not good for production because on a statewide basis, young pheasants seen per 100 miles were down almost 40 percent from last year. Also, with the peak in populations last year, we were expecting a decline to be coming soon because the history of pheasant population trends shows they peak

out about every 10 years, only to drop sharply and slowly build up again.

KF&G: The Commission has set a fairly liberal season this year, Nov. 10 through Jan. 31, with a four-cock bag limit. Why?

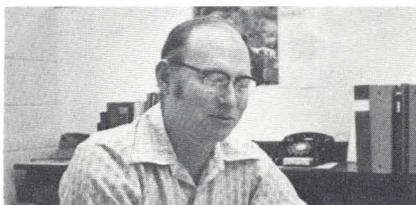
NORMAN: I don't think it's especially liberal. It is actually a relaxing of some unnecessary restrictions which we have had in the past.

KF&G: It won't result in too many pheasants being shot and therefore hurt pheasant populations in coming years?

NORMAN: No, it won't. There is a major mistake in that kind of thinking. That is, that the length of the hunting season in any given year determines how many pheasants will be around the following hunting season. This just isn't so in Kansas.

KF&G: Why not?

NORMAN: Two reasons. First is that for all practical purposes, the number of pheasants available in the fall is determined by nesting success of the females in the spring and brood rearing success in the summer. If habitat and weather conditions are good we will have good production and a high population by the end of the summer. This occurs even though we may have a low population of breeding birds in the spring. In 1972, for example, our April counts showed we had a low population of hens going into the breeding season. Yet, those few hens produced the highest population of pheasants this state has seen for 11 years. And this spring our counts showed we had almost one-third the number of hens as last year, but production was off and July counts



"Kansas hunters probably harvest about 50 percent of the cock pheasants annually."



"Pheasant number depend on habitat, weather conditions and the birds' cycle phenomenon—not the length of the hunting season."



"Chances are good that biologists may recommend a hen season sometime in the future."

showed populations were down 23 percent.

Quality and quantity of habitat and weather conditions in the spring and summer are what determine how many birds are around to hunt in the fall. Within fairly wide limits, as 1972 showed, the number of hens in the spring has little to do with it. Their success at raising a brood has all to do with it.

KF&G: You said there was another reason why hunting and the length of the season won't hurt populations?

NORMAN: The other reason is the law of diminishing returns. For the last 10 years it has averaged that each Kansas pheasant hunter spent less than four days each season pursuing this bird. For most hunters, it's the opening weekend and a Thanksgiving holiday outing that makes up their pheasant hunting. Opening weekend usually accounts for 75 percent or so of all the birds taken for the entire season. Since the more vulnerable pheasants are taken early in the season and with weather getting worse as the season progresses, hunting becomes more difficult and many hunters just give up.

KF&G: By the end of a typical season, what percent of the population have hunters harvested?

NORMAN: Our January counts suggest that on a statewide basis an average of about 30 percent of the cocks are taken each year. Due to the limitations of this particular survey, however the estimate it provides is probably a little low. A better estimate, especially in the more densely populated areas, is an annual harvest of 50 percent of the cocks.

KF&G: Could we take more without hurting populations in future seasons?

NORMAN: Much more, but as I've said the law of diminishing returns will probably continue to hold the harvest to not much higher than 50 percent of the cocks. Hunters just don't try hard enough. Actually, it takes only one rooster to efficiently breed from 10 to 15 hens, depending on population density, in the major pheasant production areas. This means we could be taking upwards of

90 percent of the cocks in a season or close to double what we have been. Even with such a high harvest there would still be plenty of roosters around in the spring for breeding purposes.

KF&G: Through the past several years Kansas has been lengthening the pheasant season, yet you say we are still underharvesting them. And you say that season length has little to do with the total harvest. Why then did we go to a more liberal season this year?

NORMAN: There are two reasons. One is that it provides the opportunity to the "stick-to-it hunter" to hunt under all types of weather conditions and for a long period of time. These hunters are few, but probably they are our best sportsmen. They take their hunting seriously, they know the habits of the pheasant and they are conscious of the landowner's rights and respectful of his property so they don't jeopardize their good hunting sites. Although individually, they take a lot of pheasants, their effect on the total statewide harvest is not significant—so why cut them off? They appreciate the added opportunity to hunt more than just filling their bag.

The other reason is that we hope it will begin to dispell some of these age-old myths that a long cocks-only season and a larger bag limit hurts the population of pheasants. We have to caution the public, however, that no matter how long or short the season is and no matter how many cocks are harvested, within wide limits, the spring and summer habitat conditions and weather will determine how many birds will be there the following hunting season. It is false thinking to blame low pheasant numbers on the previous hunting season, when their abundance or scarcity depends on spring and summer habitat and weather conditions and the cycle phenomenon.

KF&G: What about a hen season? Kansas allowed one hen in the bag in 1961 and in 1962. What's your reflection on that and do you think it may be allowed again?

NORMAN: As far as the pheasant resource was concerned, the one-hen

limit didn't hurt it a bit. Biologically, It was a success, but sociologically it was a flop. We made a mistake in not explaining to the public the fact that a controlled hen season would not be harmful to future populations. Also, our timing was off. The same years we first allowed hunters to take a hen, the pheasant population had reached a peak. And during the following two years the population declined to half of what it was—a normal situation which I already referred to, the approximate 10-year cycle in which pheasant numbers build to a peak, then fall off sharply only to slowly build up again. The somewhat poor prospects for this year is in part due to the same thing—last year we peaked out in pheasant populations and this year we have charted a decline. Anyway, the public misunderstood the severe population drop in 1963 and 1964 and so by popular demand the one-hen limit was dropped.

KF&G: Well then, do you mean to say that we have a surplus of hens after hunting season is over and these could have been harvested without hurting production the following spring?

NORMAN: I sure do.

KF&G: Explain why a controlled hen season in Kansas wouldn't hurt pheasant populations?

NORMAN: Not all hens successfully produce young. A high percentage try, but habitat, weather and population pressure dictate that significantly fewer will contribute to the fall population. Chances for successful nesting are increased when there are fewer hens. So, all those hens which do not successfully produce are surplus. Controlling the hen harvest so that surplus winds up in the hunter's bag could increase hunter success, yet not hurt the size of the next fall's population.

Last year was a good example of when a very few hens produced a bumper crop for the fall season. This year hens were double in number in the spring, but July counts indicate they produced 40 per cent fewer young than last year. The result was a 23 percent drop in total late summer populations.

KF&G: I guess then that biologists may again recommend a hen or two in the bag at some time in the future?

NORMAN: Chances for this are good. We want to be sure and get public understanding and support first, though. Perhaps an experimental season in a portion of the primary range would be a proper approach. We may want to avoid peak years at first because they are certain to be followed by years of population decline.

KF&G: The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission used to stock pheasants up to 1962. Why not anymore?

NORMAN: Pheasant stocking had its place when we were introducing the bird to Kansas and it may have had a little to do with helping spread the populations. Now, with all suitable range in the state already occupied, stocking has no justification. It has been 10 years since we stocked pheasants, and we can clearly see that we were correct in dropping the practice because populations have reacted much the same as they had been when we were stocking. Besides, it took a lot of money and effort in rearing pheasants and our releases accounted for less than one percent of the statewide harvest. And that doesn't mean we increased the harvest by that amount, only that of the total harvested, less than one percent were pen reared.

KF&G: Why are there few to no pheasants found in the southeast corner of Kansas?

NORMAN: Probably for the same reason we don't have walrus down there, or anywhere else in the state, but not quite that extreme. The complex qualities of environment it takes to support pheasants are lacking there. Annual and seasonal precipitation, temperatures, humidity, soil type and vegetation type and all the other factors that make up the desirable environment of our common wild pheasant just aren't put together right down there. In the northeast they get better and as you progress westward the right combination of all the environmental qualities becomes even better until you reach some areas in the high plains that are absolutely excellent.

KF&G: I've heard it and I'm sure you have too, that pheasant hunting now is nothing compared to what it used to be. Is this true?

NORMAN: Like many things, it depends on who you talk to. In a man's life he may experience one, two or three of the hunting seasons in which the pheasants peak out in numbers. If he happens to get into a good area when they are peaking out, he'll remember this as the best year for pheasants in Kansas. It certainly may not be such for a hunter who failed to get into a good spot.

In 1936 we probably had higher densities of pheasants in northcentral and northwest Kansas than ever before and after that time. This is density, though, not total numbers. The area occupied by pheasants then was smaller and their numbers more concentrated. As they adapted to Kansas their range increased and their populations spread out in lesser concentrations.

KF&G: Are there fewer pheasants now?

NORMAN: No. I believe we may have more pheasants on a statewide basis in the good years of more recent times than we had back then. The ringneck has taken well to agriculture, indeed he depends on agriculture for food and cover. But, future years may hold some shortcomings. Pheasants still need good brushy habitat and land that has some type of permanent cover interspersed with the crop land. It has been the tendency of agriculture to convert this habitat to some other use that may "reduce production costs" or otherwise "increase farm income." Farmers must earn a living, too, you know.

KF&G: What then is the direction of modern pheasant management?

NORMAN: Most important it is trying to protect existing and develop additional habitat. With the passage of Project SASNAK by the 1973 Legislature, the Commission has been given the go ahead to work with private landowners in helping them to develop wildlife habitat on their lands without crippling the income producing capacity of that land. Our dis-

trict game biologists will be providing their technical assistance to landowners at some time in the near future. Right now we are in the process of planning this statewide project. There won't be any cost sharing on the part of the Commission at least now, but landowners may be able to get some through other governmental conservation programs. At any rate, our surveys show that about 25 percent of the state's farmers and ranchers are willing to cooperate in such a habitat development program without any cost sharing funds. Another 25 percent have said they would if they could get cost sharing.

KF&G: What will this habitat program result in?

NORMAN: With continued good cooperation of landowners, we will be able to raise the base population of pheasants and many other forms of wildlife. This means that although the populations may still go up and down over the years, the downs won't be quite so low and the ups should be higher. But we will probably wind up with even greater surpluses of pheasants at the end of a hunting season unless hunters put more time into their sport and we add a hen or two to the bag.

KF&G: Can you offer any tips so that hunters could be more successful?

NORMAN: I've always felt that to be a good hunter, you have to know your target . . . where he's likely to be, why he's there, his reaction to your presence and his daily habits. Learn these through years of experience and you'll likely be a pretty good hunter. Get familiar with a piece of land so you can hunt it properly, safely. Of course, when hunting on private land obtain permission and be respectful of the landowner and his property so that you have a chance of coming back. You might lend an ear to what the landowner has to say. He knows better than any the pheasant hunting possibilities. Pre-season excursions and talks to farmers really pay off.

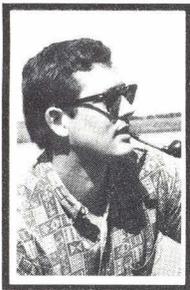
A shot in the dark is what these Shoot-and-Run Slobs specialize in . . .

Landowners: Violators Can Be Stopped

By Bill Scott
Staff Writer



THE SUN had barely got out of bed, but already he was beginning to prick the skin and scorch the eyes. It was going to be a long hot day. The dusty main street of the little town was already beginning to shrivel up within itself.



Scott

Farmer Harry Withers was mad. He had just received notice from the Kansas Fish and Game Commission that he had been unsuccessful in the drawing for a landowner permit to hunt deer. Now he was like a mosquito, looking for a place to light. Just then, a Fish and Game pickup pulled up in front of the post office—a game protector was getting his mail. With a gleam in his eye, Withers strode across the street and jumped the officer.

“Why can’t you guys make it so I can get a permit? I feed them deer all year ’round on my place and I can’t even get a permit to hunt ’em myself!” Each sentence was punctuated with a forefinger jab at the game protector’s chest. “Other guys who don’t feed ’em can hunt ’em, but I can’t. Why?”

Little did Withers know he was going to witness, later that week, one of the major reasons why there aren’t enough permits to go around.

It was a steamy August evening. Storm clouds were ballooning up in the northwest.

Two men in a 1972 Ford Ranger pickup eyed the doe.

She had been grazing peacefully in a small alfalfa field nestled in the bend of a large creek. Now her head was up, watching the pickup curiously. In the timber nearby was her family, two dappled fawns.

“Grab that .243 off the rack behind

you and pop her!” hissed the driver. “Hurry up, before that storm gets here!”

The driver scrunched back in the seat as the gunman poked the rifle in front of him through his open window. The firearm’s voice bellowed across the clearing. The fawns, watching from the timber, had no way of knowing they, too, had been killed with that shot. Too young to fend for themselves, they would inevitably starve.

The thunderstorm came on, slinking in cat-quiet. Slowly it padded in across the sky, began trotting. Then with a headlong rush and roar, it threw itself on the land fastening its watery fangs into the victim. Lightning flashed from its claws, slashing the quivering earth. The thunder clapped its hands as the two in the pickup drove into the field to load up the prostrate doe.



A car driven slowly by a hedgerow or shelterbelt is possibly a violator. Persons seeing the type of action depicted above should contact their local game protector.

As the rain poured down, another pickup came racing down the road. It was Withers. He had been chased out of his field where he was discing wheat ground. As he hurtled by, he saw the two men loading up the deer. They looked up, startled, the hand-print of guilt stamped on their faces.

"Omigosh, that's Harry!" "It's O. K! He won't say nothin'!" And the two went back to work, loading up their loot.

Wither's pickup continued right on by and he never looked back. He didn't disappoint the expectations of the two poachers. His phone remained unused on the receiver that evening.

Withers went to sleep that night thinking, "I'm not gettin' involved in that! I couldn't even get landowner permit so I don't owe the Fish and Game nothin'. Besides, them boys and I belong to the same lodge and we go to the same church. I've known 'em all my life and they've helped me different times. I ain't never had no trouble from them. And I ain't making trouble for them now —" as he rolled over and started snoring.

1973 has been a nightmarish year for poaching, and unless 1974 sees an easing of skyrocketing meat prices the situation will grow worse. Talking to 17 game protectors in nearly all regions of Kansas quickly convinces one the size of the poaching problem is leaping to mammoth proportions. Turkey, antelope, quail, pheasant, ducks and deer are all falling before this vicious onslaught.

The first season in modern times on turkey and antelope may be a crushing disappointment if present trends continue. It has been conservatively estimated by biologists and law enforcement officers alike that for every deer taken legally, there are two killed illegally. In fact, the Southeast Regional Law Enforcement Supervisor Jim Bryan feels that if the meat shortage continues this winter, it may well result in the virtual wipeout of the Kansas deer herd.

District game protectors, that dedicated little band of professionals, are doing their best to stem the tide. Unbroken strings of 14- and 16-hour days are no stranger to most of them. But 65 men cannot patrol the entire state! Some men have an assigned territory

of 2,800 sq. mi. or even greater. Many are responsible for two or three counties, even in densely populated areas.

You can get even a better idea of the job facing game protectors when you consider the nature of poaching and poachers.

Poaching is hard to spot, as a rule, because of the conditions surrounding hunting and fishing. Both fishing and hunting are by nature solitary sports, and usually the best sport is found in the boondocks; in secluded, out-of-the-way places.

It helps to know the nature of your enemy. In this case, the enemy is intelligent, twisted and often has a history of brushes with the law. Let's look at the profile of a poacher.

First, hard-core poachers are crafty. Most of them are fishing and hunting license holders. The licenses are used as a decoy. They work frequently under cover of night. The peak time for poaching is from about 10 p. m. to dawn. This is not to say that violations do not occur during the daylight. Thousands do. But often the daylight violation is an unplanned spontaneous, spur-of-the-moment thing. The game pops up and the poacher takes advantage of it. Using a spotlight and blazing away in the darkness, however, is a planned and the deliberate attack on Kansas' wildlife.

Second, hardened poachers are suspicious. They usually don't violate in a crowd. They are either loners or work with one or two other carefully selected men who share their belief that a man has a right to take game or fish in any way at any time. And they don't talk about their activities to others, either.

Third, they will go to almost any length to avoid being caught. They have been known to bend their license tag in half so it cannot be read. They will hide hen pheasants between the radiator and grille of their vehicle. Two poachers, who happened to be farmers, shot an illegal deer and hid the meat in the cylinder of their combine. As this article was being written, a report came in telling of poachers who killed a deer near Holcomb, west of Garden City, and buried the bones at Cherryvale, in the extreme southeast part of the state. To re-

move the evidence from the scene they had traveled virtually the length of the state.

Fourth, they work quickly. The main idea is to get the animal, bird, or fish and either get out as fast as possible or dispose of the evidence on the spot. Field dressing deer is a popular practice; it saves having to drive home with the evidence. For example, five butchered deer were found in a single field near Baxter Springs recently.

There are ways a landowner can tell poaching may be occurring on his land. If he sees spotlights moving about in the darkness, especially where he knows deer to be, it may be deer poachers. If he hears two-way communication, it may be coyote hunters hunting deer. Spent shells and tire tracks in the roadway indicate "potting," or blasting sitting birds



Some Kansas game protectors patrol an assigned area of 2,800 square miles or more and they can't be everywhere at once.

Poachers not only kill mature wildlife, they're directly responsible for the death of many youngsters—like this orphaned fawn.



from a vehicle. Hearing only one shot is a further clue of this. Tire tracks in a field may be poacher tracks.

Spacing and location of shots may also tell what might be going on. Doves, for example, often roost in tree groves where there are also quail. When dove season opens September 1, some unscrupulous hunters start shooting the quail, too. Much can be learned by listening to the shots in a case like this. A quail hunter's shots are spaced close together: pop-pop, then the sound moves and is repeated. A dove hunter shoots for a length of time in one area.

A car driving slowly, especially by a hedgerow, may be a violator. It's more likely if a man or men occupy the car. A man in the company of a woman is less likely to violate.

But apathy grips farmers and ranchers. Poaching and cattle rustling often go hand in hand, because

poachers are not often choosy whether they filch cattle or deer. And game protectors indicated in a statewide news release August 21, 1973, their willingness to assist in cases of this kind. So why don't the landowners fight back?

Fear of retaliation has to be a major reason. However, none of the 17 game protectors interviewed knew of a single instance of revenge upon one of their informants. No farmer had had his fence cut, his hay burned or tractor shot up by vengeful poachers. One law enforcement supervisor called violators "gutless." Still, giving information to law enforcement officers must be considered a calculated risk; a small risk, but a risk nonetheless.

The small danger of this sort of thing can be further lessened by getting your information without the violator knowing who you are. All game protectors contacted recommend that if possible, avoid confrontation with poachers. Waving a tire iron under a man's nose, yelling and cursing at him only invites further trouble.

Instead if you come upon violators, breeze right on by. Turn around and come back if necessary. But maintain an unconcerned attitude all the time you are gathering your information. Being friendly is advisable. If you see 'em, wave and smile. This is the information to get:

(1) The license tag number; (2) Make and color of vehicle; (3) Nature of the violation; (4) Number in the party and which one is the actual violator, if possible; (5) Location; (6) Date and (7) Time of day.

Get on your two-way radio or to the nearest phone immediately! Time is of the essence in fish and game violations. If a call comes in soon enough, many times a game protector can be waiting in the poacher's driveway for him. The incriminating evidence is confiscated, and a solid case results.

You should be aware that you may be required to sign a complaint and testify in court in the absence of physical evidence. This is because all fish and game violations are misdemeanors, not felonies, and must be seen by the plaintiff. Since the game protec-

tor did not actually see the violation and you did, you will be required to sign and testify. However, most game protectors can "shake it out" of a poacher—that is, they can secure the necessary evidence to charge a poacher with illegal possession of fish or game. The fines for illegal possession and illegal taking of wildlife are comparable, too. But if the game protector cannot produce this evidence, the responsibility falls squarely on your shoulders.

Don't be stopped from calling if you don't know who the game protector

is in your area. It's not recommended you call the game protector's home anyway, because he's usually somewhere in the field. Instead, call the police department or sheriff's office. Constant radio contact with the game protector is maintained there.

Here, then, are the law enforcement officers who are knocking themselves out for Kansas' wildlife. Call the police or sheriff with your information and it will be immediately forwarded to the man in your area. If you feel you have just seen a fish or game violation, these men deserve to know it:

REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISORS

Bryan, James R. (Jim)	Chanute
Crispino, Tommie	Newton
Hurst, Glen L.	Manhattan
McNally, Jack	Concordia
Spence, John	Dodge City
Whitaker, George	Colby

DISTRICT GAME PROTECTORS

Anderson, George	Ellis	Jones, Willard	Herington
Ayers, Alvin R.	Manhattan	Kellenberger, J. L.	Jetmore
Blair, Claude	Scott City	King, Billy	Belleville
Brown, Edwin R.	Wellington	Knitig, Kenneth	Goodland
Bryan, E. L.	Shawnee Mission	Lang, Rush	Junction City
Bump, Jerry D.	Phillipsburg	Lichlyter, J. D.	Burlington
Burlew, Bill	Topeka	Lies, Paul C.	Hutchinson
Campbell, Kenneth	Ottawa	McCullough, Dick	Mound City
Clarke, Don	Yates Center	McDaniel, Harley	Columbus
Cole, Dick	Clay Center	Meier, Marvin	Holton
Cox, Virgil	Haysville	Miller, Paul	Randolph
Crowell, Ward	Fort Scott	Moberly, Arch	Osborne
Crumrine, Elmer (Bud)	Hill City	Morgan, J. C.	Lincoln
Deutsch, Dean	Larned	Nease, Bob	Hugoton
Dunbar, Irwin J.	Kingman	NeSmith, Frank	Atchison
Ferrell, Wallace	Marysville	Nonnast, Elmer	Newton
Foster, Dudley	Parsons	Peters, Bruce	Lakin
Gentry, David L.	Emporia	Ryan, Richard	Lyndon
Halbrook, Al	Eureka	Schlecty, George E.	Lawrence
Hale, James	Topeka	Schmidtberger, Charles	Marion
Hamilton, Marvin	Salina	Shanley, Mike	Minneola
Harrold, Richard E.	Garden City	Shaw, George	Garnett
Hendricks, Homer F.	Ellsworth	Smyth, Mike	McPherson
Hesket, Merle Gary	Mankato	Thomas, Robert O.	El Dorado
Hill, Bill	Meriden	Ukele, Clyde	Oberlin
Hitt, Gene	Pratt	Warner, Verle	Independence
Hoffman, David E.	Hiawatha	Wikoff, Wes	Hoxie
Hollis, Jim	Chanute	Wilnerd, Everett	Howard
Huslig, Ernest	Great Bend		

AN OFFER TO THE NON HUNTING PUBLIC

It's all a matter of money, as most things usually are. If you want wildlife looked after, and believe it or not, wildlife does need looking after, then somehow that has to be paid for.



Those chaps in the green uniforms, call them game wardens, game protectors, conservation officers as you will, all have families to support and

rent to pay. The administrations which direct them and see to it that both game and non-game species, quail and blue-bird alike, have a fair chance to gladden your heart. They don't run on good wishes, either. They need money too—in large chunks.

Even bigger chunks are needed for the purchase of wild lands, of marshes not only for ducks but for red-winged blackbirds as well, for upland areas where gunners may seek pheasants in the fall but picnickers and hikers have the land all the rest of the year.

The trained biologists who know precisely what diseases affect the deer or what farmers can plant to best support a healthy population of either rabbits or finches— they cost money too.

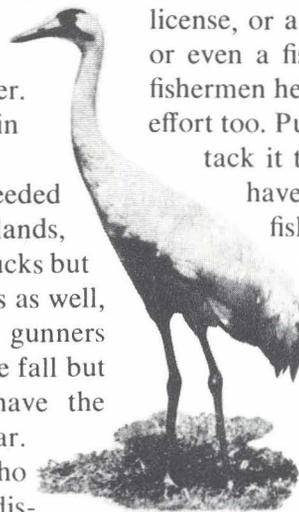
And where does it all come from? Well, until now it has come from sportsmen, largely from hunters. They've anted up some 2.3 billion dollars in the past generation and a half for just such conservation purposes. They also pay self-imposed taxes on their arms and ammunition thus adding over forty million dollars a year more, which

by law must be used in conservation. The total tax money will soon hit the half billion mark. Their hunting licenses, over a million dollars a year, run our state fish and game departments. On the record, they're the bankers for conservation.

Now about that offer —

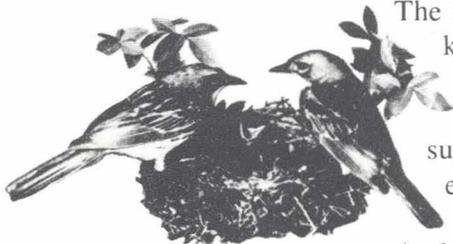
You go down to the nearest sporting goods store or the town clerk's office and buy yourself a hunting license, or a small game license — or even a fishing license because fishermen help in the conservation effort too. Put it in your pocket, or tack it to the wall—you don't have to use it if hunting or fishing is not your cup of tea. But be sure you can see it occasionally.

Why see it? Because then you'll know you put your money where your thoughts are. You didn't just talk about conservation, you *did* something about it, something you can do again next year and the year after that. You made conservation work.



Buy a
small game license,
a big game license
or a fishing license.

It's a good way to do
something effective
for conservation.



National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.
1075 Post Road, Riverside, Conn. 06878

THE HUNTER AND CONSERVATION is mailed postpaid for 25¢ a copy or \$1.00 per package of 5 copies.

Yes, please send me your booklet. I enclose \$ _____ for _____ copies.

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