

# KANSAS

*Wildlife & Parks*

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# KANSAS *View*

by Robin Jennison



## Personal Choices

Hunters go through phases as they get older and gain experience. The Kansas Hunter Education Manual recognizes Four Stages of A Hunter: 1) Shooter-bagger – young or beginning hunters who gauge success by how many times they shoot and if they bag any game. 2) Limit Stage – success is measured by how close a hunter comes to getting a bag limit. 3) Trophy Stage – hunters may hunt only mature white-tailed bucks or hold out for a large spring gobbler, knowing they may not bring any game home. 4) Method Stage – this is an advanced stage when the hunting method or type of equipment used is more important than bagging game.

Kansas hunters are fortunate to have fantastic hunting opportunities, generous seasons and a variety of method choices. The only downside is that hunters can segregate into method hunting groups, who then vie for special seasons and regulations. The Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission has attempted to accommodate these groups, which has resulted in some complicated and confusing regulations. Department staff have also learned that it's difficult, if not impossible, to regulate personal ethics.

Recently, KDWPT staff proposed simplifying deer hunting regulations. Currently, a legal caliber for rifle deer hunting is .23 or greater, with a cartridge case length of at least 1.28 inches. In recent years, hunters have requested smaller calibers be allowed. Debate has focused on a perception that smaller bullets will wound deer. However, technology has provided better bullets, and other states that allow these smaller centerfire calibers have not experienced problems. Every hunter knows that shot placement is key to a humane kill with a rifle, and that a poorly placed .30-06 bullet will wound just as surely as a poorly placed .223 bullet. Ethical hunters understand the limitations of their skill level and equipment.

Staff also recommended allowing hunters with permits valid during the archery season to use crossbows. Crossbows can stir up emotional debate, with some who bowhunt claiming it's too easy to shoot a crossbow or that many rifle hunters will buy crossbows to hunt during the rut.

For many years, we've allowed hunters who were injured or disabled to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season. Several have testified before the Commission that their experiences were very similar to bowhunting. They had

to get close, had to be careful with scent and stay downwind, and their success rate was similar. Last season, hunters 15 and younger and those 55 and older were allowed to hunt with crossbows during the archery season. And a legislative mandate required the agency to allow crossbows for all hunters during the archery season in four management units for a two-year trial. Hunters choosing to hunt with crossbows in these units were required to have a Crossbow Survey ID Number, and they were all sent a questionnaire. After analyzing the results of the survey, staff recommended allowing crossbows during the archery season in all units.

These proposed amendments are intended to simplify our regulations, as well as provide hunters with more options. The crossbow change could contribute to recruiting new hunters, and it may bring back hunters who quit bowhunting for physical reasons. I personally know of several young hunters who shot their first deer with crossbows this fall. They were thrilled with the opportunity and experience.

History shows us that changes such as these won't result in dramatic shifts in hunter behavior. When resident firearm deer permits were first sold over the counter, there were fears that the deer herd would suffer. However, permit sales remained consistent, and getting permits was much more convenient for hunters. When we proposed a statewide resident permit, there were concerns about concentrating hunters in certain areas. We've learned that, for the most part, hunters hunt where they live and where they have access. However, many expressed appreciation for the flexibility to hunt in other areas of the state when opportunities arose.

I don't believe these equipment changes will be detrimental to our resources or hunting traditions, and I believe we must simplify our regulations whenever we can. If these proposals are approved, they won't hinder an individual hunter's ability to make choices. However, if providing additional opportunities creates a larger and more diverse hunting population that appreciates and enjoys our natural resources, it will be worth the effort. How we hunt will still be based on personal preference, our stage as a hunter and individual ethics. I may never hunt deer with a crossbow, but I believe my neighbor should have that choice, and if he thinks that's the only way to hunt, great. 🦋



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**Front Cover:** Bundled against the cold, Kent Dodds of Wichita holds a nice stringer of late-winter crappie in a photo by Marc Murrell. **Back Cover:** By April, white bass should be moving upstream to spawn. In this Mike Miller photo, Lloyd Fox of Emporia, tries his luck in Dagoon Creek above Pomona Reservoir.



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# Letters . . .



## START 'EM YOUNG!

Editor:

This is a picture of my two grandson's, Beau and Luke out duck hunting with their daddy! Can you feel the excitement in their expressions?

*Ann Herrera  
email*

## MORE ON BAITING

Editor:

I just read the letter from John Foster relative to the baiting issue (November/December 2012). He makes some good points, but the issue of disease transfer by nose to nose contact is not up for debate. The transfer of CWD virus will be spread more quickly in areas where deer are feeding in close proximity to each other such as over feeders. A number of other states have already proven this fact and have since outlawed the use of feeders. If Mr. Foster is as interested in deer management as he appears to be, he and the rest of us need to lobby hard to get feeders banned. It matters not whether you get along with your neighbors, want the male deer to all get to be five years old and 160 inches of

antler, or have enough fat on the does to always ensure twins. What does matter is that 20 years from now, we have a healthy deer herd CWD free. Thank you.

*Bruce Clark  
Kearney, MO*

## CANCEL COYOTE HUNTING

Editor:

You recently sent a renewal notice for our *Wildlife & Parks* magazine when we allowed that subscription to lapse. I am writing to inform you that we will no longer subscribe to your magazine. While I have enjoyed your magazine for many years, having had a subscription for many of those years in my name, and a subscription in my organizations' names for all other years, I cannot condone supporting a magazine that promotes the shooting and killing of wildlife purely for target practice and the enjoyment of killing. Your article this year promoting the hunting and killing of coyotes as a "sport" was an absolute insult to ethical hunters such as myself. While I am an avid hunter of deer and pheasant, and an avid fisherman, I am also a hunter and fisherman who understand's that you catch/kill only what you or someone else is going to eat. No one eats coyotes, and their pelts are not worth the price of the time spent hunting them. Hunting coyotes is done by people who need to kill something for no great purpose than to kill something. While we have always had to endure having people like that in our world, and always will be burdened with people like that, it greatly surprised me to see your magazine not only endorsing them, but actually promoting this highly unethical practice as a desirable event. Clearly, I have had to re-evaluate my opinion of your magazine and your agency, and will no longer support this cause. I realize you do not need my subscription money, and the loss of it will not affect you, but you should realize that others I discussed this with were equally appalled that your agency would encourage the shooting of harmless animals for no other purpose than the target practice it represents.

*Dennis Dinwiddie  
Topeka*

Mr. Dinwiddie,

We hate to lose you as a subscriber and reader. And while I respect your personal opinion that coyote hunting isn't something you agree with, you've made some statements and conclusions that are unwarranted.

First and foremost, I don't consider any hunting to be a sport. Sport usually indicates competition, and hunting is not a competition in my mind. It is, however, a cherished tradition and heritage that utilizes our renewable wildlife resources.

I grew up in a small farming/ranching community, and coyote hunting was a tradition passed on as a way to harvest fur and control losses to livestock. I know many coyote hunters and trappers who utilize the furs, no matter what the price.

Agree with it or not, hunting and trapping coyotes and furbearers are legal activities regulated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Our magazine covers those activities and the Kansans who enjoy them.

And lastly, disagreeing with coyote hunting does not make you an ethical hunter. Ethics are each hunter's personal codes of behavior. I don't hunt coyotes often, but I support those who do as long as they operate within our laws and regulations and respect the rules of fair chase.

*Editor*

## WOMEN OUTDOORS

Editor:

In response to the article about Nicole Jones, and what she does for a living (M-March/April 2012). I strongly agree with the way hunting networks are now, and how women are starting to show their faces more in hunting shows than ever before. I was also able to speak with both Pat and Nicole at the Monster Buck Classic in Topeka, and they are truly great people. I have watched them for a few years now, and I admire what they are doing in the hunting industry.

I am writing this letter is to say how important it is to be able to watch women on the hunting networks. Our hunting shows have changed drastically from what they were just 10 years ago. Seeing women in the hunting industry is great for our outdoor society, mainly because of all the children getting



involved in hunting now from watching these shows. Little girls are starting to hunt more along with girls who are in their late teens to early 20s. We need more female hunters in the industry. It isn't only a man's job to hunt; it's a passion that can involve both men and women to share the moment of going out and harvesting the perfect animal that was put on this earth.

*Brett Bate  
McPherson, KS*



March and April signify the start of the exciting spring birding season in Kansas. Christmas Bird Counts in December and January helped get many avid birders through winter, but most of us can't wait until spring migration kicks into gear.

Waterfowl species that have spent the winter here begin to stir, along with new arrivals such as northern pintail, sandhill cranes and many other species that usually have only a token presence in Kansas during colder months. Goose, duck and crane numbers swell in March, and the birds bide their time here for a few weeks until the instinct to continue north to breed overwhelms them. However, we'll need substantial precipitation so our marshes can be hosts for the annual spectacle. Signs of relief have appeared at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Stafford County with the increase of sheet flow and subterranean water from the northwest part of the area. But this won't last long without the inflow of surface runoff through the spring. Cheyenne Bottoms is still dry, so it's imperative to have a wet spring to make that area a major stopover this spring.

Shorebird migration begins in March, with peak numbers for several species occurring in April and early May. Shorebirds are extremely dependent on surface areas with shallow, standing water, wet meadows and mud flats, which provide invertebrate organisms needed to refuel for the long journey to the Arctic. They can fly long distances in a short time, but refueling stopovers at marshes and playas are critical to species' health. Birds that struggle to maintain fat reserves during migration arrive on the breeding grounds in poor condition or may even perish en route. This makes for potential nest failure and overall poor breeding success, causing population declines.

Most of these species are resilient and have survived for thousands of years, but there is always concern when drought or other factors cause wide-spread habitat loss. Habitat conservation programs need the support of sportsmen, birders and other folks interested in nature. The purchase of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) is an easy way to help with habitat conservation on a national level. Since the stamp was first required of waterfowl hunters 16 or older in 1934, duck stamp sales have generated more than \$750 million,

## BIRD BRAIN

*with Mike Rader*

### START BIRDING NOW

which has been used to purchase or lease more than 6 million acres of wetland habitat in the U.S. The purchase of a hunting/fishing license helps with these efforts on the state level. Even if you do not hunt or fish, buying stamps and permits contributes to important conservation efforts that benefit many game and nongame species. Joining organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society and others helps fund conservation efforts, as well.

Spring provides a variety of birding opportunities. Local Audubon chapters and bird clubs sponsor field trips to great local and even out-of-state destinations, such as to the Platte River in Nebraska to watch waterfowl and sandhill cranes. Other events include the Spring Kansas Ornithological Society

gathering, slated for the second weekend in May in Norton and surrounding counties. The biannual Wings & Wetlands Festival in Great Bend has been cancelled for 2013 due to uncertain water levels at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, but watch for a possible one-day, bird-related event at the end of April conducted by the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms. Many nature centers and bird product retail stores hold events on National Migratory Bird Day, which is the second Saturday in May. Check with your local store or nature center to see what opportunities are available.

Spring is my favorite time of the year to watch birds. It's refreshing to go birding before the leaves are fully out, the temperatures are comfortable and ticks are not out in full force! The males of most species are decked out in breeding plumage and singing, making identification much easier than in fall and winter. It's a great time to get out and enjoy what the Kansas outdoors has to offer.





# IT'S THE LAW

with Kevin Jones

## FISHING REGS



Another fishing season is here and with it comes some important fishing regulation changes. If you haven't already picked up a copy of the *2013 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary*, get one – get two; one for your tackle box and one for your vehicle or boat. The most significant changes relate to the use of live baitfish, license requirements for anglers who are age 65 through 74, and changes in the length and creel limits on a number of lakes across the state.

To eliminate some of the confusion and problems for using live baitfish, the regulations were changed to allow anglers to catch bluegill and green sunfish and use them for live bait in any Kansas waters, provided they are not caught from an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) designated water. ANS-designated waters are listed on Page 30 of the regulation summary and are also marked in the "Locations, Length and Creel Limits" section of the summary (Pages 13 through 28). Any other species of baitfish, such as shad for example, may only be used as live bait in the body of water where they are caught and may not be transported above any dam or natural barrier from where the fish were caught. Anglers may use live baitfish purchased from licensed bait dealers, but they must keep the receipt from the purchase with them while fishing. The future health and productivity of our fisheries resources depend on anglers complying with these rules.

The license requirements for Kansas resident

anglers who are 65 through 74 years of age have changed. While the previous law exempted resident anglers who were 65 years of age or older, the new law requires anglers age 65 through 74 to possess a valid fishing license (similar changes occurred for hunting, too). Special, lower cost licenses have been created for this group of anglers. The annual resident senior fishing license costs \$11.50; the annual resident senior combination license is \$20.50, or for \$42.50, a resident senior can purchase a license that will be valid for both fishing and hunting for the entire time they will need to have a license, which is up to their 75th birthday. The exemption age was changed to avoid future budget shortfalls. Hunters and anglers 65 and older represent our fastest growing age group, and federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funds, which are allocated based in part on license sales, were going to other states.

**If you haven't already picked up a copy of the 2013 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary, get one . . .**



District fisheries biologists are continually monitoring fish populations across the state and as a result make recommendations for regulation changes to improve angling opportunities. This year there have been changes to the minimum length limits and the daily creel limits for a number of lakes across the state. While all the changes are too numerous for this article, they all can be found in the regulation summary. Be sure to check the summary to ensure you know what the length and creel limits are for the water you are fishing. In order for the management plan to work effectively and provide the best opportunity for anglers, it is necessary that these limits are followed.

These are three significant changes that have occurred for the current angling year. There are others in addition to these. If you have questions, contact one of our offices. The addresses and phone numbers for the department offices are found inside the front cover of the summary, on Page 3.

## CONNECT WITH KDWP

**If you're looking for a way to connect with other outdoor enthusiasts, or just want a good read, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) has just the blog for you. Each blog features unique pictures and stories, as well as an opportunity for readers to join in the conversation! Also, don't forget to find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kdwp](http://www.facebook.com/kdwp)**

**Pass it On** – Mike Miller, editor of *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine, blogs about recruiting new hunters and anglers and the importance of passing on your passion for the outdoors to the next generation. To view the Pass it On blog, visit: [ks-pio.blogspot.com](http://ks-pio.blogspot.com)

**The Great Outdoors with Marc Murrell** – Marc Murrell, staff writer and manager of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, reflects on his experiences hunting, fishing, camping and teaching his children about appreciating the great outdoor opportunities we have in

Kansas. To view The Great Outdoors blog, visit: [outdoorswithmarcmurrell.blogspot.com](http://outdoorswithmarcmurrell.blogspot.com)

**TravelKS Blog** – A variety of bloggers cover everything from popular family attractions and historical hotspots to mouth-watering recipes from Kansas restaurants. TravelKS also spotlights breweries and wineries, scenic byways, amusement parks and zoos, and the best places for hiking, hunting and fishing. To view the TravelKS blog, visit: [www.travelks.com/blog](http://www.travelks.com/blog)

**Public Fishing Reports** – "Dock Squawk" is the place to post your own fishing reports, ask questions or just talk fishing with other anglers and our fisheries staff. Or, with "Fishing Reports" you can read and comment on fisheries reports from our fisheries staff. To view the Public Fishing Reports blog, visit: [ksfishing.blogspot.com](http://ksfishing.blogspot.com)

**\*NEW\* Accidental Huntress** – Nadia Marji, associate editor of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine, writes about her adventures of hitting the backroads of Kansas to experience a lot of her outdoor "firsts." She pokes fun at her novice antics and shares pictures of her latest hunting successes. To view the Accidental Huntress blog, visit: [accidentalthuntress.blogspot.com](http://accidentalthuntress.blogspot.com)



# The Way I See It

## SQUIRREL PIE MY EYE



I was drinking a cold beverage at the golf course and lamenting my golf game to anybody who would listen when I overheard an older couple talking about a squirrel they had encountered. At first, I was happy to eavesdrop on their conversation without interjecting any of my outdoor wisdom. However, it soon became obvious they knew nothing about squirrels.

"He was so cute. Wouldn't it be fun to have a pet squirrel?" cooed the lady.

"I don't know about having a wild animal as a pet. I was thinking more about how it might taste in a pie," the man chuckled back.

That last comment did it. I couldn't remain a silent eavesdropper any longer.

"In a pie?" I interrupted loudly. "You don't desecrate a pie by sticking a nasty squirrel in it. Pies are made of lemon, chocolate, butterscotch, or cherry! Squirrels taste like old shoe leather." I whirled in my chair to face them. "Squirrels are evil creatures with no respect for property. They spend their whole lives chewing and burying things. Pirates and thieves bury things. Squirrels are four-legged furry pirates. Stay away from squirrels."

Although they appeared interested, the older couple was wide-eyed and slowly edging toward the door. When they were close to the exit, they slipped out suddenly, leaving me with more squirrel facts and no audience. I was satisfied, though, that I had educated two people who, late in life, were heading down the wrong path.

Left alone with my thoughts, long-buried dark memories of squirrel encounters resurfaced. It all started when I received a scoped semi-automatic .22 rifle with a 10-shot clip and a brick of ammunition for my thirteenth birthday. Ricky, my blood brother from up the street, had received the exact same gift for his birthday. We were blood brothers in the truest sense – born on the same day and bloodied in several catastrophic accidents, but those are stories for another column.

Word spread like wildfire through the neighborhood about our newly acquired firepower. We were the envy of all other kids, while it seemed the adults had entirely different opinions.

"Man, that is cool you guys got rifles," said Dickie, who lived next door. "Dad says you got 500 rounds of ammo, too." Dickie was a year younger than me and in need of my outdoor tutelage.

"Yep," I drawled. (It's good to have a western drawl when you are talking about your shootin' irons.) "When we go to the woods to shoot, you can go out with us and touch off a few rounds, iff'n you want."

"Naw," Dickie said dejectedly. "I wish I could, but my old man says that we can't even play outside until you two run out of bullets. He told me that the whole neighborhood will look like Swiss cheese before long."

"Well tell your old man we have a thousand rounds to shoot, and we are declaring war on the squirrels across the highway," I said, offended that Dickie's dad thought we were unsafe. "By the time we're done, there won't be a squirrel within a hundred miles of here and then we will have a neighborhood squirrel barbecue – not to mention we'll be rolling in the dough."

The next morning, Ricky and I marched off to the squirrel woods, rifles shouldered and our chests stuck out. The sun glistened from our well-oiled rifles, and we waved at our buddies, who watched warily through half-closed windows. The only activity outside was adults boarding up the windows like they were preparing

for a hurricane. We had my red wagon with us, which we planned to fill with squirrels. By my calculation, a wagon-full of squirrels would bring us about \$5.

"Why are we wasting all of our ammo on squirrels?" Ricky inquired as we walked. It was then that I unveiled my entrepreneurial blueprint that would make us rich.

"I read in the back of *Outdoor Life* that Mepps Lure Company will pay a dime a squirrel tail. If we kill 990 squirrels, that's almost 100 bucks."

"Why settle for 990 squirrels and not a thousand?" Ricky asked, innocently.

"We still need to sight our guns in," I sighed. Rookie shooters can be so naive.

One week and a thousand rounds later, we had managed to kill 23 squirrels. They proved to be illusive once they discovered they were our primary targets.

We hauled our squirrels back to my house and removed their tails. It turns out that 23 squirrel tails just fit into a Kentucky Fried Chicken bucket. As I prepared the tails for shipping, our minds reeled over our \$2.30 windfall we would receive. We weren't as wealthy as we had planned, but at that age, we could do a lot with \$1.15, providing we stayed away from girls, which was not a problem for me at that time. Then dad walked in. Dads are inherently suspicious of children, especially thirteen-year-old boys, and my dad was also a professional fun eraser. He could remove fun so quickly that you didn't even remember if you really had it or if it was a fleeting figment of your imagination.

"What in the world is this?" Dad teased. "Did the Colonel come up with a new special, Barbecued Squirrel Tails?" Then he chuckled. I really wanted to spring one of my well-kept secrets on him and wipe that chuckle off of his face. I could think of several things that would stop him in mid-chortle, but built-in safety valves warned me to let it pass. Better to save those tidbits until I was safely in my sixties.

"Ricky and I shot these squirrels, and we are getting a dime apiece for the tails from Mepps," I blurted out proudly. "We just need to mail them in."

"I see", said Dad as he stroked his chin thoughtfully. "Where are your squirrels – the rest of their carcasses, I mean."

"In my wagon outside," I answered. I thought Dad might want to see where we had located our shots. He was sure to be proud of our marksmanship.

"Go get 'em," he said, in a tone that made me think he had something else in mind.

He looked at the tailless bodies and said, "Skin 'em. You boys are going to be eating a lot of squirrel in the next few weeks. I will mail the tails in for you after you have eaten the last squirrel. Then you Rockefellers can have your money."

We learned several valuable lessons: Don't shoot anything you don't intend to eat. Don't use a dull knife to skin an old squirrel. And there are 23 ways for your mom to cook a squirrel but after a few days, it all tastes like an old shoe.

Sir Francis Bacon once said, "He who hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune, for they are impediments to great enterprises . . ." Bacon should have modified that to include fathers.



Boat owners, do you know what hygroscopic means? How about miscible? If you're using ethanol-based gasoline in your boat engine, these are two terms you should be familiar with. Hygroscopic relates to a compound that easily absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and miscible describes a substance that can mix with water in any proportion without separating.

Ethanol alcohol is a solvent and a degreaser and it has hygroscopic and miscible properties. Ethanol fuels (E10, E15, and E85) rapidly absorb 50 times more water than non-alcohol gas. Running your boat engine on gas that contains more than 10 percent alcohol will cause performance problems and can also cause permanent damage to your marine motor. Some marine motor manufacturers will void their warranty if you use ethanol-based gasoline in your engine. Newer engines, built within the last five years, are designed to handle fuel with up to 10 percent alcohol, but older model engines were not made with alcohol based fuel in mind. Tests done at gas stations across the United States have produced results that some pumps showing E10 actually contain up to 48 percent alcohol, and many others are above the 10 percent listed on the pump.

Signs and symptoms of ethanol problems and damage include stalling, hesitation, smoky exhaust, prematurely worn engine parts, rusting, clogging of fuel filters and carburetor jets, release of gunk and sludge throughout the engine, frequent water-contamination/phase separation of fuel, and eventually engine breakdowns. Ethanol can cause a motor run lean on fuel, causing vapor lock. It also causes phase separation, when the weight of the ethanol and water mixture will sink to the bottom of the fuel tank and get picked up by the motors fuel system.

Because ethanol is a solvent, running it through your engine will cleanse and release corrosive matter, varnish, and rust, which will travel through the engine and clog fuel filters, carburetor jets and injectors. Ethanol also tends to dissolve certain resins, which can travel through the engine intake and coat intake valves, causing sticking and bent pushrods, or worse. The more gunk (rust, sediment, dirt) collected in your outboard engine over the years, the more noticeable the cleaning effects of the alcohol will be.

Ethanol can also wear down and dry out the plastic and rubber parts in your engine. Rubber seals and plastic material used in older boats are often not compatible with alcohol. Ethanol will make parts dry and brittle. Since ethanol is a cleaning and drying solution, it will clean the oil right off the internal components of a two stroke engine, increasing the need for extra lubrication.

There are several steps you can take to prevent damage to your outboard motor from ethanol based fuels. If possible, try to avoid using fuels with any ethanol in them at all. Many marinas and gas stations near lakes will have ethanol free gas for sale, specifically for use in marine engines. Avoid running on the bottom half of your fuel tank. Most of the water/alcohol

# Boat SAFE

with Erika Brooks

## How's your Fuel?



mix will sink to the bottom causing you to attempt to run your engine on almost no gas. Check your fuel system for contaminants and clogging and replace your fuel filter often.

All fuel additives and fuel system treatment products that contain alcohol should be avoided when running ethanol blend fuel through your engine. Check the ingredients of any fuel additive before you pour it into your gas tank. There are a few out there that are alcohol free. Even fuel additives sold by some major marine motor manufacturers can contain up to 95 percent alcohol. Always read the label before you add it to your tank. Be aware that there is no method of reversing phase separation, and no additive will fix the fuel in your tank if this has happened. You will need to drain and dry your tank, starting over with new, fresh fuel.

If you choose to store your boat for short periods of time with fuel in the tank, one recommendation is to keep the fuel tank full so there is less of a void space above the fuel line for water to collect. Replacing the gasoline every two to four weeks is usually recommended with E10, and 90 days is the maximum shelf-life recommendation. When storing your boat for the winter or extended periods of time, it is recommended to remove all the fuel from the tank.

Keeping your engine maintained and taking precautions against damage from water in your fuel can save you time and costly repairs in the future. Consulting your owner's manual or checking with your marine motor manufacturer for their recommendations on fuel will give you the best information for your particular brand of boat motor.

# HUNTING HERITAGE *with Kent Barrett*

## What's Reasonable?

Several months have passed since the tragic events of Newtown, Conn. transpired seemingly right before our eyes. We all struggle individually to make sense of the tragic loss of so many innocent lives. An event like this has such far-reaching effects as it causes us all to look deeply into our own souls to search our value systems and to judge ourselves, sometimes quite harshly. Soon the inevitable calls begin for bans on certain types of firearms. These ideas always begin with an assertion that these changes are the way to guarantee public safety, to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again. These calls are usually prefaced by a seemingly innocent reference to them only being "reasonable." Everyone wants to be reasonable in how we deal with our fellow inhabitants of planet earth. But these highly emotional circumstances cause people to view what is reasonable in very different ways.

Emotion can cause individuals to only view their own personal opinion as being reasonable. Because of this, anyone who disagrees with them is by their definition unreasonable. This is counterproductive to having any substantive discussion of the facts. We can see this even within our own hunting community. We teach in our hunter education classes that sportsmen can go through stages as they mature in the sport. One of these stages we refer to as the method stage where sportsmen determine the method of hunting they prefer. Most times this selection of method also includes a selection of hunting tool that goes hand in hand with the method. Some of these method hunters get very specific in their self-imposed requirements for ethically conducting themselves and their hunts. Emotion can run high during discussions with other hunters who have made different choices for themselves regarding how they will conduct their

hunts. Is one right and the other wrong? What is reasonable?

Many people look at a semi-automatic AR-platform rifle and declare that they are unnecessary in hunting and that no reasonable hunter would ever need one. This is a major portion of the debate that is going on at the moment. Our politicians relentlessly declare that these "assault rifles" serve no hunting purpose and would never be used by hunters. Yet there are many hunters who have chosen this platform, for very specific reasons, as their selection for their preferred hunting application. They see themselves as very reasonable in making the determination to use this selected method in order to conduct their hunt. Yet another, because of their narrow window of selection of hunting method, may view this choice as unreasonable. Are we discounting our fellow hunters as unreasonable only because they choose a hunting method or a hunting tool that we choose not to use? Are we willing to abandon it as unreasonable only because we don't use it, so a decision to ban it won't impact us and how we chose to hunt?

I think we need to keep some things in perspective as we ponder emotional events like this. The choice this individual made to take the lives of these innocent school children and their teachers was a bad choice. It was wrong and unreasonable. I don't think anyone would argue that point. Whatever the choice of tool selected to accomplish this unreasonable act was also a bad choice. The fact that it was an AR-platform rifle was unfortunate. But the tool did not make the choice. Tools are incapable of making choices regarding right and wrong; they are only tools. We can't lose sight of that fact. That wouldn't be reasonable.

## PRATT EDUCATION CENTER RECEIVES DONATION



**D**uane Brown and his late wife Judy spent as much of their life together outdoors as possible. The Browns traveled to Wyoming for 33 straight years to hunt deer and antelope, and the couple spent two weeks hunting Africa in 1984.

The Browns, who lived in South Hutchinson, also spent considerable time hunting in Kansas. Duane admits that waterfowl hunting was his passion. To remember their hunts, the Browns began collecting taxidermy mounts of select animals taken, and eventually filled a

home workshop with mounts. The collection includes ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, turkeys, deer, and even a pair of ptarmigan taken in Canada.

Before Judy's death, the couple agreed that others should be able to enjoy the collection. Honoring that pact, Duane recently contacted Kansas Department of Wildlife,

Parks and Tourism's Chris Shrack, who manages the Education Center and Museum in Pratt, to offer a donation. Shrack was thrilled and is currently working to update the center's wildlife dioramas and displays with Brown's taxidermy.

"Some of our specimens have been on display for many years and needed to be replaced," Shrack said. "I'm very thankful for this generous offer and will be busy this spring integrating the Browns' contributions into our displays."

The KDWPT Education Center and Museum is located across from the KDWPT Operations Office, 512 SE 25th Ave., which is two miles east and two miles south of Pratt. The center includes a variety of wildlife displays, aquariums, and other education and historic information. It's open 8-5, Mon.-Fri. and admission is free.







## CANNED DEER MEAT

pickles, pickled beets, potatoes, green beans, hot mixed vegetables, and various tomato mixes for stews and other dishes.

I've carried that tradition on with my own family, canning apples, sandhill plum jelly and pickles. Until recently, my wife had been a casual observer, but now she's taken up the practice with me. Pickles are her signature item, and she is good enough at it she has been labeled the "pickle queen" by her friends. All of the canning she does is a type called water-bath canning, which is typically used for high-acid foods including those that are tomato based, pickled or jellied. She admits pressure canning scares her.

Because I grew up with pressure canning, I'm comfortable with the process. Yes, it can be dangerous, but mostly it's a lot of work. Each year, I can traditional items, but I'm always on the lookout for new recipes. A few years ago I produced a batch of canned carp that convinced skeptics that carp meat was edible and tasty. Recently, I overheard a conversation about canning deer meat, and it sparked my interest. After a little research, I found a simple, yet fantastic recipe for canning deer, listed to the right.

I don't know if my wife will overcome her fears of pressure canning, but she does show an interest and so do the kids. When I learned, my mother passed along the skills she learned from her mother who learned from my great grandmother. Of course just a generation ago, the internet didn't exist, so if Grandma didn't can

I have canned foods for most of my life. As a youngster, I learned by helping my mother can old-fashioned dill

carp, neither did Mom. Today, the internet and local Extension Service are great resources for canning information.

Although my canning education was limited to domestic home grown fruits and vegetables, I have found ways that canning can help utilize the bounty of the outdoors. Passing these traditions on to my family provides high-quality time together and is a natural extension of our outdoor experiences.

I read an interesting quote that was passed among a few Facebook friends recently, "I hunt WITH my kids, so I don't have to hunt FOR my kids." My family takes that a step further by canning and cooking together, and for some reason, food you've killed, processed and cooked tastes better and feels healthier than store-bought food.

### Canned Deer Meat

1 dozen pint-sized canning jars with rings and lids

10 pounds deer meat cleaned and cut into 1- to 2-inch cubes

½ teaspoon sea salt (PER JAR)

½-inch cube beef fat (PER JAR)

Remove any fat while cubing meat, then pack cubes into sterilized pint jars to within about 1 inch from the top (headspace). Pack in a ½-inch cube of beef fat and add the ½ teaspoon of sea salt on top. Wipe rim of jar with clean rag and place sterilized lid and ring on jar being careful not to overtighten the lid. Then pressure cook for 75 minutes with 10-pound weight. Follow canning procedures that accompany your canner for bringing canner up to temperature and cooling down.



**FISHIN'** with Mike Miller

### GO SLOW, GO SMALL

There are two rules for early spring fishing: go small and go slow. This is the best time to get out the ultra-light spinning outfit, spool on some new 4- or 6-pound test mono or really light superline, and tie on a tiny jig.

Remember that the water is still cold, and cold-blooded fish are still controlled by this. They are affected by warming temperatures, but are still relatively sluggish. Go slow. In fact, you'll probably catch more fish if you're barely moving your lure.

The two best ways to fish slow are using a bobber or fishing vertically from a boat. Vertical fishing will work best if the fish are in water deeper than 6 feet. But a bobber is hands-down the best way to catch early spring fish in shallow water. Tie on a white or chartreuse marabou jig and attached a small float about 3 or 4 feet above it. Cast it near some kind of structure – a dock, brushpile, rocky shore or rip-rap, and let it sit. A little wave

action is perfect.

Early spring fishing requires patience and finesse. Move the lure slowly and pay attention to the float. It may not go completely under when a fish takes the lure. It might simply wobble, move unnaturally or settle just a little lower in the water.

A little garnish might also make a difference this time of year. Adding some live bait, a wax worm, small minnow or commercial product such as Powerbait or Crappie Bites is worth a try. When the water is cold and fish a little sluggish, the added scent of bait can trigger strikes.

Don't be afraid to fish shallow. While the school of thought is that the fish are still near their deep-water winter hang-outs, the shallow water warms faster. Warmer water means prey and active fish. Always fish the upper ends of coves, and inlets where creeks, streams or springs run in. Start shallow and move deeper until you find fish.





# Accidental HUNTRESS

with Nadia Marji

## GOODBYE FLIP-FLOPS, HELLO MUCK BOOTS!

When you're a senior in college, everyone asks you "what are you going to do after you graduate?" My answer was always the same: "I don't know, but something with the outdoors." Most of my classmates had dreams of a corporate position or moving to a big city, but I just wanted a job where wildlife and nature meant as much to my coworkers as it does to me. I also wanted to follow my mom's advice, who said that if you have to go to work everyday, you might as well do something you love. I love wildlife, so when I was offered a position with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, it was a no-brainer. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let me take you to the beginning.

Growing up in California, I could always be seen in a tank-top and a pair of flip-flops. The daily weather forecast was always the same – sunny – and I liked it that way. After all, rain wasn't conducive to cute hair-dos, and snow meant having to cover up my hard-earned tan.

When I was younger, my grandpa would take my brother and me fishing at Big Bear Lake in the mountains west of Los Angeles. The two-hour drive up the mountain gave me plenty of time to work in a nap and fuel up on a box of Fruity Pebbles. Upon arrival, we would unload our poles and get to work. Rainbow trout was our favorite catch, although it was usually grandpa doing the catching. I vividly remember the first time I saw him de-scale a trout with an old Swiss army knife he always carried. What a sight! I remember how much it grossed me out as a little girl, but these days I cherish that memory.

When my grandpa died, so did my passion for the outdoors, or so I thought. It just wasn't the same without him. As I entered my teenage years, those memories were filed away, left to collect dust and make room for newer and "cooler" memories.

When I reached 14, my life flipped upside down. My mom remarried to a man from Kansas, and it was just a matter of time before she visited his home state. I thought nothing of it at the time, but that trip was a turning point in our lives. When she came back to California, there was no changing her mind – we were moving to Kansas. I was devastated. Beaches or fields, beaches or fields – in my mind, there was no contest. How could anyone want to trade sand and surf for cows and hay? Unable to change my mom's mind, I unwillingly packed my belongings and said my goodbyes. At 14 you don't have much say in those matters, but looking back, perhaps that's a good thing.

Two years went by in my new home state and before I knew it, I was a sophomore in high school. The transition was still rough, but I eventually made new friends and became more involved with school. The following year, I had my first boyfriend. I remember the first time he took me fishing on his family pond. It wasn't a walk on

the beach at sunset, but I decided to give it a whirl. It took me a while to tie on that first hook, but a few casts later, the skills that Grandpa taught me came back. I finally found something that made Kansas feel like home. It took 12 years and 1,500 miles, but my childhood memories of fishing with Grandpa became timeless, and nothing would ever replace them again.

In time, that relationship ended, but my love for the outdoors continued to grow. At 18, I moved again, but this time by choice. It was my freshman year of college and Pittsburg State University was at the top of my list. On the weekends, my new-found friends and I would grab our fishing poles and drive to Bone Creek Lake. I loved fishing, but I wanted a new type of adventure. It wasn't until my current boyfriend took me to the Neosho Wildlife Area that the hunting bug got the best of me. From mysterious tracks on the ground to rabbits hastily jumping through bushes, I couldn't think of a more exciting place to be.

From that point on, I tagged along on any hunting trip I could. Deer, duck, turkey – it didn't matter, I enjoyed it all. Before I knew it, it was out with flip-flops and in with Muck boots, and these days I like it that way.

When I lived in California, I thought there was no better place to live, but now that I'm in Kansas, I can't imagine ever leaving. Whether I'm climbing into an ice-covered tree stand at 5 a.m., or admiring the stealthy movements of a coyote as it searches for food, I feel more at home in Kansas than I ever have before. It's funny how things work out sometimes. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy my tank-tops, and I refuse to refer to soda as "pop," but a lot of things have changed, mostly for the better. Staying true to my city-girl roots though, I prefer hunting and fishing equipment that has the color pink on it somewhere (preferably in a prominent location).

Looking back, I realize that the days of fishing with grandpa were just the beginning of my outdoor adventures, most of which I'm glad to say are ahead of me. Although somewhat inexperienced, I'm not a stranger to the outdoors. I've had some great first hunts for doves, turkey, deer, pheasants and ducks, and I've caught some nice catfish and bass, too. In fact, I even snagged my first spoonbill last year! Regardless, there are still so many experiences that I've yet to enjoy. That's why I'm making it my mission to explore all the wildlife and outdoor fun that Kansas has to offer, and I want to take readers on that journey with me.

This column is about learning to embrace the outdoors, whatever your zip code might be. It's about poking fun at the silly things we do as beginner hunters, but most importantly, this column is about getting more women and girls to believe that they can turn "I wish I could" into "I just did."

I may not have been raised a hunter, but don't underestimate an accidental huntress.



# HUNTING SPOTS

with Marc Murrell

## Taking The Bite Out Of Skunk Encounters

The colors of black and white are a universal signal of bad news to any upland bird hunter with a dog. The striped skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, is common throughout Kansas, and there's no mistaking them. And when man's best friend tangles with one, it quickly becomes a battle of strong will and weak stomach to avoid losing your lunch.

Any hunter with a four-legged hunting partner has been there at some point. Some episodes are worse than others, and the worst tales include battle-killed skunks actually being retrieved to dog owners. Other encounters may include only parting shots of the viscous, vile, yellow fluid, but even a glancing blow is enough to make eyes water and remind you of the incident for months.

"Where's my dog?" Jim Reid asked while pitching duck decoys earlier this season in the predawn darkness. Reid has just got a whiff of skunk, and he hoped it wasn't an omen.

Jim's yellow Labrador retriever, Trav, came bounding back and sat down at his master's side.

"Thankfully, he just smelled like his normal, stinky, wet Labrador retriever self with no hint of skunk," Reid laughed.

But Reid, like many dog owners, has plenty of not-so-fond memories of skunked dogs. And even though one of the worst episodes was 35 years ago, he remembers it vividly.

"We were near Gove in western Kansas on Sunday afternoon of the opening weekend of pheasant season," Reid recalls. "My Brittany, Rusty, took a direct hit in the chest.

"We got out a galvanized steel tub to drench him in every can of tomato juice we could find at our friends' farm," Reid said. "It didn't help."

That's not the worst part of the story. Reid was in a van, five hours from home, traveling with his wife and another couple and the temperature was well below freezing. So Reid wrapped Rusty's wire dog



crate on all but one side with plastic trash bags and stuck him in the back corner of the van. He opened a roof vent and headed home, stopping occasionally for fresh air breaks.

"We sprayed evergreen room deodorizer and I smoked a cigar with no complaints from the passengers," Reid laughed.

Back then, the only recipe that truly removed the smell from a skunked dog was time. The good news today is that there's a wonderful solution for helping rid your four-legged friends of the distinctly odorif-

erous problem. Reid relayed his findings to me and it's good information to keep.

In 1993, an Illinois chemist, Paul Krebaum, discovered a mixture of common household items that works well to get rid of the oily stench. Krebaum was working on another project when a colleague's cat got skunked, so he tried a highly diluted version of his experimental formula to treat the cat. It worked.

The mixture can't be concocted ahead of time and has a short, effective lifespan once mixed. It should not be capped or placed in an airtight container. Rubber gloves are recommended for working the mixture into a dog's coat, being careful not to get it in their eyes, and it should be left on for several minutes before rinsing. A second treatment may be necessary for particularly close skunk encounters.

So the next time ol' Fido battles with a skunk, don't worry about breaking out the tomato juice, evergreen air fresheners or cigars. Simply stop by the nearest grocery store and grab a trio of common ingredients. You'll be glad you did!

### *The Recipe:*

1 quart hydrogen peroxide  
(standard 3 percent solution)

¼ cup baking soda

1-2 teaspoons Dawn liquid detergent  
(regular unscented)

## ENJOY KANSAS STATE PARKS THIS SEASON

If you missed our March 9 Parks Open House and Free Day, it's still not too late to get out to a Kansas state park and see what your parks have for you in 2013. Check out our events page at <http://ksoutdoors.com/news/State-Parks/Event-Calendar> to find events and places of interest. Daily vehicle permits will cost \$5 this year and an annual vehicle permit \$25, which saves money if you would like to visit your parks more than five days in 2013. For even more savings, you can purchase a State Parks Passport for \$15 when you register your vehicle. A \$25 annual motor vehicle permit expires on December 31, 2013, but your State Parks Passport is valid until your vehicle registration expires in 2014.

We offer a variety of options your camping, as well. You can come to a park on the spur of the moment and usually find campsites, except for major holiday weekends when campgrounds are often full. However, if you prefer to plan ahead, you can reserve your site or cabin at <http://www.reserveamerica.com> and know that it will be ready and waiting when you arrive. You can save on site fees by purchasing annual or 14-day camping permits, as well. For those who consider a park their home away from home, we have a limited number of seasonal campsites that can be rented through a signed agreement for 30-day stays. We even have storage options at some parks,

so you don't have to haul your camper or boat back and forth to the lake.

We've done everything possible to ensure that your stay in Kansas state parks is affordable, safe and relaxing. Law enforcement officers are on patrol for your safety and to answer your questions. Camp hosts and other employees are also available

to assist you. Nearby marinas and camp stores offer the items you may have forgotten. We have programmed events and improved facilities for your enjoyment. You can ensure your state park stay is safe and enjoyable by staying alert to your surroundings, having adequate safety gear, obeying

posted rules, and being considerate of others. Remember, water temperatures are generally colder than the surrounding air, so hypothermia can set in quickly, even on warm days. Wildlife is wild and should be observed from a distance, not approached. Terrain can be uneven. Some vegetation can cause allergic reactions or leave painful stickers.

However, with adequate precautions, you can relax and enjoy the company of those around you and even make new friends. Nature in Kansas means an ever-changing and often surprising palette of sensory experiences. Delightful memories await. All we need to make Kansas state parks complete this recreation season is YOU!

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Kansas state parks  
complete this recreation  
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## TRAIL CAMERA CAPTURES MOUNTAIN LION IN STAFFORD COUNTY

A deer hunter who was using a remote trail camera to scout for deer in Stafford County was surprised this fall when he plugged the SD card in and found the image of a mountain lion. He hadn't checked the camera for several weeks, and the photo was taken in October, but there was no doubt about the identification. A Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism wildlife biologist visited the site Nov. 16 and confirmed the photo's validity. This is the first report documented in Kansas since last January when tracks of a mountain lion were found in Washington County.

The Stafford County lion is the ninth to be officially confirmed in Kansas since 2007. While there have been many sightings reported, KDWPT staff investigate if

evidence, such as tracks, a photo, or cached kill, is present. According to ongoing research by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, dispersing mountain lions, which are primarily young males, feed mostly on medium-sized animals such as raccoons, raptors, coyotes, and turkeys. They feed on deer less frequently, which take days to consume and likely hinder their movement across the landscape as they search for the opposite sex and an area in which to establish a permanent home range. There is no evidence of a resident population of mountain lions in Kansas.

The use of remote, motion-triggered



cameras by deer hunters to monitor deer in their hunting areas has become common in recent years. These cameras have been responsible for five of the nine Kansas mountain lion confirmations.

—KDWPT News



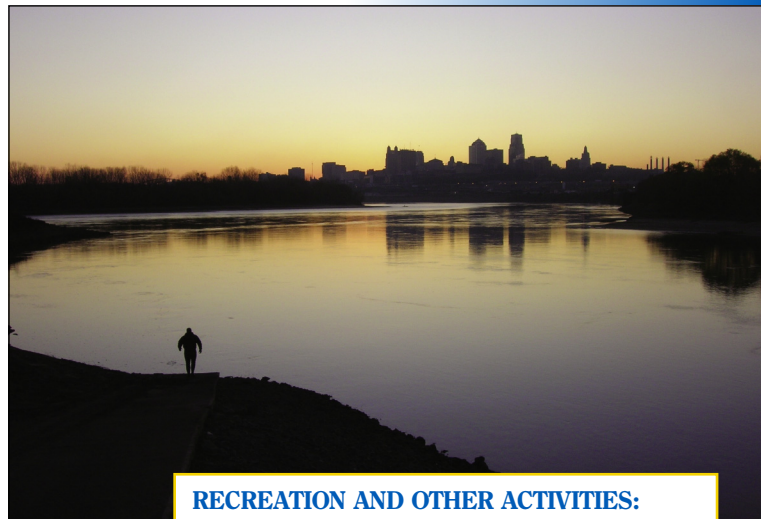
# Go With The Flow

with Mark VanScoyoc

## Spotlight on Kansas Waterways

### The Kaw - The World's Longest Prairie River

As the weather begins warming up in Kansas, many people are looking for ways to get outside and enjoy spring. Our thoughts turn to activities such as angling, hiking, biking, as well as canoeing. However, it's not unusual for Kansans to overlook opportunities within the borders of our own state. In our efforts to get away from it all, we forget that such an escape is only a short drive away. Our state reservoirs attract crowds of those looking for such a get-away, but many times we forget that we owe the existence of these water bodies to our rivers and streams. For this article I wanted to present a little bit of history and information about the Kansas, or Kaw, River and what's available to anyone interested in learning more.



### History and Facts:

- The name "Kaw" comes from the Kanza people who once inhabited the area
- It begins at the confluence (junction) of the Republican and Smoky Hill rivers just east of aptly named Junction City.
- The river is 173 miles in length where it joins with the Missouri River.
- The Kansas River valley is only 115 miles, the surplus length of the river is due to meandering across the floodplain.
- Commercial barge traffic gave the river status as a navigable stream in the eyes of the federal government, however, in the 1860s, most goods were being transported by the extensive and comparatively efficient railroad system.
- On February 25, 1864, the state legislature declared the Kansas River non-navigable, allowing railroad and bridge companies to build bridges and dams without restriction. This law remained in effect until 1913, when, after it had been characterized as "a crime against the public welfare of Kansas," it was finally repealed, and the river's status was restored to a navigable stream. The status has not since changed, though modern commercial navigation on the river is largely confined to dredging.
- The Kansas River National Water Trail was designated as a National Water Trail, July 12, 2012 and is the ninth river to be added to the National Water Trail system.
- There are approximately 40 species of fish that have been surveyed in the Kaw.
- Of these 40 species, at least six are considered threatened, endangered or a species in need of conservation (SINC).

### RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- The river bed within the ordinary high water marks on each bank is open to the public.
- There are 18 public access points along the river that allow the public ample opportunities to fish, canoe, kayak, and row the river.
- At least two rowing teams regularly use the river: The University of Kansas rowing team uses the pool above the Bowersock dam for their exercises, and the Kansas City Rowing Club rows in the final stretches of the river, near its mouth.
- Flathead, blue, and channel catfish occur in good numbers and are highly sought after by anglers.

Whatever your outdoor passions, I'm certain that if you were to spend a day with a river, you'll find something worthwhile to do. And if you share that time with those closest to you and it will not be a day wasted.

For more information regarding the Kansas River, I encourage you to check out the websites below:

[www.kansasriver.org](http://www.kansasriver.org)

<http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Rivers-and-Streams-Access>

## Drought Impacts

Well, the winter hunting seasons are over, and most of you are probably ready for spring fishing and hunting. Personally, I can't wait for the turkeys to return to the river behind our house and greet me every morning with their wonderful gobbling and yelping music. I am ready to wet a line and catch my first fish of the new year - no I do not get excited about sitting on an ice cube and staring through a small hole to catch a fish.

While I look forward to the renewal of spring, I still worry about the drought and warmer than normal temperatures we've experienced the past couple of years. If this drought continues like some are predicting, things could get serious for some of our outdoor pursuits. The dry weather certainly impacted my outdoor enjoyment this past hunting season. In our area, we had the poorest bird hunting season I can remember. I put quite a few miles on my boots with very little to show although I didn't spend much money on shotgun shells, and I had the fields pretty much to myself. There were quite a few waterfowl around, and I did take advantage of those opportunities.

Low water levels provided some advantages for trappers. The beaver were easier to get to, and the dried up creeks and ponds concentrated raccoons. My wife mentioned recently that I hadn't caught many skunks this year. She "loves" it when I skin and stretch skunks in the garage. I'm not sure if skunks were scarce locally or if it was widespread, and I wonder if they are more affected by hot weather and dry conditions than other furbearers. Coyote numbers seemed to be up, but there certainly were not many rabbits left by the end of winter.

Now water levels are getting critical in many areas. Farm ponds and watershed lakes in our area are drying up. We will have to watch them closely to see if we can salvage some fish. Many of our reservoirs are reaching low levels, too, making boat access difficult. We all know that low water levels concentrate fish for easier

harvest, but all of us fish squeezers know that most fish are healthier when water levels are normal or high.

Turkeys and deer seemed unaffected by the drought although we did hear a little more about EHD this year. I have measured several really nice racks this season, so there were some wall hangers taken. I did not harvest a buck this year. I saw a few that I would like to have taken, but they were careful not to step in front of my arrow at the wrong time. Looks like the spring turkey season is shaping up to be a good one from what most are predicting. I have seen some toms with beards almost dragging the ground and hope I can find them come April. A friend and I are planning a trip to Nebraska to try and harvest our first Merriam's gobblers, and I am looking forward to that.

I am also looking forward to the spring 4-H Sportfishing Program. I plan to hold a couple of 4-H Shooting Sports meetings in the late winter, and Theresa and I are already getting things lined up for the Kansas Wildlife Federation's 2013 Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC). This will be year 25 for OAC, and we hope to have around 50 10- to 12-year-olds attend that camp at Rock Springs, June 2-7. I also hope we can send another team to the 4-H Habitat Judging Contest and I'd like to coach again at the National 4-H Archery Competition in Nebraska. If things work out this spring, I may be doing some habitat work at Wilson or Kanopolis reservoirs, too.

I do not want to make this article a negative one, but I am sure that all sportsmen and women out there have some concern in the back of their minds about the weather. We need rain. Many of our landowner friends are having a tough time, and landowner/critter conflicts could increase. Sportsmen need to be ready to assist when we can and all work together through these tough times. Meanwhile, we need to continue to get the kids outside to learn about and enjoy the great outdoors. Plan now to take a youngster turkey hunting or fishing this spring and do your part in Passing It On. I plan to.

## "WILD ABOUT KANSAS" JUNIOR PHOTO CONTEST

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) is proud to announce the 1st annual "Wild About Kansas" junior photo contest. "Wild About Kansas" is a program designed to showcase Kansas outdoors through the lens of young photographers. Winning entries will be featured in the 2014 January/February issue of Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine.

**Eligibility:** Participants must be age 18 or younger. Photos must be the participant's original work and be taken within the state of Kansas. There is no fee to participate.

**Entry Rules:** Entries must fall into one of three categories: wildlife, outdoor recreation, or landscapes.



Participants are allowed to submit up to three photos. Multiple entries can be submitted in the same category.

**Submitting Your Photo:** Entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2013. Photos must be 8 inches by 10 inches, JPEG format, 300 dpi and file size between 1MB and 5MB.

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on creativity, composition, subject matter, lighting and sharpness.

**Awards:** Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. There will also be one honorable mention awarded in each category.

Stay tuned for more information in the May/June issue and on ksoutdoors.com. -Nadia Marji



# K-9 Officer Rex Retires

After 10 years of faithful service, K-9 "officer" Rex retired from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Law Enforcement K-9 unit. Owner and program supervisor Lt. Jason Sawyers has been partners with Rex since the program's inception in 2002.

During their initial training in Indiana with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Jason and Rex were educated in tracking, wildlife detection and evidence recovery.

"When I first met Rex, it was actually in Indiana," said Sawyers. "My previous dog wasn't performing well after the first few days, so I decided to try our back up dog, Rex." Sawyers explained that Rex immediately exhibited the energy and drive he was looking for. "I knew right then that we were going to be a team," added Sawyer.

One of five teams throughout the state, Jason and Rex played a pivotal

role in the enforcement of game-related laws and the conservation of our resources.

"Our dogs allow us and other officers to make cases they wouldn't have made before," said Sawyers. "Rex has recovered items including guns, spotlights, shell casings, knives, wallets, cell phones and various game." Sawyers added that Rex even found a clue that led to the apprehension of a shooting suspect.

"I think Rex and the entire K-9 unit have really been positive for the law enforcement division," said Sawyers. "We couldn't do it without them."

Start up costs for the program were funded by private donations, including the dogs. Like many of his K-9 officer counterparts, Rex, a labrador retriever, was obtained from an animal shelter.

Rex is 11 years old and will remain at home with Sawyer's family.

-KDWPT News



## 2013 Commission Big Game Permits

The following conservation organizations drew 2013 KDWPT Commission Big Game Permits in January.

**Elk Permit:** National Wild Turkey Federation, NE Kansas Upland Chapter

**Deer Permit:** Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation, Jayhawk Chapter

**Deer Permit:** Friends of NRA, Douglas County #KS-27

**Deer Permit:** Crawford County 4-H Shooting Sports

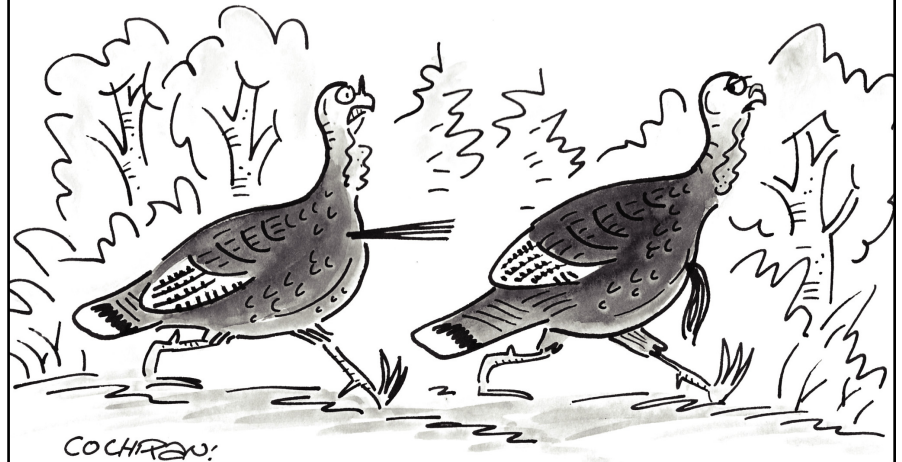
**Deer Permit:** Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, State Chapter

**Deer Permit:** National Wild Turkey Federation, Chisholm Trail Longbeards Chapter

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## WAY outside

BY BRUCE COCHRAN



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# LIMBO CRAPPIE

**text and photos by Marc Murell**  
*manager, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita*

*There is a brief period in March when crappie leave their winter haunts and begin moving to spawning areas. They can be difficult to find and catch during this transition, but some anglers have figured out how.*

Serious crappie anglers know winter fishing can be the best of the year. As long as the temperature is tolerable and the water's not frozen, crappie anglers are out in full force. Crappie are predictable this time of year, often staying in the same locations for weeks, even months, and are virtually unaffected by weather changes. The same patterns hold true after ice-out, at least for a few weeks.

And then they disappear and are hard to catch. So where do they go?

"It seems to always happen by about mid-March," said Craig Athon, Topeka, an avid walleye tournament angler who loves to fish for crappie, too. "They just scatter."

Athon reasons there are several explanations for the crappie mass exodus from their winter haunts at roughly the same time each year.

"I think the water starts to warm up and the shad become more active and move more, too," Athon said. "And crappie are getting ready to move close to the banks to spawn."

Athon has honed his techniques on several northeast Kansas reservoirs, including Clinton, Perry, Pomona and Melvern. He'd probably call Melvern his favorite where he has done well in March consistently for many years.

"I'll look for a creek arm — a main creek arm or just one in a big cove," Athon said. "They get back in there and basically suspend anywhere from 4-5 feet on down to 15 feet down over 20-30 feet of water."

Athon's electronics are critical to his success. He'll cruise at idle speed around a cove and pay particular attention to the numbers, size and depth of fish revealed by his sonar.

"You really have to pay attention to your electronics," he said. "I'm looking for a lot of big hooks, and you just can't have a few, but you have to have a lot of them in order to have a good chance to catch any numbers of fish."

The fish are scattered and on the move, but Athon looks for the best concentration he can find.

"You'll occasionally see fish bunched together, but it's not like in the winter when you can see a big ball of them," he said.

There's one common denominator in this method and time of year and it's relative to the water column.

"I've caught them in as shallow as 8 or 9 feet of water, but they're almost always up off the bottom at least 2, 3, 4 or 5 feet," Athon said. "And I've caught them at Melvern in 40 feet of water and they were down 12 feet, so you have to use your electronics to determine how deep the fish are holding."

A decent breeze is preferred when Athon is utilizing this method to keep his boat drifting casually along and covering as much water as possible. Too much wind isn't good, but he's been successful with this technique when it's blowing 20-30 m.p.h.

"We'll try to find fish on the calm side of the lake, or we'll use a drift sock if we have to," Athon said. "Sometimes it's been so windy, we'll use a 3/8-ounce jig and a 1/2-ounce jig just to get down deep enough to catch them."

A tandem jig set-up is standard equipment for locating scattered March crappie.

"It allows you to fish a couple different depths and it also helps get your jigs so they're not trailing way downwind of the boat making it hard to determine how deep you're fishing," he said. "Ideally, I'll use two 1/4-ounce jigs, but it depends on the wind and how far you have to get down to catch them."

Determining proper depth is tricky in many situations, but maybe even more difficult with this

method. Athon lets his jigs hit the bottom and then knows how many cranks of the reel handle equate to various depths.

"All reels are different," he said. "But you can drop your jig to the bottom of the boat, and then turn the handle once and see how much line is retrieved and go from there. But it's still a bit of trial and error, depending on the wind and weight of jigs, but once you catch fish remember how many cranks up you were and repeat it. It's not an exact science."

Athon used plastics for early spring walleye and crappie fishing.

"I usually use the one of the YUM walleye grubs (twister tails) on one jig and their tube body on the other jig, then figure out what's working," Athon said. "Generally, when I'm moving I think the twister tails work better."

While Athon prefers a "Super" line like Power Pro or Fireline for much of his crappie fishing, particularly deep, winter brush fishing, he says it's not nearly as critical in March and monofilament works



Topekan Craig Athon has put in the time to find "limbo crappie." Athon starts looking for fish in creek arms and usually finds them suspended in 20-30 feet of water.





Electronics are crucial to finding March crappie. However, you won't find the big balls of fish visible just a month ago when they were in their winter holding patterns.

well, too.

"They generally whack it pretty good," he said. "The advantage is the super line allows you to stay a bit more vertical."

Covering water is critical, and it's not unusual for Athon to drift several hundred yards to as much as a half-mile in a big cove.

"Once you get a line and play the wind, if you catch fish you try to repeat that same drift," he said.

Electronics can play a critical role here, too. Using the "track back" feature on a GPS unit allows an angler to repeat the exact drift path time after time.

Weather conditions and water levels affect fishing success, according to Athon. He prefers stable, warming weather without big inflows caused by runoff, which often cause fish to leave an area.

This period where the fish are scattered can last a couple of weeks or more than a month, depending on weather and water temperatures. However, lengthening photoperiod

and warming water temperatures move fish shallow to spawn.

"Fish can head to the bank as early as the end of March, but more likely on into April and even May," Athon said. "Last year, I was

catching them on the banks at Perry Reservoir on March 31. But we had all that warm weather early last year."

When the fish are on the banks, it seems most anyone can catch them a variety of ways. A minnow, set just a foot to several feet below a bobber, is a deadly combination and a relaxing way to fish. Other anglers can't sit that still and prefer to cast a small jig and bobber combination along the shore and retrieve it slowly waiting for the slightest visual "tick" or the bobber to disappear. A bobber is almost mandatory to keep the jig in the strike zone in shallow water and out of snags.

During the crappie spawn, weather patterns, water temperatures and even the time of day have a lot to do with success. Many anglers struggle to catch fish if they're not in just a couple feet of water.

"Most of the time those fish will be close to where they are going to spawn," Athon said. "They'll generally just back off into a little bit deeper water and associate with a creek channel break, or some brush, or some other type of bottom substrate."

Crappie often congregate this



Athon watches his sonar as he jigs vertically for suspended fish. It's not uncommon to find crappie holding 4 or 5 feet deep in 20 feet of water as they transition to spawn.



time of year near rip-rapped causeways, leveling the playing field for shoreline anglers. A boat isn't necessary to catch crappie. However, if the weather cools or rain raises the lake level, the shoreline fishing can slow.

"If they back off the bank, they'll usually be in about 8-12 feet of water," Athon said. "And then you really don't need a bobber and anglers can cast and retrieve and do well if those fish are in deeper water."

Mother Nature isn't often nice in March or April. Big winds, torrential rains and dramatic temperature changes can throw the crappie fishing into a major state of flux, particularly for spawning crappie. Anglers who are on top of their game, adaptable and willing to try different tactics will be rewarded. It's a matter of due diligence, patience, persistence and being able to duplicate a successful pattern no matter the technique.

"This can be a frustrating time of year for crappie fishing," Athon concluded. "It's like anything, one year it can be just fantastic and the next year it's not worth a darn." 🍀



On some days, color and jig body type make little difference. But on days when the fish are finicky, the right body type and color combination can make all the difference.

## 2013 FISHING FORECAST FOR CRAPPIE

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism fisheries biologists compile test netting and other sampling data for most species of Kansas sport fish on various waters. The information is used to produce a forecast that gives anglers an idea of the best locations for different species each year. Many factors influence successful fishing trips, including water clarity and temperature, weather, fishing pressure and anglers' skills. However, using the *2013 Fishing Forecast* provides anglers with a good starting point, depending on their preferred species.

The 2013 Kansas Fishing Forecast indicates best bets for white crappie in reservoirs (bodies of water over 1,200 acres) are Lovewell, Hillsdale, Cedar Bluff, Toronto, Pomona, Perry, Melvern, Milford, Big Hill, Tuttle Creek, Clinton, Elk City, La Cygne, Council Grove and Fall River. While these reservoirs are ones that ranked highest for good white crappie fishing prospects, it does not mean other reservoirs not listed aren't good for crappie fishing. All bodies of water are not sampled every year, and other waters not on the list may provide excellent white crappie fishing opportunities, especially during the spawn when fish congregate shallow. Many smaller lakes (those 10 acres to 1,200 acres) may provide excellent white crappie fishing opportunities as well.

For a complete species-by-species list, check out the forecast on KDWPT's website or turn the page and check it out in this issue of the magazine.





# 2013 Fishing Forecast

Use the following pages to find high-quality fishing for the sport fish you prefer. The forecast lists reservoirs (water bodies larger than 1,200 acres), lakes (waters from 10 to 1,200 acres), and ponds (waters less than 10 acres) for each species. Ratings include the Density Rating, which is the number of high-quality fish captured per unit of effort by fisheries biologists; Preferred Rating, which is the number of fish at a preferred length for that species; Lunker Rating, which is the number of fish sampled at a length most anglers consider a trophy; and Biggest Fish, which is simply the largest fish caught during sampling. The Biologist's Rating is a rating of E -excellent, G -

good, F - fair or P - poor given by the biologist who considers other factors in addition to sampling. In theory, a lake with a Density Rating of 24 will have twice as many high-quality fish per acre as a lake with a Density Rating of 12.

The 3-year Average figure represents a three-year average in density ratings of a particular species. This column provides a history, allowing the angler to compare past fishing outings at the lake with the ratings.

Lengths for high-quality, preferred- and lunker-sized fish are different for each species and are listed in parenthesis at the top of each column. This information will help you find lakes with high populations, as well as those which have larger fish.

You may also view these tables on the KDWPT's webpage [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) or a brochure can be mailed or picked up at any KDWPT office.

Combined with the 2013 *Fishing Regulations Summary*, the 2013 *Fish Atlas* and the Weekly Fishing Reports, the 2013 *Fishing Forecast* is a tool that will help you catch more fish, and it will help you select lakes that provide the kind of fish and type of fishing you desire. Kansas anglers can choose from 24 federal reservoirs, 258 community lakes, 58 state fishing lakes, as well as 150,000 privately-owned farm ponds and 10,000 miles of fishable streams. Better get busy – as the old saying goes — so much water, so little time.

BLUE CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
COFFEY CO. LAKE	2.60	0.27	0.07	20.94	G	1.80
MILFORD	2.15	0.25	0.05	23.15	G	1.40
EL DORADO	1.80	0.07	0.00	13.49	F	1.16
LACYGNE	0.44	0.06	0.06	17.90	G	0.37
MELVERN	0.31	0.25	0.06	23.37	F	0.19
WILSON	0.30	0.00	0.00	5.18	F	0.15
PERRY	0.15	0.00	0.00	10.82	P	0.08
TUTTLE CREEK	0.10	0.00	0.00	7.59	F	0.13
LOVEWELL	0.07	0.00	0.00	2.58	P	0.03
<b>LAKES</b>						
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.67	0.00	0.00	3.84	F	0.44
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	8.05	F	0.17

CHANNEL CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KANOPOLIS	6.25	0.33	0.00	6.39	G	3.42
CLINTON	5.31	0.25	0.00	8.52	G	5.02
BIG HILL	4.70	0.90	0.20	8.05	G	3.44
PERRY	3.55	0.40	0.05	9.42	G	3.62
MELVERN	3.50	0.19	0.00	6.98	G	2.83
MARION	3.25	0.31	0.00	5.38	G	1.50
LOVEWELL	3.20	0.53	0.27	11.97	G	2.20
GLEN ELDER	2.79	0.38	0.04	10.60	G	3.18
LACYGNE	2.63	0.06	0.00	8.01	E	3.65
HILLSDALE	2.58	0.08	0.00	8.48	F	3.03
TORONTO	2.50	1.33	0.08	9.26	G	1.65
WILSON	2.25	0.15	0.00	7.09	G	2.63
EL DORADO	2.00	0.13	0.00	6.83	G	1.79
CHENEY	1.95	0.65	0.05	19.89	G	1.22
MILFORD	1.80	0.15	0.00	5.37	G	1.20
TUTTLE CREEK	1.70	0.80	0.30	13.23	G	2.20
COUNCIL GROVE	1.67	0.42	0.00	5.86	G	1.33
POMONA	1.63	0.00	0.00	4.11	G	2.60
KIRWIN	1.50	0.25	0.08	23.37	G	1.08
FALL RIVER	1.13	0.63	0.00	6.61	G	1.06
COFFEY CO. LAKE	1.07	0.07	0.00	4.54	G	1.07
<b>LAKES</b>						
HORTON-MISSION LAKE	16.83	0.17	0.00	5.09	G	16.83
MOUND CITY LAKE	15.83	1.00	0.33	8.29	E	15.83
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	12.71	2.43	0.43	16.99	G	8.15
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	10.83	1.33	0.33	9.75	G	9.83
DOUGLAS SFL	10.50	0.67	0.00	7.16	G	8.44
SABETHA CITY LAKE	9.00	0.75	0.50	14.43	G	11.42
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	8.25	0.38	0.00	6.11	G	8.25
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	8.00	0.50	0.00	7.12	G	4.50
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	7.00	0.00	0.00	3.26	G	4.50
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	6.75	1.25	0.25	15.43	G	4.33
BROWN SFL	6.75	0.75	0.00	8.49	F	3.75
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	6.33	0.50	0.00	5.36	E	7.22
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	6.33	1.00	0.00	6.24	E	7.44
NEOSHO SFL	6.00	1.50	0.25	10.22	G	4.50
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	5.67	0.33	0.00	5.41	F	5.31
MONTGOMERY SFL	5.67	0.00	0.00	4.10	G	2.67
EUREKA CITY LAKE	5.67	2.67	0.50	12.75	E	7.89
MARION CO. LAKE	5.50	1.33	0.50	20.35	G	4.22
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	5.25	1.13	0.75	17.90	G	5.25
NEBO SFL	5.00	0.25	0.00	5.27	F	5.92
ATCHISON SFL	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.72	F	3.33
BONE CREEK LAKE	4.75	1.50	0.25	15.54	G	3.83
TOPEKA - LK. HAMMOND (YMCA)	4.67	0.00	0.00	3.65	G	7.00
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	4.63	1.00	0.13	9.94	G	3.00
JEWELL SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	4.46	G	2.33
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	4.85	G	2.17
MCPHERSON SFL	4.33	2.00	0.33	8.97	E	4.67
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	4.17	0.17	0.00	8.44	G	2.49
MELVERN RIVER POND	4.00	2.00	0.75	22.50	G	3.61
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.53	G	7.47
CRITZER LAKE	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.48	E	5.39
WILSON SFL	3.83	0.00	0.00	2.87	G	4.50

CHANNEL CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>LAKES</b>						
CLARK SFL	3.83	0.17	0.00	6.18	G	6.10
BUTLER SFL	3.75	0.00	0.00	5.62	G	3.17
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	3.75	0.50	0.25	10.71	G	3.69
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	3.67	0.17	0.00	6.37	F	3.53
COWLEY SFL	3.50	0.00	0.00	3.62	G	2.53
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	3.50	0.00	0.00	4.08	G	2.23
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	3.50	1.83	0.50	13.12	G	5.94
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.38	1.25	0.25	8.87	G	2.21
PAOLA CITY LAKE	3.33	0.17	0.00	6.22	F	3.61
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	3.33	0.33	0.00	5.53	F	5.06
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	3.13	0.50	0.00	8.39	F	2.63
MIAMI SFL	3.00	0.67	0.00	8.36	F	2.39
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	3.00	0.25	0.00	6.69	G	1.63
SHAWNEE SFL	2.83	0.00	0.00	4.79	G	2.22
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	2.75	0.75	0.00	6.97	G	2.53
CHASE SFL	2.75	0.25	0.00	5.58	G	3.58
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	2.17	0.00	0.00	3.27	F	2.56
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	2.00	0.10	0.00	5.36	G	1.90
MEADE STATE LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.67	G	1.08
<b>PONDS</b>						
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #1	3.33	0.00	0.00	1.98	F	3.33
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	4.63	F	1.00
HOLTON-ELKHORN LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	1.98	F	1.67
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	1.33	0.00	0.00	2.61	F	1.33



FLATHEAD CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>28")	Lunker Rating (>34")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KIRWIN	0.33	0.17	0.08	11.18	G	0.19
LACYGNE	0.19	0.06	0.00	6.10	E	0.34
WEBSTER	0.17	0.08	0.00	8.56	G	0.17
FALL RIVER	0.13	0.13	0.13	10.71	G	0.06
GLEN ELDER	0.13	0.00	0.00	3.56	G	0.06
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	0.10	0.00	0.00	3.08	G	0.17
HILLSDALE	0.08	0.00	0.00	1.72	F	0.08
EL DORADO	0.07	0.00	0.00	1.90	F	0.07
COFFEY CO. LAKE	0.07	0.00	0.00	2.01	F	0.07
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	0.50	0.25	0.00	9.83	F	0.31
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	2.49	P	0.25
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	0.38	0.00	0.00	4.89	E	0.38
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	0.25	0.25	0.25	16.31	P	0.25
COWLEY SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	4.43	F	0.25
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	0.25	0.00	0.00	2.12	G	0.21
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	0.17	0.00	0.00	4.05	F	0.17
WILSON SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.00	F	0.17
EUREKA CITY LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.77	P	0.17
CLARK SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	6.61	F	0.33



BLUEGILL						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>6")	Preferred Rating (>8")	Lunker Rating (>10")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>6")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	25.00	1.00	0.00	0.43	E	13.54
HILLSDALE	9.50	0.06	0.00	0.41	F	7.40
WEBSTER	5.94	0.25	0.00	0.55	G	6.33
MILFORD	5.81	0.19	0.00	0.41	F	3.71
BIG HILL	4.70	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	5.21
LOVEWELL	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.36	F	2.72
LACYGNE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	3.56
<b>LAKES</b>						
EUREKA CITY LAKE	140.25	1.75	0.00	0.31	G	54.58
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	130.50	1.00	0.00	0.51	E	65.50
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	E	37.83
TOPEKA - LK. HAMMOND (YMCA)	48.50	4.50	0.00	0.45	G	27.00
MELVERN RIVER POND	44.00	17.50	0.50	0.76	G	18.58
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	32.00	0.13	0.00	0.32	G	20.08
WASHINGTON SFL	28.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	10.08
GEARY SFL	27.00	0.25	0.00	0.33	G	15.17
SCOTT STATE LAKE	26.00	0.14	0.00	0.42	F	17.17
MOUND CITY LAKE	24.67	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	24.67
GARDNER CITY LAKE	22.25	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	37.67
PAOLA CITY LAKE	20.50	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	15.14
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	19.88	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	19.88
COWLEY SFL	19.50	1.00	0.00	0.42	G	10.92
WICHITA - KDOT - WEST BORROW PIT	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	18.00
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	15.00	0.75	0.00	0.37	G	15.00
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	14.50	1.50	0.00	0.42	G	17.25
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	G	10.58
JEWELL SFL	13.25	4.25	0.00	0.59	G	13.58
MIAMI SFL	12.00	2.50	0.00	0.48	F	9.00
WILSON SFL	11.25	2.50	0.00	0.53	G	4.75
MCPHERSON SFL	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	13.83
PRATT CO. LAKE	10.50	0.50	0.00	0.41	F	10.42
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	10.50	0.75	0.00	0.44	G	10.50
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.23	F	8.33
NEOSHO SFL	9.67	0.00	0.00	0.24	G	12.06
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	10.17
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	5.67
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	7.75	0.00	0.00	0.27	P	5.00
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	7.25	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	4.50

BLUEGILL						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>6")	Preferred Rating (>8")	Lunker Rating (>10")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>6")
<b>LAKES</b>						
BROWN SFL	7.25	0.25	0.00	0.41	F	26.42
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.21	F	3.00
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	6.25	0.25	0.00	0.39	F	10.08
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	F	7.17
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	6.00	0.25	0.00	0.34	F	7.33
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	5.75	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	5.33
DOUGLAS SFL	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	9.50
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	5.38	1.25	0.00	0.40	G	5.38
CRAWFORD SFL	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.19	F	3.83
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	4.75	0.00	0.00	0.25	G	5.17
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	4.75	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	4.50
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	4.25	0.00	0.00	0.20	G	4.00
CLARK SFL	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	3.50
OSAGE SFL	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	2.50
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	2.58
BONE CREEK LAKE	3.75	0.63	0.00	0.41	G	3.67
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.63	0.13	0.00	0.42	F	2.92
SABETHA CITY LAKE	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	4.63
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.25	G	8.94
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	5.46
ALMA CITY LAKE	3.25	0.25	0.00	0.36	F	1.88
LYON SFL	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.40	G	3.83
LEBO CITY LAKE	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	G	3.25
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.63	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	14.46
CHASE SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	G	3.75
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	4.25
BOURBON SFL	2.50	0.50	0.00	0.30	F	9.31
<b>PONDS</b>						
BROWNING OXBOW	131.67	1.67	0.00	0.47	G	131.67
JEWELL CITY LAKE	114.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	E	59.11
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #1	59.00	1.00	0.00	0.43	G	59.00
SEVERY CITY LAKE	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	G	11.67
HOLTON-ELKHORN LAKE	9.50	0.50	0.00	0.44	G	9.50
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	8.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	12.25
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	12.25
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	F	10.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #3	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	5.50
WICHITA - KDOT - EAST BORROW PIT	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	G	2.00



REDEAR						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>7")	Preferred Rating (>9")	Lunker Rating (>11")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>7")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
BIG HILL	0.90	0.10	0.00	0.46	P	0.83
<b>LAKES</b>						
DOUGLAS SFL	16.50	0.00	0.00	0.48	G	17.75
BONE CREEK LAKE	9.63	0.50	0.00	0.76	G	16.25
ATCHISON SFL	8.75	1.00	0.00	0.91	G	8.58
MOUND CITY LAKE	8.33	0.33	0.00	0.58	G	8.33
JEWELL SFL	5.75	5.25	0.00	0.79	G	10.17
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	5.25	1.25	0.00	0.71	F	4.17
WILSON SFL	5.00	1.75	0.00	0.77	E	2.83
COWLEY SFL	4.50	1.00	0.00	0.55	G	6.58
MELVERN RIVER POND	4.50	2.00	0.00	0.85	F	2.38
MONTGOMERY SFL	3.78	0.78	0.00	0.68	G	4.93
LEAVENWORTH SFL	3.25	0.25	0.00	0.50	F	6.50
NEOSHO SFL	2.33	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	5.44
BUTLER SFL	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.57	P	3.08
LYON SFL	1.75	0.50	0.00	0.58	G	2.33
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	0.88
OSAGE SFL	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.43	P	1.33
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	0.67
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.45	F	3.58
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.62	G	1.00
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.00	1.00	0.25	0.75	G	1.50
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	0.75
BROWN SFL	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.51	F	1.50
<b>PONDS</b>						
SEVERY CITY LAKE	13.00	7.50	0.00	0.71	G	7.83
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.66	P	3.50
JEWELL CITY LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.73	P	1.33



SPOTTED BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	13.70	4.81	0.00	2.18	G	12.85
CEDAR BLUFF	2.10	0.79	0.00	1.65	F	1.87
MILFORD	2.01	1.51	0.00	1.91	F	1.13
EL DORADO	1.50	1.00	0.00	1.61	P	0.90
MELVERN	0.55	0.18	0.00	1.32	P	5.63
<b>LAKES</b>						
WILSON SFL	36.59	15.30	0.00	2.09	E	31.82
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	29.94	11.12	0.00	1.72	G	23.34
CRAWFORD SFL	10.00	2.86	0.00	2.20	F	8.20
BOURBON SFL	7.50	0.00	0.00	1.17	G	9.25
EUREKA CITY LAKE	5.99	0.00	0.00	1.12	F	4.61
CHASE SFL	5.88	0.00	0.00	0.99	F	7.63
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	1.57	0.79	0.00	1.82	P	1.21
MARION CO. LAKE	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.82	F	2.15

SMALLMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
COFFEY CO. LAKE	37.72	17.96	2.99	3.06	G	30.87
MILFORD	22.86	8.04	0.00	2.33	G	13.37
GLEN ELDER	17.09	5.04	0.00	2.20	G	18.63
CLINTON	8.04	4.90	0.00	2.51	F	3.95
MELVERN	5.15	2.39	0.37	2.79	F	6.01
EL DORADO	4.50	3.50	0.50	2.62	F	4.89
WILSON	3.74	2.14	0.00	2.02	G	11.63
<b>LAKES</b>						
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	14.86	2.79	0.00	1.91	E	17.86
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	7.48	4.76	0.68	3.26	G	6.69
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	4.28	4.28	0.00	2.07	G	4.43
ALMA CITY LAKE	2.38	1.19	1.19	2.78	F	2.38
<b>PONDS</b>						
OVERBROOK KIDS POND	5.88	5.88	0.00	1.71	P	5.88





BLACK CRAPPIE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WEBSTER	7.19	6.38	1.56	1.28	G	10.79
LOVEWELL	6.21	2.57	0.36	1.19	F	3.10
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	4.38	2.75	0.63	1.29	G	3.71
CEDAR BLUFF	3.00	1.71	0.48	1.18	F	1.95
KIRWIN	1.81	1.81	0.00	0.85	G	5.45
HILLSDALE	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	1.31
GLEN ELDER	0.48	0.48	0.22	1.19	F	2.08
PERRY	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.35	P	0.35
TUTTLE CREEK	0.25	0.06	0.06	0.98	P	0.40
COFFEY CO. LAKE	0.17	0.08	0.08	1.21	F	0.17
EL DORADO	0.13	0.06	0.00	0.51	P	0.13
CLINTON	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	0.35
BIG HILL	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.62	P	1.71
KANOPOLIS	0.08	0.08	0.00	NA	F	0.05
WILSON	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.40	P	0.21
<b>LAKES</b>						
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	28.75	25.50	4.75	1.25	E	25.25
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	19.50	13.00	1.00	0.97	G	7.83
NEOSHO SFL	18.33	0.00	0.00	0.40	G	17.61
COWLEY SFL	13.50	5.00	2.00	1.08	F	7.00
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	5.00
BROWN SFL	10.75	4.00	0.50	1.20	G	29.42
OSAGE SFL	8.25	3.00	0.00	0.70	F	12.08
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	8.00	4.00	0.25	0.86	F	7.75
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	6.63	1.88	0.00	0.77	F	17.79
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	6.38	3.38	0.25	0.82	G	6.38
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	6.25	1.00	0.00	0.56	F	4.33
JEWELL SFL	5.00	0.25	0.25	1.06	F	2.58
MELVERN RIVER POND	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	2.75
MIAMI SFL	4.25	4.25	1.00	1.81	F	2.50
ALMA CITY LAKE	4.25	0.75	0.00	0.58	F	6.75
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	4.13	0.88	0.00	0.75	F	3.79
MCPHERSON SFL	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	P	2.17
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	4.00	0.67	0.33	0.77	G	2.50
SHERIDAN SFL	3.86	3.57	0.14	1.06	F	3.95
DOUGLAS SFL	3.75	0.25	0.00	0.63	F	2.25
SABETHA CITY LAKE	3.75	1.00	0.25	1.44	F	3.00
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	3.50	0.50	0.00	0.53	F	2.67
PAOLA CITY LAKE	3.50	1.25	0.00	0.73	F	4.11
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.41	F	4.54
MONTGOMERY SFL	2.89	0.22	0.00	0.44	F	3.21
LEAVENWORTH SFL	2.75	2.75	0.25	1.32	P	1.50
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	2.75	1.25	0.00	0.68	F	1.38
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	2.50	0.25	0.00	0.60	F	1.42
LYON SFL	2.25	1.00	0.00	0.55	F	1.75
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.87	P	0.92
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	2.00	0.75	0.00	0.77	P	2.00
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.81	F	4.00
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.75	1.50	0.50	0.99	F	6.54
BUTLER SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	NA	P	0.83
CRAWFORD SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	1.17
PRATT CO. LAKE	1.25	0.25	0.00	0.67	F	2.25
GARDNER CITY LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.25	1.11	F	1.50
WILSON SFL	1.00	0.75	0.25	1.15	F	1.75
WICHITA - KDOT - WEST BORROW PIT	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	P	1.00
KIOWA SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	P	1.00
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	1.00	0.25	0.00	0.43	P	1.92
BOURBON SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	2.92
BONE CREEK LAKE	0.63	0.38	0.13	0.99	F	0.77
HORTON-MISSION LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.43	F	0.50
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.46	F	1.50
SHAWNEE SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.25	P	0.50
EUREKA CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.21	P	0.25
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	0.50
WOODSON SFL	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.53	F	0.75
CRITZER LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.36	F	0.67
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.29	P	0.20
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	P	2.63
<b>PONDS</b>						
BROWNING OXBOW	11.67	5.33	1.00	1.06	G	11.67
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	10.00	2.00	0.00	0.56	F	17.00
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	8.50	1.00	1.00	1.42	F	5.00
HOLTON-ELKHORN LAKE	4.00	3.00	0.50	1.25	F	4.00
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #3	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.21	P	0.50

WHITE CRAPPIE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
LOVEWELL	46.57	23.21	2.29	1.65	G	31.09
HILLSDALE	32.63	9.75	1.31	1.31	G	31.46
CEDAR BLUFF	14.38	8.00	3.43	1.63	G	5.74
TORONTO	11.33	9.13	5.20	2.16	G	7.28
POMONA	10.56	3.50	0.38	1.07	G	9.00
PERRY	10.25	3.70	0.30	1.21	F	20.28
MELVERN	9.50	4.13	0.81	1.18	F	17.38
MILFORD	8.06	2.19	0.50	1.42	G	8.50
BIG HILL	7.00	4.20	0.50	1.68	E	11.67
TUTTLE CREEK	6.81	4.25	1.44	1.67	G	9.13
CLINTON	5.94	2.63	0.06	0.86	F	12.49
ELK CITY	5.29	1.65	0.53	1.76	E	9.95
LACYGNE	4.69	3.31	0.13	0.92	G	4.67
COUNCIL GROVE	4.58	2.42	0.33	1.37	G	3.99
FALL RIVER	3.89	3.00	1.00	2.29	G	4.71
COFFEY CO. LAKE	3.25	2.50	0.83	1.59	G	3.25
EL DORADO	2.81	0.63	0.06	1.17	F	3.81
<b>LAKES</b>						
SABETHA CITY LAKE	46.00	33.50	6.00	1.50	G	35.50
SCOTT STATE LAKE	45.29	6.00	0.14	1.21	F	42.93
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	38.75	3.50	0.50	0.96	G	23.17
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	38.00	4.00	0.25	0.81	F	30.83
EUREKA CITY LAKE	30.75	3.25	0.50	1.21	G	33.25
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	29.00	18.50	3.00	1.47	G	37.50
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	27.25	5.50	2.00	1.90	G	27.25
ALMA CITY LAKE	25.50	1.00	0.00	0.44	F	14.13
MELVERN RIVER POND	24.00	3.50	0.00	0.65	G	9.33
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	17.50	12.00	2.00	1.61	G	18.33
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	16.00	5.50	1.75	1.50	G	16.00
NEOSHO SFL	15.33	5.00	0.67	1.10	G	26.61
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	15.25	4.25	1.00	0.98	F	9.67
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	14.50	4.50	1.00	0.86	F	8.67
MCPHERSON SFL	13.00	4.00	1.50	1.04	F	9.17
LEBO CITY LAKE	10.50	7.00	1.50	0.97	F	9.25
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	10.25	8.50	1.50	1.43	G	37.96
SHERIDAN SFL	9.43	7.86	0.86	1.18	G	7.14
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	9.00	3.25	0.75	1.16	G	21.04
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	9.00	8.00	0.00	0.77	F	4.75
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.34	F	19.44
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	8.25	4.75	0.75	1.38	G	14.33
NEBO SFL	8.00	3.00	1.25	1.50	F	6.25
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	7.38	0.38	0.00	0.74	F	6.46
CRAWFORD SFL	7.25	1.50	0.50	1.67	F	6.25
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	7.20	0.20	0.10	1.74	G	4.35
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	7.13	2.00	0.00	0.68	F	8.08
OTTAWA SFL	6.75	4.75	0.50	1.57	F	18.17
MARION CO. LAKE	6.50	2.75	0.75	1.12	G	6.17
GEARY SFL	6.50	1.50	0.25	1.28	F	13.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	6.33	1.00	0.00	0.49	F	2.44
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	5.88	1.50	0.13	0.87	F	18.67
WOODSON SFL	5.50	1.00	0.00	0.66	F	16.15
PRATT CO. LAKE	5.25	1.25	0.00	0.67	G	3.92
LYON SFL	4.75	3.25	2.50	1.27	F	3.83
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	4.25	2.50	1.00	1.42	F	5.67
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	4.25	1.50	0.00	0.71	F	4.83
MADISON CITY LAKE	4.00	1.25	0.75	1.26	F	2.75
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	4.00	2.25	0.50	1.65	G	11.92
CHASE SFL	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	15.33
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	3.25	2.00	0.50	1.19	G	29.67
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	3.25	1.25	0.25	1.06	G	11.50
DOUGLAS SFL	3.25	1.75	0.00	0.79	F	2.17
BROWN SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	F	3.00
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	F	3.25
PAOLA CITY LAKE	2.75	1.50	0.00	0.75	F	10.61
OSAGE SFL	2.50	1.50	0.00	0.60	F	6.00
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	2.25	2.00	0.00	0.75	F	2.25
SHAWNEE SFL	2.00	1.00	0.50	1.04	F	3.75
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	29.50	8.50	6.00	1.75	G	18.25
BROWNING OXBOW	19.00	17.67	9.33	1.62	G	19.00
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #3	11.00	7.00	1.50	1.43	F	11.00
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	7.00	1.50	0.00	0.48	F	6.00
SEVERY CITY LAKE	6.00	4.50	1.00	1.13	F	4.33
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	4.00	1.00	1.00	NA	P	6.25

LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	70.00	22.94	0.59	4.86	E	66.52
LACYGNE	69.77	47.12	9.18	8.91	E	61.25
WILSON	32.09	17.65	0.00	3.17	G	31.04
PERRY	26.35	14.12	1.88	7.71	G	19.62
BIG HILL	23.95	7.49	1.00	5.16	G	20.92
WEBSTER	18.24	10.00	0.00	3.68	G	15.81
KIRWIN	17.65	13.53	0.00	4.14	G	9.79
HILLSDALE	13.65	3.87	0.20	5.58	F	13.83
CLINTON	11.76	4.51	0.20	5.35	F	5.98
MILFORD	10.30	5.03	0.50	5.86	F	6.48
EL DORADO	10.00	4.50	0.00	3.48	P	5.70
CEDAR BLUFF	6.30	3.15	0.13	3.62	P	7.41
COFFEY CO. LAKE	2.99	1.80	0.00	2.10	F	2.99
<b>LAKES</b>						
MIAMI SFL	150.78	17.19	0.00	3.86	F	105.82
MCPHERSON SFL	115.44	68.38	5.88	6.57	E	97.76
BUTLER SFL	114.71	50.00	2.94	5.84	G	142.12
PLAINVILLE LAKE	94.12	90.20	0.00	6.21	F	60.95
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	92.94	34.12	1.18	5.31	E	110.29
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	91.32	34.43	4.49	5.62	G	88.65
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	83.13	23.75	0.63	5.18	G	78.28
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	78.43	27.45	0.00	4.11	G	60.70
LYON SFL	77.84	3.99	1.33	6.00	G	89.38
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	75.73	31.07	0.00	3.35	G	68.33
SABETHA CITY LAKE	74.79	35.29	0.00	5.04	G	67.30
NEBO SFL	74.51	46.08	8.82	7.05	G	66.59
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	74.30	16.74	0.00	2.15	G	115.99
BROWN SFL	72.55	16.67	1.96	6.47	G	108.50
ALMA CITY LAKE	72.46	16.63	1.19	4.03	G	62.40
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	71.65	26.77	0.79	5.34	G	55.57
MELVERN RIVER POND	69.39	22.45	0.00	4.01	G	66.02
JETMORE CITY LAKE	68.42	54.39	0.00	4.37	G	47.78
COWLEY SFL	67.65	13.73	0.98	5.31	G	93.71
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	66.72	20.53	2.57	5.92	G	73.68
EUREKA CITY LAKE	64.87	21.96	2.00	6.37	G	51.33
GARDNER CITY LAKE	63.75	4.38	0.00	4.14	F	52.81
RICHMOND CITY LAKE	61.25	21.25	2.50	5.41	G	61.25
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	61.08	14.37	0.00	2.50	G	57.03
MADISON CITY LAKE	57.88	33.93	5.99	5.59	G	56.92
PRATT CO. LAKE	57.65	32.94	0.00	4.71	G	42.90
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	56.62	19.12	0.74	4.47	F	70.97
WILSON SFL	54.56	15.97	0.67	5.05	G	45.01
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	53.89	13.47	0.00	2.43	G	49.65
SHAWNEE SFL	53.33	40.00	1.90	5.65	E	55.35
NEOSHO SFL	47.06	11.11	2.61	6.84	G	49.80
WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE	46.67	11.67	0.00	4.54	F	33.84
BOURBON CO. LAKE	45.88	22.35	0.59	4.82	G	49.15
BELLEVILLE-ROCKY POND	44.26	32.79	0.00	5.61	G	51.48



LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>LAKES</b>						
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-EAST	41.92	26.95	2.99	5.78	F	41.92
OTTAWA SFL	41.74	2.61	0.00	2.02	G	65.23
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	39.50	18.49	2.52	5.17	G	49.11
MONTGOMERY SFL	38.32	10.78	1.80	5.64	E	25.24
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	37.97	20.32	0.53	5.04	F	54.86
CLARK SFL	37.04	28.70	2.78	6.02	G	46.24
HORSETHIEF	36.42	22.64	0.00	3.79	F	34.15
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	36.04	7.48	0.68	4.96	F	51.87
LEAVENWORTH SFL	36.03	8.82	0.00	2.24	F	55.58
KINGMAN SFL	35.29	25.21	0.84	5.36	F	21.62
BONE CREEK LAKE	34.93	17.28	0.74	5.71	G	33.75
PAOLA CITY LAKE	34.38	7.03	0.00	2.78	F	42.26
CRITZER LAKE	34.12	14.71	0.59	8.21	E	25.50
LOGAN CITY LAKE	33.33	31.37	0.00	5.25	F	27.33
SHERIDAN SFL	30.39	0.98	0.00	2.57	F	49.14
OSAGE SFL	30.39	3.92	0.98	5.10	G	54.64
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	29.69	6.25	0.00	4.41	G	36.15
SCOTT STATE LAKE	28.68	9.56	0.00	4.88	G	23.99
MEADE STATE LAKE	28.57	23.81	3.17	5.80	F	43.87
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	25.00	10.94	1.56	5.69	G	54.40
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	24.26	6.62	0.00	4.73	F	17.03
COLDWATER LAKE	23.53	5.88	0.00	1.87	P	28.85
CRAWFORD SFL	23.21	13.57	1.43	6.23	F	27.82
ATCHISON SFL	21.57	7.84	0.00	3.06	F	46.97
KIOWA SFL	20.69	6.90	0.00	3.28	F	43.21
GEARY SFL	20.61	9.09	0.61	4.40	G	16.97
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	19.41	4.71	1.76	5.79	F	17.21
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	18.24	8.82	0.00	4.19	P	25.88
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	16.47	1.50	0.00	2.55	P	60.52
CHASE SFL	15.69	7.84	0.00	3.79	F	21.92
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	15.69	7.84	0.00	4.28	P	19.46
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE - OLD	14.71	8.82	0.00	3.88	P	37.75
OLPE CITY LAKE	13.97	3.99	0.00	2.34	P	12.87
BOURBON SFL	13.75	3.75	0.00	3.32	F	18.63
JEWELL SFL	11.36	6.25	0.00	4.65	G	12.76
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	11.25	1.88	0.00	3.66	F	20.94
DOUGLAS SFL	10.78	5.88	0.98	5.15	F	7.47
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-WEST	10.55	10.55	3.52	5.14	E	10.55
WICHITA - KDOT - WEST BORROW PIT	10.34	5.17	0.00	4.19	F	14.77
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	9.41	4.12	0.00	5.14	G	19.17
MARION CO. LAKE	8.50	0.65	0.00	1.83	G	16.18
ROOKS STATE LAKE	8.24	5.88	0.00	5.00	F	8.04
BARBER SFL-LOWER	8.16	8.16	0.00	3.68	P	12.44
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	7.92	7.92	2.26	4.84	P	9.46
GREAT BEND-STONE PARK LAKE	5.88	0.00	0.00	1.21	F	4.87
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	5.57	0.93	0.00	2.49	F	4.15
HARVEY CO. LAKE - WEST	5.17	1.72	0.00	2.25	F	6.18
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	3.87	1.66	0.00	3.44	P	4.34
PARSONS CITY LAKE	1.80	0.00	0.00	1.50	P	1.80
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	0.86	0.00	0.00	1.19	P	2.39
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	0.43	0.00	0.00	1.60	P	0.55
<b>PONDS</b>						
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - EAST POND	170.00	20.00	10.00	5.14	G	125.00
NEMAHA WILDLIFE AREA POND	168.47	5.49	0.00	2.26	E	153.58
SEVERY CITY LAKE	107.78	29.94	0.00	3.00	G	102.07
OLPE-JONES PARK POND	105.26	37.59	0.00	1.87	G	58.51
EMPORIA-JONES PARK -NORTH POND	102.56	17.09	0.00	3.53	G	84.19
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	77.78	18.52	7.41	5.49	G	125.65
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #1	77.42	0.00	0.00	1.28	G	77.42
JEWELL CITY LAKE	68.24	22.35	0.00	4.61	E	46.44
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #3	61.76	2.94	0.00	1.71	F	61.76
HOLTON-ELKHORN LAKE	47.06	1.96	0.00	1.66	F	47.06
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	45.59	27.94	5.88	7.10	F	65.44
STERLING CITY LAKE	41.18	3.92	0.00	1.92	F	82.35
FALL RIVER RESERVIOR ST. PK. - KIDS POND	30.00	0.00	0.00	1.18	P	30.00
OVERBROOK KIDS POND	29.41	29.41	0.00	3.68	G	34.66
OVERBROOK LAKE	29.41	2.94	0.00	2.55	F	65.54
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	20.59	17.65	0.00	4.13	P	17.65
PARKER CITY LAKE	19.64	1.79	0.00	4.14	P	19.64
WICHITA - KDOT - EAST BORROW PIT	12.05	12.05	0.00	3.73	F	20.86
EMPORIA-PETER PAN PARK	10.93	10.93	0.00	3.29	P	34.31
BROWNING OXBOW	10.59	1.18	0.00	4.05	P	10.59
WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES.	10.48	5.99	0.00	3.50	F	26.48
FALL RIVER	7.98	4.99	1.00	4.68	F	15.11



## WHITE BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>9")	Preferred Rating (>12")	Lunker Rating (>15")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>9")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
GLEN ELDER	21.50	15.75	2.17	2.16	G	15.37
CEDAR BLUFF	18.36	16.29	5.29	1.91	E	16.88
CLINTON	11.44	8.31	1.31	1.63	G	15.58
MARION	9.25	8.63	0.56	2.82	E	4.98
TUTTLE CREEK	8.85	6.50	0.50	3.55	G	5.83
KANOPOLIS	8.75	8.25	1.58	2.56	G	15.72
POMONA	8.69	5.94	0.31	1.66	G	7.43
PERRY	7.60	3.85	0.35	2.39	F	11.35
FALL RIVER	6.88	5.38	2.13	2.47	G	4.40
WEBSTER	6.50	4.83	1.42	1.93	F	8.86
LOVEWELL	6.47	3.73	0.40	2.01	G	9.71
BIG HILL	6.40	4.40	0.60	2.43	G	6.14
MELVERN	4.81	4.19	0.44	2.31	F	4.96
KIRWIN	4.58	4.42	0.67	2.43	F	5.36
TORONTO	4.50	2.00	0.75	2.63	G	1.69
COFFEY CO. LAKE	4.40	4.00	0.27	1.79	G	4.93
COUNCIL GROVE	4.33	2.58	0.00	1.74	G	3.94
CHENEY	3.90	3.60	0.70	2.56	F	2.57
WILSON	3.90	3.85	2.05	2.54	F	3.47
EL DORADO	3.33	2.47	0.20	1.48	F	6.15
MILFORD	1.10	0.50	0.00	1.01	G	3.30
HILLSDALE	1.08	0.75	0.00	1.05	F	4.75
LACYGNE	0.50	0.44	0.06	1.62	F	2.14
<b>LAKES</b>						
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	17.33	10.33	0.00	1.23	E	10.83
CLARK SFL	8.17	1.00	0.00	1.06	G	15.51
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	7.25	3.38	0.00	1.10	G	6.58
GARDNER CITY LAKE	6.50	6.50	1.83	1.87	F	2.78
MIAMI SFL	5.67	5.33	0.00	1.47	F	3.28
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	5.00	5.00	0.75	1.77	F	6.92
CHASE SFL	4.25	3.00	0.00	0.86	F	3.75
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	3.75	2.75	0.00	1.33	P	2.25
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	3.75	3.38	0.88	1.64	G	3.75
MELVERN RIVER POND	3.50	3.50	0.75	5.88	F	4.56
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	3.50	2.50	0.25	1.47	F	3.50
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	2.75	2.75	0.50	1.72	F	2.75
GEARY SFL	2.75	2.75	0.00	1.32	P	1.42
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.67	1.33	1.17	2.15	P	1.78
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	1.25	0.50	0.00	1.11	G	7.00
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.20	1.00	0.00	1.28	F	1.55
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	1.13	0.13	0.00	0.93	P	1.13
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.67	2.26	P	0.67
WILSON SFL	0.83	0.67	0.67	1.81	F	0.83
MARION CO. LAKE	0.67	0.67	0.00	1.01	F	1.17
COWLEY SFL	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.85	P	1.94
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.57	F	1.62
OSAGE SFL	0.50	0.17	0.00	0.80	P	0.75
PAOLA CITY LAKE	0.33	0.33	0.00	1.00	F	2.58
<b>PONDS</b>						
BROWNING OXBOW	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.52	P	0.25

## WIPER

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
MILFORD	11.30	9.80	2.35	6.52	G	11.13
KIRWIN	8.50	5.50	1.25	8.49	G	4.69
CHENEY	8.45	3.45	0.75	7.52	G	6.28
MARION	7.13	6.50	1.13	5.38	E	7.29
WEBSTER	6.50	4.17	0.92	8.79	G	3.97
CEDAR BLUFF	4.50	3.50	1.86	10.14	G	2.46
EL DORADO	4.40	1.87	0.00	3.64	G	3.03
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	4.00	4.00	1.80	9.59	G	8.03
POMONA	2.56	2.06	0.38	6.12	G	3.03
CLINTON	2.00	1.94	1.00	8.20	F	3.38
COUNCIL GROVE	1.83	1.17	0.00	3.79	F	1.83
GLEN ELDER	1.63	1.63	0.88	5.09	F	2.46
LOVEWELL	0.80	0.73	0.47	8.33	F	1.16
<b>LAKES</b>						
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	14.75	5.63	0.00	3.64	E	13.33
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	12.17	8.50	2.50	8.38	G	5.89
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	9.17	2.50	0.50	5.53	G	5.22
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	6.17	2.50	1.17	6.71	G	7.00
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	4.83	4.17	0.67	4.80	F	4.28
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	4.50	4.50	0.25	3.40	G	3.06
LEAVENWORTH SFL	4.17	4.17	0.83	4.52	F	2.72
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	4.00	0.50	0.50	6.19	F	1.53
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	3.50	3.25	0.00	4.46	F	5.67
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	3.00	2.80	0.80	4.17	G	3.75
KIOWA SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	F	2.25
PRATT CO. LAKE	3.00	2.00	0.50	9.26	F	1.83
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	2.75	2.25	1.13	7.31	F	2.75
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	2.38	2.38	1.25	5.65	F	3.42
EUREKA CITY LAKE	1.83	1.33	0.17	7.53	P	0.83
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.67	0.33	0.00	1.62	F	1.89
OSAGE SFL	1.50	0.50	0.17	6.34	P	1.22
SHERIDAN SFL	1.43	1.43	0.14	4.58	F	3.06
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	1.33	0.67	0.00	1.48	P	1.17
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	1.33	1.33	0.33	8.97	F	2.44
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	1.25	0.75	0.25	5.21	F	11.38
MARION CO. LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.50	5.97	F	2.44
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.63	P	0.33

## STRIPER

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WILSON	1.95	0.00	0.00	9.35	G	2.83
GLEN ELDER	0.04	0.04	0.00	10.73	F	0.04
<b>LAKES</b>						
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	4.35	F	0.33





WALLEYE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>15")	Preferred Rating (>20")	Lunker Rating (>25")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>15")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WEBSTER	9.25	1.08	0.17	7.47	G	5.58
EL DORADO	4.80	1.73	0.33	6.31	G	3.17
GLEN ELDER	4.46	1.42	0.00	5.07	G	4.33
WILSON	4.20	0.25	0.00	4.14	G	3.52
KIRWIN	3.75	2.67	0.50	8.10	G	3.69
CHENEY	3.45	1.50	0.00	6.39	G	3.03
LOVEWELL	3.13	1.53	0.13	9.20	G	2.11
CEDAR BLUFF	2.86	1.21	0.00	4.96	G	2.43
MILFORD	2.65	0.85	0.05	6.51	G	3.15
MELVERN	2.31	0.19	0.00	3.30	F	1.04
MARION	2.13	0.44	0.06	6.42	G	1.40
CLINTON	1.63	0.75	0.06	7.45	F	0.77
POMONA	1.44	0.56	0.00	6.87	F	0.93
HILLSDALE	1.17	0.00	0.00	2.18	G	1.44
COFFEY CO. LAKE	0.53	0.07	0.07	6.24	F	0.37
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	0.30	0.00	0.00	1.98	F	0.45
KANOPOLIS	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.54	F	0.31
<b>LAKES</b>						
PRATT CO. LAKE	6.00	1.00	0.50	6.01	G	6.08
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	2.00	0.90	0.20	7.65	G	1.85
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.00	1.57	0.14	8.39	F	4.38
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	1.75	0.50	0.00	3.75	F	2.00
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.67	1.33	0.00	4.11	F	1.17
JEWELL SFL	1.50	0.50	0.00	3.32	F	1.00
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	1.25	0.50	0.00	3.11	F	0.94
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.17	0.00	0.00	2.31	F	1.33
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.94	F	0.67
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.98	F	1.30
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.49	F	1.00
SCOTT STATE LAKE	0.89	0.78	0.56	7.07	F	1.19
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.83	0.33	0.00	4.04	F	0.94
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	0.83	0.17	0.00	4.90	F	1.06
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	0.75	0.00	0.00	2.07	F	0.75
HORSETHIEF	0.67	0.33	0.00	2.98	F	0.33
CLARK SFL	0.67	0.33	0.00	5.27	F	0.81
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.67	0.00	0.00	1.85	F	0.67
MELVERN RIVER POND	0.50	0.25	0.25	5.56	P	0.38
CRITZER LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.71	F	1.50
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	0.25	0.25	0.00	4.51	P	0.92
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.16	P	0.28
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	0.17	0.17	0.00	5.83	P	0.17
SHAWNEE SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.41	P	0.22

SAUGER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
PERRY	5.45	4.80	1.15	2.88	G	3.02
CLINTON	1.75	1.13	0.94	3.35	F	1.10
MELVERN	0.56	0.13	0.13	2.22	P	0.25
<b>LAKES</b>						
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.43	1.00	0.43	1.83	F	1.02

SAUGEYE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>14")	Preferred Rating (>18")	Lunker Rating (>22")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>14")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	14.90	2.10	0.20	6.97	G	9.63
COUNCIL GROVE	14.00	9.50	0.83	6.90	G	6.03
KANOPOLIS	9.75	2.67	0.00	3.81	G	8.39
TUTTLE CREEK	8.55	3.15	0.65	5.82	G	4.05
<b>LAKES</b>						
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	13.25	5.25	0.00	4.23	G	10.17
SABETHA CITY LAKE	7.00	0.25	0.25	4.61	F	3.58
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	4.00	2.38	0.13	3.59	E	4.38
SCOTT STATE LAKE	3.56	0.56	0.00	2.22	G	2.19
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	3.33	0.67	0.33	5.31	F	2.03
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	2.88	0.88	0.25	7.44	F	1.67
GARDNER CITY LAKE	2.50	1.17	0.33	4.52	F	2.00
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	2.50	1.00	0.17	3.91	F	2.50
SHERIDAN SFL	2.43	0.71	0.29	2.98	G	3.12
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	2.33	0.00	0.00	1.12	P	6.56
GEARY SFL	2.25	0.25	0.00	3.19	G	2.08
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	2.25	0.50	0.00	3.48	F	0.83
EUREKA CITY LAKE	2.00	0.83	0.67	8.58	F	1.00
OTTAWA SFL	2.00	0.75	0.00	2.97	F	4.61
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	1.75	0.75	0.00	2.43	F	0.83
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.50	0.50	0.00	2.30	F	1.00
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	1.50	0.25	0.00	2.03	F	1.00
JEWELL SFL	1.50	0.75	0.00	2.05	F	0.83
MCPHERSON SFL	1.33	1.00	0.33	4.14	F	1.00
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.26	F	0.63
MADISON CITY LAKE	1.00	0.83	0.67	5.22	F	0.78
CHASE SFL	1.00	0.25	0.00	3.11	F	0.72
DOUGLAS SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	P	0.50
LYON SFL	0.83	0.83	0.17	3.66	P	0.89
MARION CO. LAKE	0.83	0.67	0.33	4.28	F	1.00





# *Recipe For Wildlife*

**FOLLOW THIS RECIPE FOR DELICIOUS WILDLIFE HABITAT:**

- 80 acres or more of land
- 1 part technical assistance from NRCS and KDWPT
- 1 part cost sharing
- 1 part dirt work
- 3 parts hard work, seeding grass, forbs, millet
- add water and sun
- allow to grow through the summer

**Find out how this family created their own wildlife oasis on an 80-acre patch of land in Crawford County.**

text and photos by  
Andra Stephanoni  
Pittsburg



**W**hen my husband arrived at his southeast Kansas hunting destination one January afternoon, some 500 to 700 mallards and a few pintails greeted him. He was so overwhelmed, he just watched; never even shouldered his gun. At that moment, it wasn't about hunting, it was about observing the fruits of his labor.

A year before, there had been nothing there. It was just a field. An 80-acre field in crop production for two generations, just like the ones that surrounded it in every direction: Flat, bordered by barbed wire, visited only by the occasional vulture catching thermals high in the Kansas sky.

Our family had always rented to a farmer, and the crop income provided enough to pay property taxes and a little "walking around money." We did not visit the land, had no real emotional tie to it. It was where soybeans grew in the fall and corn grew in the summer and if we were lucky, Mother Nature didn't kill either.

I wish that we had thought to take a before picture. You never remember that, though, when you begin something. You don't ever consider about how monumental the change might be, or that you'd like to show others just how far you came in a given amount of time.

### **"You just want to get started."**

Such was the case with my husband. He wanted to turn that 80 acres of row cropped land into 80 acres dedicated to wildlife conservation and hunting, at no net income loss to my mother, who owns the land, and with very little money out of pocket. As both a wildlife biologist by training and a hunter at heart, he has spent the past year making that happen.

Only time will measure the depth of his success. But if those 500-plus mallards were any indica-



The author's husband researched the possibility of developing wildlife habitat and building a wetland on 80 acres that had been in crop production for two generations.

tion, as well as the list of other species we've already noted, it's headed in the right direction. And now, our attachment to the land is solid. Our sons have helped with the project, and we've gone on family outings there. It's become a destination on a Saturday afternoon.

### **"Here's how he did it."**

**February: "Is it possible to build a wetland there?"**

It was a great location — just a stone's throw from a state fishing lake, a river and agricultural fields where migrating waterfowl might stop to feed. But location, he said, is only about half the equation when it comes to wetlands. The other half is soil. He pulled up the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Soil Survey online, which anyone can do at [websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov). To build a wetland on our 80 acres, the soil needed to be "hydric."

He next determined if the topography would support a wetland by contacting the county's Natural Resources Conservation Service representative to schedule a survey. The agent also made a map of the property that indicated the best

place for a wetland — one that would require moving the least amount of soil.

In the area suggested, the depth near the dike would have been a bit too deep for ideal waterfowl habitat. In four feet of water, dabbling ducks can't stretch their necks to reach food near the bottom. So NRCS adjusted the map, moving the wetland 100 yards up slope, for a depth near the dike of 18 to 20 inches with an overall average depth of 12 inches — perfect for dabbling ducks.



State and federal farm and wildlife programs helped with costsharing.





The effort was a family affair, including planting grass around a pit duck blind, built with the optimism that if they built the wetland, the ducks would come.

### March: "What funding sources are available?"

To pay for it, NRCS recommended the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, or CP 9, which aims to take crops out of production in areas of soil erosion and create areas of shallow water for wildlife.

It covers 50 percent of wetland construction, and a Practice Incentive Payment covers another 40 percent, meaning an investment by the landowner of 10 percent. Then, each year, landowners receive an annual payment on a per acre basis.

### April: "How can I hunt there?"

Construction was completed, but not before a special request to the contractor: Put a little mound of soil out in the middle and then dig a hole in it the exact dimensions of a concrete tank for an underground duck blind.

The contractor also seeded the edges of the wetland as part of the contract, a 30-foot buffer on the up slope side of the dike with native grasses, for soil stabilization.

### June: "What can we do to attract ducks?"

To attract waterfowl, my husband wanted to add to the existing moist soil plant seed bank already there, so he researched which blend of seed would work best.

He and our sons used a standard lawn spreader to broadcast

Japanese millet, wildlife rice and buckwheat — a mix that rang up at about \$200 out of pocket.

### July: "What do we do with the rest of it?"

To determine how to best enhance the remaining 70 acres, he researched programs that assist landowners in restoration of land to native habitat for conservation and hunting.

NRCS provided two options: CP 33 (field borders) and CP 38 (brood habitat). Those programs, too, pay a landowner each year per acre taken out of production.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism also provided an option: The Bobwhite Quail Initiative to improve declining quail populations in eastern Kansas.

Luck was on our side, as the eastern edge of our land in Labette County was the cut-off point for the initiative, so we were eligible for 100 percent cost share for the seed and planting on approximately 35 acres.



Native grasses and forbs were planted in the 70 acres not included in the wetland, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife, including bobwhite quail.



## August: "Will it work?"

We suffered one of the worst droughts in Kansas history throughout the summer, but late in August, the area saw the first significant rainfall since the wetland was built. On Labor Day weekend, my husband and our oldest son had their first dove hunt there. Our son bagged three doves and didn't stop smiling for days.

Then a cold front came through, and 300 to 400 blue-wing teal showed up in time for a family teal hunt.

"Just add water..." my husband is fond of pointing out.

After subsequent rains, the wetland now has a sufficient water depth and has attracted not just mallard, teal and pintails, but a list of 17 other wildlife species.



With water, the wetland attracted teal in September, then mallards and pintails later in the fall. The family has observed 17 wildlife species on the land since they planted habitat.

The first fruits of the labor came in September when father and son hunted doves. The smile on the youngster's face confirms that all the work was worthwhile. When rains filled the wetland, ducks soon followed.



## This Spring:

My husband is looking forward to the quail habitat being planted in late spring. We have a baseline: There is nothing out there. Nothing but a pair of quail he saw when building the wetland.

"So in five years, if we take the bird dog out and flush a covey of quail, you can pretty much deduce it was because of the habitat practices we put into place," he said.

We can hardly wait to see what the second year on the land brings. 🐾





*A father and daughter team up to express their impressions of a saga to see and photograph a wayward snowy owl in Kansas.*

text by David and Emily Seibel  
photos by David Seibel

# ONE OWL TWO TALES

People see the world differently. As an ornithologist, I view birds against the backdrop of what I know about them, usually thwarting my creative side except through my photography. My daughter, Emily, has been blessed with more poetic eyes and a knack for colorful prose. What I describe as “an immature male snowy owl, *Bubo scandiacus*, mostly white but surprisingly well camouflaged on bare ground among the uneven terrain,” she sees as “a regal snowy white owl standing out on the burnt orange of the prairie like a marsh-

mallow in a s’more.” I tend to see the harsh realities of nature along with the beauty, while she gets caught up in the awe and excitement of the moment. Sometimes her enthusiasm reminds me why I fell in love with birds in the first place (over 50 years ago), and it’s always a treat to have her with me in the field, as I did a couple of days last winter while searching for the young male snowy owl that I eventually followed and photographed extensively in Butler County. I’ll call it “our” owl for the sake of telling its tale.



Here's my take: They came south in record numbers, desperate for food because of an extreme swing of a natural predator-prey cycle on their Arctic nesting grounds, and most succumbed to starvation or manmade hazards. Most, like our owl, were probably young of the year, not only strangers in a strange land but veritable babies cast out to fend for themselves in a hostile environment with fierce competition for limited resources. They're naturally equipped with incredible instincts, sharp senses, and amazing insulation, but ironically even this becomes a liability on an unseasonably warm day (imagine being trapped in a heavy down coat on a sunny July day in Kansas). Our owl seemed to have no concept of seeking shade, and the open fields that at least resembled its tundra home had none to offer anyway.

I'll pass the baton to my daughter for her side of the story, which took place two and a half months earlier. (Please note that any depictions of me as anything other than a sane, clear-headed professional are gross exaggerations that I forgive under the aegis of artistic license.)

Emily writes: There's something about snowy white owls that captures our imaginations. You may have seen them in the Harry Potter movies—intense yellow eyes, stark white feathers, proud black beaks, elegant dark spots and strokes. For the novice non-birder, snowy owls are a great introduction to the thrill of bird watching. Also known as the great white owl and the Arctic owl, these creatures have a special place in ornithology too. They are unusually heavy, they don't like forests, and they hunt during the day. For me, the majesty and delight of this

creature didn't come with a Nimbus 2000. For me, the Snowy Owl made for a quite peculiar Christmas in Kansas and an adventure with my father that I'll never forget.

Dad picked me up on an unseasonably warm winter's day to visit Grandpa and Grandma — a three-and-a-half hour drive south through the heart of the Flint Hills. A glint in his eye, he threw my overnight bag in the back seat after inspecting his stash of photography equipment piled precariously under towels. "Honey, would you like to go on a little birding adventure?" Dad asked, mischief in his hazel-gray eyes.

"What kind of birding adventure?" I asked.

"Well, I thought we might try to get some shots of the snowy owls invading Kansas this year."

"What!?" I exclaimed. If suc-

cessful, this would be what bird-watchers call a "lifer" for me. So off we went, a fencepost description and county line coordinates in tow. We reached the field where the owl was supposed to be, but after nearly two hours of driving through muddy gravel, our record consisted of a few Lapland longspurs (like the Snowy Owl, visitors from the far north, but only the size of sparrows), several red-tailed hawks, and a number of deceptively owl-like white plastic bags, some perched in distant pastures, some flying in the wind.



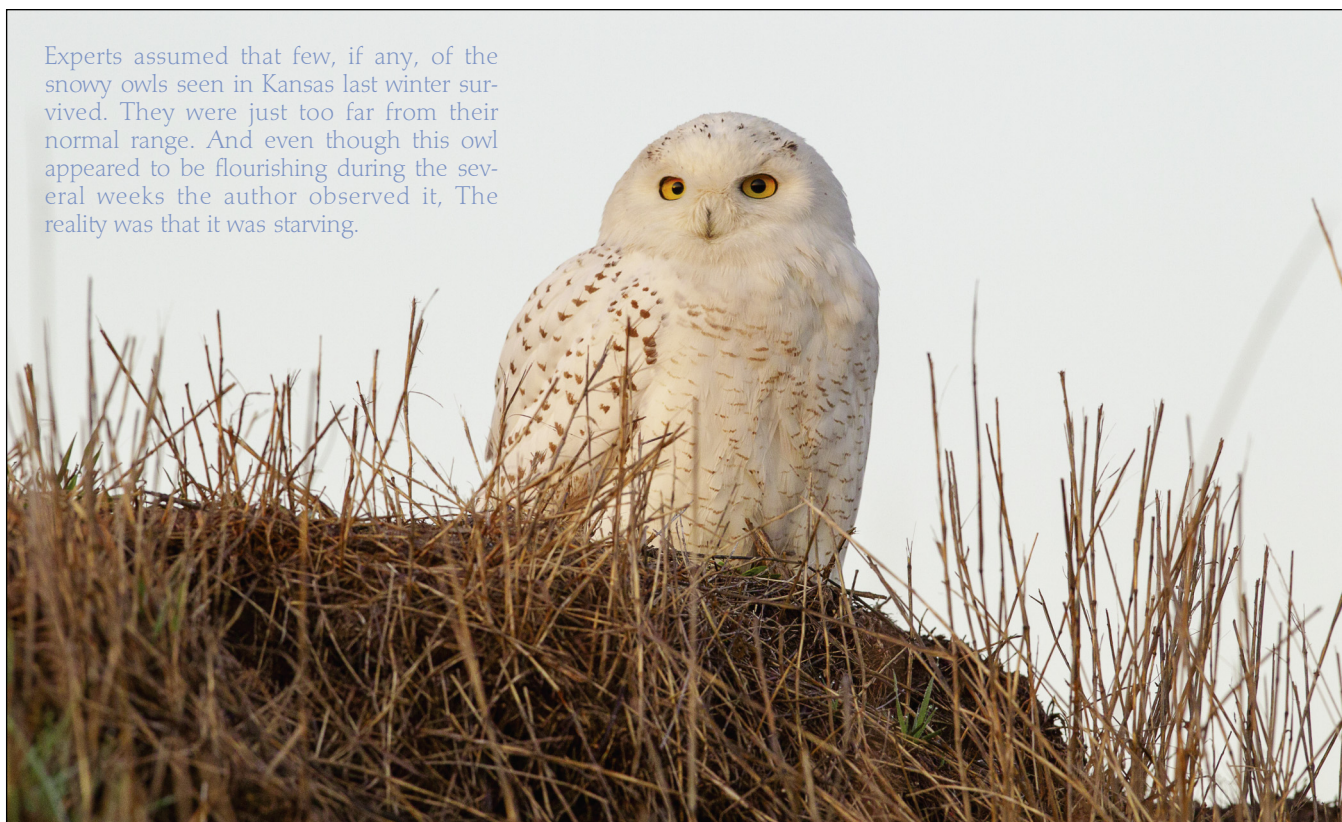
Bob Gress photo

In 2011, Kansas birders experienced a migration phenomenon often referred to as a irruption. More than 100 snowy owls were reported in Kansas, far from their normal southern range.





Experts assumed that few, if any, of the snowy owls seen in Kansas last winter survived. They were just too far from their normal range. And even though this owl appeared to be flourishing during the several weeks the author observed it, The reality was that it was starving.



Defeat is a temporary condition for birdwatchers, and we drove back the next day to try again. During what appeared to be another futile search, Dad got a call from his good friend and BirdsInFocus.com partner Bob Gress. "Guess where I am," Bob said, his voice sounding a little too smug over the crackle of a nearly out-of-range cell phone. "Here with the snowy, if you'd like to join me." Would we! Dad threw the car into reverse and, gravel flying, we reached the county line a half mile later. We saw Bob's tan truck glinting a quarter mile down the road we'd been driving on for an hour. "How did we miss...?" My question hung limply in the air and dissipated as our collective enthusiasm mounted.

In his adrenaline-blinded frenzy, Dad nearly hit a passing car but finally managed to pull up next to Bob. Despite his own hunger for the perfect shot, Bob had managed to take the time to call us again and ask us to drive safely. What a guy. We got out of the car, and to our delight there was a small white

blob about half a mile out in the field. Even through my fancy binoculars, I couldn't really tell whether it was trash or the most beautiful owl in the world. Why can't our eyes be as keen as owls'?

Trying for a little closer look, I set out on foot along the fence line in the direction of the owl. A few minutes later, still a quarter mile away, he spread his wings and flew upward in a high arch, settling into a stream of air to float in circles. I was enraptured. Engulfed by the serenity of his flight, I watched until he settled on a distant telephone pole, his feathers ruffling in the breeze. I exhaled, mouth open, time frozen, eyes wide.

"EMILY, GET IN THE CAR!"

My dad's roar shook me out of my snowy trance.

I took the binoculars down only to see Bob's big tan truck parked directly below where the owl had settled, nearly a mile away. "How did he do that?" I thought to myself, shaking my head as I jogged quickly back to the car. Moments later, gravel was again flying.

"Darn it, there's another truck!" Dad yelled from his car window as we were approaching Bob. Out of nowhere, a big truck had cut us off and parked sideways beneath the telephone pole.

"I think they're amateurs—try to go around!" I yelled after spotting a smart phone taking pictures out of the passenger window. Dad did, and they let us. Dad pulled in just behind Bob, and before I knew it there were two gigantic lenses sticking out of two windows, snapping away. I exhaled, grateful that Dad had got his shots, and picked up my binoculars.

For a perfect, timeless moment, I watched the sunlight fluttering off chest feathers and tail, exquisitely serene in stunning white. For the world's heaviest owl, the Snowy is remarkably light and graceful in flight. Their small beaks are lovely, framed by fluffs of white and the stark profile of piercing yellow eyes. Their talons are massive. There is mystery, wisdom, and awe in the gentleness of their graceful, swooping flight. I felt like I was privy to an elusive magnificence—



to watch a snowy owl feels significant. I eventually caught my breath and lowered the binoculars after a long and quiet time, wiping a tear from my eye.

Our owl had us fooled right up to the day it died last March. According to Dad, "It gave me a new appreciation for the word stoic. I watched it hunt, catch and eat prey, cough up pellets, and act, I thought, like a perfectly healthy bird. I knew that most of its kind wouldn't survive winter in the Midwest; by late February almost every one of the 139 birds reported last winter in Kansas (the highest number on record, though this could be an artifact of more people watching and better communication) had already died. But it appeared to be a survivor, a success story in the making. I expected it to take off one cool evening and disappear to the north."

Instead, on March 14 he received a call from Bob, with whom he had

planned to photograph our owl one last time the following day. Bob was on his way to retrieve the bird's carcass for scientific study (as was done with many of last winter's snowy owls); it had been struck and killed by a car early that morning. When Bob weighed the dead bird, he discovered that its accident was probably a merciful ending: it weighed only 876 grams, barely over half the weight of a healthy male in winter. It had liter-

demeanor and piercing gaze.

And still, during its short life, it was a creature of awe-inspiring beauty.

"That's beautiful, Dad, thank you," I whispered with equal parts reverence and exuberance after watching the owl that first December day.

"Yes, it really is!" Dad agreed. After a time, the bird flew far into the field. Once it had faded again into an indeterminate white blob,

Bob came over to the car. Noticing our revelry, he said, "I like it when people appreciate nature."

All in all, our snowy owl adventure doesn't translate well into a Moby Dick story, it's not a metaphor for anything, and it didn't change the world. But for a moment, together a father and daughter

appreciated the grace in wild things. And for us, that was the greatest Christmas present of all. ❧

### For more information on the Snowy Owl invasion of 2011–2012

[http://ksbirds.org/KS\\_SNOW\\_11\\_12.htm](http://ksbirds.org/KS_SNOW_11_12.htm) and the archives of the KSBIRD-L listserv, <http://listserv.ksu.edu/archives/ksbird-l.html>.

Thanks to Chuck Otte and Mark Robbins for details about the invasion and owl specimens, and to Ed and Judy Wolfe for updates on the location of "our" owl.

ally been starving to death. Its emaciation was completely hidden by its thick coat of feathers, its plight masked by its unflinching



A close-up photograph of a man's hands holding a longbow. The bow is made of wood and has a light-colored, possibly bone or antler, tip. The man is wearing glasses and a blue button-down shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

# BACK TO BASICS

text and photos by Nadia Marji  
*associate editor, Pratt*

*Dennis Bounds of Pittsburg began building his own long bows 25 years ago, and he has developed his skills to craft a variety of outdoor tools using natural materials.*



It's hard to fathom someone would prefer primitive archery equipment when modern technology has brought hunters fast, quiet and extremely accurate bows. But for Dennis Bounds, it's a different story. Although he appreciates the ease of use that comes with modern technology, Bounds still prefers to do things the good, old fashioned way. Using natural materials, Bounds creates fully-functional, one of a kind bows, knives and calls, most of which he regularly hunts with.

Growing up in Thayer, Mo., about 230 miles southeast of his current residence in Pittsburg, Bounds always had a passion for the outdoors. His childhood home, surrounded by a multitude of flora and fauna, made for an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. Raised with a healthy respect and love for the outdoors, Bounds grew up hunting and fishing. By the age of 30, being outdoors had become second nature and although he still enjoys it today, back then he wanted a new challenge.

"In 1989, I picked up a magazine at the grocery store, *Traditional Bowhunting*," said Bounds. "At the time, I had hunted with everything else, but I had never really hunted with a recurve, so I thought it sounded pretty cool." As he looked through the magazine, Bounds recalled seeing several advertisements for primitive bows. That's when his interest peaked and he decided he wanted more information.

"Back in those days, we didn't have internet," said Bounds. "If you wanted information on something you would send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a dollar and they would send you a brochure." Bounds recalled sending off for nearly a dozen primitive archery brochures, only to be disappointed by the expensive price tags. Unable to afford a pre-made bow at the time, Bounds opted for the less



Pictured above is one of Bounds' hand-crafted arrows finished with turkey feather fletchings. Bounds learned how to make primitive archery equipment from Jim Hamm's, *The Traditional Bowyer's Bible*, pictured beneath the arrow.

expensive option and bought Jim Hamm's, *The Traditional Bowyer's Bible*. He spent the following months learning how to make his own bow. Little did he know that book would be the beginning of a 24-year-long hobby.

"Most of my early ones turned out really, really bad," said Bounds. "It took me about two years before I built one that I would sign my name to."

As Bounds began to experiment with his newfound hobby, he grew

fond of certain materials like Osage orange. Although Bounds enjoys its finished appearance, he admits using it comes with a price. "It's one of the most difficult materials to work with because of the natural knots and twists in the wood," said Bounds.

For bows that have questionable stability due to the formation and grain of the wood used, Bounds often errs on the side of caution and backs them with rawhide. He went on to explain that when a



In order to maintain a sharp edge, Bounds often places his knapped knives in temporary sheaths, seen above. Bounds has made a multitude of unique knives, knapped from materials like agate and obsidian, all fully-functional.





One of Bounds' specialties is crafting turkey wingbone calls. It is believed that Native Americans used wingbone calls as early as 6,500 B.C.

hunter stretches the back of the bow, the rawhide backing will tighten down, creating a support system for the wood. "Even if there is a splinter," said Bounds, "the rawhide won't allow it to go anywhere."

Other materials that Bounds has found useful include gun shell casings, snake skins, and even a turkey foot that he is currently turning into a back scratcher.

Determined to broaden his skill set even further, Bounds begin crafting arrows. "They are a completely different art form," said Bounds. Although familiar with the woodworking aspect of his craft, Bounds admits that he still has trouble crafting arrowheads, a common tip used in primitive archery. "I can make arrowheads, but I can't make them pretty," said Bounds.

Wanting an arrow tip that was not only func-

tional, but visually appealing, Bounds enlisted the help of master flintknapper, Kim Main. Main has knapped arrowheads from a variety of materials such as glass, agate, jasper and even Bounds' favorites, flint and obsidian. "They are delicate, brittle, and don't last as long," said Bounds, "but even a flake of flint can break down so thin that it's sharper than a brand new razor blade." Grateful for Main's quality work and large



Pictured above is the spear tip of Bounds' atlatl. The arrowhead was crafted by master flintknapper, Kim Main and was attached to the spear using pine pitch glue and deer sinew.

selection, Bounds made him a permanent fixture in a large network of men that would ultimately help Bounds achieve his artistic goals.

As word of Bounds' hobby spread, friends and fellow hunters began bringing him their excess game animal materials in hopes they might end up in one of his creations. One of Bounds' friends, a farmer from Fort Scott, regularly provides him with shed antlers, a material Bounds uses often.

"Over the years, my friend has gotten really good at spotting sheds while working in a field. Of course you learn to spot them quickly when you've had to replace a couple tractor tires because of them," Bounds chuckled. All joking aside, it's clear that Bounds is truly grateful for his friend's donations. In exchange for the raw materials, Bounds often makes his contributors a homemade gift out of the donated material. "It's just kind of a network we've created, and it works out great for everyone" said Bounds.

Not one to waste anything, Bounds has found a use for nearly every natural material brought to him. The old adage, "one man's trash is another man's treasure" couldn't be more true for Bounds, and while most hunters throw away inedible parts such as bones, Bounds has found several uses for them, especially deer bones.

"When I get them, they're a deer leg, sawed off at the knee," said Bounds. "A lot of the time, I will bury them in the yard to rot the meat. When they come out, I'll clean them up, remove the marrow and saw them." Bounds then turns the bones into one-of-a-kind pieces such as knife handles, fitted with one of Main's knapped points. "It's just a matter of finding the right fit," Bounds added.



Since the materials that Bounds uses come from a variety of resources, he has to find creative ways to marry materials together. If the piece allows for it, Bounds uses pine pitch glue, an all natural adhesive, similar to JB Weld epoxy. However, when a piece needs extra reinforcement, Bounds will wrap the area with deer sinew. To do this, he goes through a series of processes to make the sinew usable. "Putting my projects together really doesn't take that long," said Bounds. "It's the preparation that takes the longest."

In its native form of a tendon or ligament, sinew typically comes off of the back of a deer leg in a long, white cord. Since it is initially very moist, Bounds dries the ligament on a flat surface. Once the moisture has evaporated, Bounds pounds it with a mallet to remove its natural casing. Next, he takes a pair of pliers and pulls the sinew apart into extremely fine strips. He does this until the sinew resembles that of a fine string, then he bags it up and stores it. When he is ready to

use the sinew for a project, he soaks it in a pot of water to make it pliable again. When the tightly-wrapped sinew dries and hardens, it creates an impenetrable bond.

To save time, Bounds typically uses artificial sinew. Although its not a natural material, Bounds has found it can be a great substitute for the real thing. "It looks primitive, it's really strong, and it's easier to get," said Bounds. He added that the only other downside to using natural sinew, other than its lengthy prep time, is that it's not waterproof.

Over time, it only seemed fitting to Bounds that crafting bows and arrows should one day lend itself to making atlatls, too. Designed as a long-range weapon, the atlatl was believed to be originally used for hunting mega-fauna during the ice age. "Some people say it was the ancestor of the bow and arrow," said Bounds. "They weigh more, and are kind of limiting, but people still use them today."

In 2011, a St. Louis County, Mo, man became the first hunter ever to

kill a deer using an atlatl in Missouri. Similar to a lot of Bounds' work, the man's atlatl was made from Osage orange.

Though Bounds uses a lot of his primitive works, he has found that there are some activities, like bow-fishing, that are just more enjoyable with modern equipment. "I don't use primitive stuff for everything. Some sports are just more fun with new equipment and the speed you can get out of them," said Bounds.

As technology continually brings hunters faster and more efficient ways of doing things, Bounds still finds joy in simple pleasures. He sees value in every creature and finds a purpose for things others might waste. "I hate to throw anything away," Bounds admits, "because you never know what the next guy is going to come up with and make out of it."

Whether he is hunting with a longbow, or furnishing a handmade knife, Bounds' love of primitive hunting and respect for the animals that have been harvested is something worth treasuring. ♡



Kim Main, a master flintknapper and friend of Bounds, crafted the arrowheads seen above. Bounds uses Main's tips in a variety of pieces, including knives and spears. A translucent arrowhead knapped from glass can be seen in the center of the photo.





# Hunter's Gobbler

text and photos by Dustin Teasley

illustrator, Pratt

*Taking a spring gobbler while hunting with his dad has an 8-year-old hunter firmly entrenched in the hunting tradition. You can bet he'll be in the woods this spring.*

I can remember about every "first" I've experienced while hunting, beginning when I was a young boy. I can remember taking my first pheasant with a .410 single shot; my first duck hunt (the right way); my first squirrel with a bow; my first deer with a bow and of course my first turkey.

I had never hunted turkeys until I moved to Pratt when I was 21. My boss, Mike Miller, shuttled me to the local wildlife area early one spring morning and introduced me to fannin' spittin', drummin', and thunder-gobbling antics of the Rio Grande turkey. I

was hooked from that day on.

Over the years, I have bagged my share of turkeys, as the turkey spur necklace I ALWAYS wear around my neck, shows. However, raising two kids has severely curtailed how many hunts I can fit in, but I always manage a few.

Last spring, my 8-year-old son Hunter was determined to hunt turkeys. I borrowed a youth model 20-gauge shotgun, and one evening before the season opened, I grabbed a few light dove loads for a practice session. Hunter had never fired a shotgun, but I was

confident things would be fine since we were using a light load combined with the gas operated semi-automatic 20-gauge shotgun. After a little coaxing, Hunter was soon firing round after round. I then set up a turkey-head target and stepped off 20 paces. His first shot hit perfect, although subsequent shots began to show the beginnings of bad habits; closing his eyes, jerking the trigger, and picking his head up to watch the shot. It took a couple additional practice sessions before he was completely comfortable shooting and hitting the target consistently.



The weather on the opening weekend of the spring youth season was poor. We hunted an area I had always found turkeys, and we were hoping to get a successful hunt on video for the department's web videos. However, we failed to see or hear a bird, and Hunter was discouraged. The next afternoon, I picked him up from school for an evening hunt, just him and me, without the camera. I had a plan and a spot in mind, based on some information from the landowner. As we neared the hunting area, I decided to detour around the section, just to check things out for future hunts. As we turned our first corner, a hen crossed the road in front of us heading toward a creek bottom on the far side of the property we had permission on. We made a mental note. As I finished the drive around the section, it began to dig into my head that maybe we should go after that hen. This time of the year, where there's a hen, a tom is usually not far behind. I left the decision to Hunter: stick with the plan or make a new one. We made a new one.

So we drove back around the section and parked where the creek crossed the road. The new plan was walk quietly along the creek where we'd seen the hen, staying hidden in the timber. We planned to call every 100 yards and listen for gobbles.

As we approached a bend in the creek, I was looking for a good spot to hunker down, just in case a gobbler sounded off nearby. I leaned up against a thick elm trunk and called. Nothing. We pushed on west through the thick brush along the creek and continued to call and listen. After our third stop without hearing a response, I began to make my way through the thick young elms and cottonwoods.

Hunter who was following whispered excitedly, "DAD!" ... "DAD!" "WHAT!" I said in a low stern voice as I was trying to keep from being slapped in the face by branches. "Turkeys!"



I closed my eyes in disgust and my heart sunk because I assumed we had just been busted. I knelt down to Hunter's level for a better view and although the branches and limbs were giving me fits standing up, at his level the view was clear. I spotted two hens about 60 yards ahead and moving away. I desperately looked around for a hiding place. An elm tree I knelt beside was no bigger around than a coffee can and there was a cedar tree 3 feet away that might have been a good Charlie Brown Christmas tree. We didn't have much choice, so we settled in. The turkeys were now out of site and chances of success seemed to be fading away. I glanced at Hunter and the wide-eyed look on his face was priceless. This was real, we were really going to try this. I dumped the pop-up blind off my back, retrieved the tripod strapped on my backpack, and fished a 3-inch 20-gauge turkey load from my front pants pocket. Hunter unslung the shotgun, I sat down with my back against the elm tree and he backed right in against me and prepared for action. We donned our camouflage headnets, set up the tripod, loaded the gun and Hunter posi-

tioned himself. From the time he alerted me to the time we were finished setting up was maybe three minutes. We were ready. Facing the turkeys last known position I started a soft calling sequence. Immediately 70-80 yards away two fans popped up from behind a cheat grass-covered hill.

"There they are." I whispered.

I brought up the volume on my calls and elicited a pair of gobbles. I quit and waited. After a couple of minutes the fans dropped, and we couldn't see the birds. I called once more, gobbles erupted, but the birds didn't strut. Knowing it was now a waiting game, we kept our eyes focused and gun pointed in the direction we'd seen the fans. Minutes seemed like hours. After about ten minutes Hunter asked if we should move.



Young Hunter learned that spring turkey hunting requires patience, stealth, strategy and perseverance.





Before taking his first gobbler, Hunter and his dad worked out a set up with a tripod (below) to ensure an accurate shot was possible.

"A few more minutes." I whispered in his ear.

I admit, I was getting the itch to move myself, before I spotted movement 40 yards out. A turkey's head bobbed up and down as it walked our direction.

"Be still" I whispered. "Here they come."

With Hunter's back against my chest, I could feel him start to shake. "It's okay, son. Take deep breaths and calm down." I whispered.

I looked down to make sure we were ready and when I looked up the bird was gone.

"Dang!" I thought. "I should have stayed on him"

We waited another couple of minutes and out of frustration, I let out a soft purr with my diaphragm call. Immediately I heard a cluck to our right. The cedar tree blocked our view and kept us from seeing the bird.

Slowly I reach up and hooked a cedar branch with my index finger, pulling it down just enough to see

the bird standing at about 20 yards. The bird is in strut, staying just out of Hunter's line of sight. Thinking I had enough cover to get away with it, I released the branch and slowly repositioned Hunter. He was pointed in the right direction but the cedar branch now covered the rib of the shotgun. I reached up and pulled the offending branch out of the way. Hunter had yet to see the bird through the cedar.

"Be ready." I told him. "If he comes, he will appear from your right and be heading left."

He asked if it was a tom, and I told him it was a bearded bird. I purred one last time. The bird paced back and forth but wouldn't move far enough for Hunter to get a shot.

Then he broke his short strut zone and began heading to our left. After

five or six feet he came into Hunter's view. Hunter slowly reached up and pushed his safety off and readied for the shot. The bird walked another 10 feet turned and headed back the other way.

In my mind I was shouting, "Shoot! Shoot!"

However, as quietly and calmly as I could, I whispered, "Anytime."

"He is still moving." Hunter whispered.

"Duh." I thought. "This is his first turkey."

I quickly made a putt on my call


and the bird stopped, roared a thunderous gobble and started walking again. I putted again on my mouth call. The bird stopped, stretched tall and looked in our direction, then turned away took one step, stopped and looked back.

BAM. Hunter touched off the shot, and through the cedar branches I could see the turkey flopping on the ground.

The adrenaline rushed through us, and we just sat there amazed how everything had come together perfectly. When we both regained some composure, I stood Hunter up and then got up myself, looking in the direction of the downed bird – I couldn't see the bird. My heart sank, and I was afraid it had run off after I took my eyes off of it. Then I heard splashing. The bird had fallen down the bank and into the creek.

Now I knew why the bird had hung up in that particular spot. From our position, I couldn't see the creek bank. He was literally walking the bank edge, trying to get to my call.

I waded in, proud as I could be, and retrieved Hunter's prize. It was a perfect shot. He had taken a nice 2-year-old tom with an 8 1/2-inch beard and 7/8-inch spurs. Wanting photos to remember this hunt, I needed the camera that was in the truck. I decided to leave Hunter with his turkey while I did. Taking an animal's life should not be done casually, and Hunter has thought about what this means. I wanted to give him time alone to digest what had taken place and ensure he was emotionally okay with what had happened.

Looking back, this was the best hunt I could have asked for. Not only did my son shoot his first turkey, but he did it old school; no blind, no bait, no ambush, and no video camera to worry about. We just followed the sign and got it done. Now, just like his father, he wears a necklace with two hard-earned turkey spurs hanging from it; with more to come I'm sure. 



# 2013 Sportmen's Calendar

## TURKEY

### 2013 SPRING TURKEY:

- Youth/ Archery/ Persons with disabilities:  
April 1-9, 2013
- Firearm: April 10-May 31, 2013

## BIG GAME

### DEER: (proposed)

- Youth/Persons with Disabilities: Sept. 7-15, 2013
- Archery: Sept. 16 - Dec. 31, 2013
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 16 - Sept. 29, 2013
- Pre-Rut Whitetail Antlerless Oct. 12-13, 2013
- Regular Firearm: Dec. 4 - Dec. 15, 2013
- Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless  
Season: Jan.1 - Jan. 12, 2014
- Archery Extended Whitetail Antlerless  
Season (DMU 19 only): Jan. 13 - Jan. 31, 2013
- Special Extended Firearms Whitetail  
Antlerless Season: Jan. 13 - Jan. 19, 2014  
(Open for unit 7, 8 and 15 only.)

### ELK (residents only)

#### Outside Fort Riley: (proposed)

- Muzzleloader: Sept. 1 - 30, 2013
- Archery: Sept. 16-Dec. 31, 2013
- Firearm: Dec. 4- 15, 2013 and  
Jan.1 - March 15, 2014

#### On Fort Riley: (proposed)

- Muzzleloader and archery: Sept. 1-30, 2013
- Firearm Season for Holders of Any-Elk  
Permits: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013  
Antlerless Only
- Firearm First Segment: Oct. 1-31, 2013
- Firearm Second Segment: Nov. 1-30, 2013
- Firearm Third Segment: Dec. 1-31, 2013

## ANTELOPE

- Firearm: Oct. 4-7, 2013
- Archery: Sept. 21-29 & Oct. 12-31, 2013
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 30-Oct 7, 2013

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (to be set)

### DUCK

### CANADA GEESE (including brant)

### WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

### LIGHT GEESE

### YOUTH WATERFOWL

### EARLY TEAL

### DOVE (Mourning, white-winged, Eurasian collared, and ringed turtle doves)

- Season: Sept.1 - Oct. 31 and Nov. 2-10, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 30

### EXOTIC DOVE

#### (Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves only)

- Season: Nov. 20, 2013-Feb. 28, 2014
- Daily bag limit: No limit
- Possession limit: No limit

### RAIL (Sora and Virginia)

- Season: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 25
- Possession limit: 25

### SNIPE

- Season: Sept. 1-Dec. 16, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 8
- Possession limit: 16

### WOODCOCK

- Season: Oct. 12-Nov. 25, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 6

### SANDHILL CRANE

- Season: Nov. 6, 2013-Jan. 2, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 6



# 2013 Sportmen's Calendar

## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

### PRAIRIE CHICKEN

- Early Season (East and Northwest units):  
Sept. 15-Oct. 15
- Regular Season (East and Northwest units):  
Nov. 16, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014
- Regular Season (Southwest Unit):  
Nov. 16 - Dec. 31, 2013
- Daily Bag Limit: 2 (East and Northwest Units) single species or in combination  
1 (Southwest Unit)
- Possession Limit: twice daily bag

### PHEASANTS

- Season: Nov. 9, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014
- Youth Season: Nov. 2-3, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 4 cocks in regular season, 2 cocks in youth season

### QUAIL

- Season: Nov. 9, 2013-Jan. 31, 2014
- Youth Season: Nov. 2-3, 2013
- Daily Bag Limit Quail: 8 in regular season, 4 in youth season

## SMALL GAME ANIMALS

### SQUIRREL

- Season: June 1, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013
- Daily bag limit: 5
- Possession limit: 20

### RABBITS (cottontail & jackrabbit)

- Season: All year
- Daily bag limit: 10
- Possession limit: 30

### CROW

- Season: Nov. 10, 2013 - March 10, 2014
- Daily bag/Possession Limit: No Limit

## FURBEARERS

### TRAPPING

- Season: Nov. 13, 2013 - Feb. 15, 2013  
Badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift fox, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk, weasel.

### RUNNING

- Season: March 1 - Nov. 1, 2013

### BEAVER TRAPPING

- Season Dates (statewide):  
Nov. 13, 2013 - March 31, 2014

### OTTER TRAPPING

- Season: Nov. 13-March 31, 2014, or until the statewide trapping mortality quota of 100 otters is met.
- Season Bag Limit: 2

## FISHING SEASONS

### BULLFROG

- July 1 - Oct. 31, 2013
- Daily creel limit: 8
- Possession limit: 24

### FLOATLINE FISHING

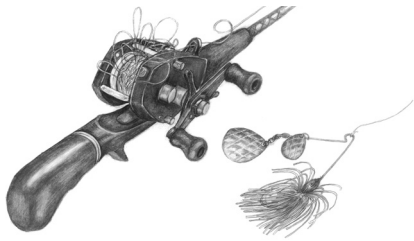
- July 15 - Sept. 15, 2013
- Area open: Hillsdale, Council Grove, Tuttle Creek, Kanopolis, John Redmond, Toronto, Wilson and Pomona reservoirs.

### HANDFISHING (flathead catfish only)

- June 15-August 31, 2013
- Area open: Arkansas River, Kansas River and federal reservoirs 150 yards from beyond the dam upstream to the end of the federal property.
- Daily creel limit: 5
- Special permit required

### PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

- March 15-May 15, 2013
- Daily creel limit: 2
- Season limit: 6 (Permit required)



# Backlash

by Mike Miller

## Optimism Necessary

Our ancestors who settled the Great Plains had to have been die-hard optimists. Think about it. They were moving into a land completely different than anything they had ever known. The endless prairie grasses, lack of trees, and unknown dangers were enough to keep most out. But there were those who came west anyway, attracted by open space, a new life, amazingly abundant wildlife and fertile soils. They also faced resistance from Indians, blinding blizzards, violent thunderstorms, drought, scorching summers and raging prairie fires. Still they pressed on, somehow believing that they could overcome or outlast whatever obstacle they faced.

I think optimism is a necessary trait for current residents of the Great Plains, too. We all know that anyone who farms for living in this country is either an optimist or miserable, and often both. Drought is a part of life here. There isn't a thing we can do about it, so we learn to accept it and live on. We have to believe that the drought will end and that life will return to "normal," whatever that is.

I love to hunt pheasants and quail, and this past hunting season was one of the poorest in my memory, and last year wasn't much better. If you focus on the results of the drought, it's easy to be pessimistic about the future of our bird populations.

I'm an optimist by nature, so I'm always looking for something positive. I know from past experience that pheasant and quail numbers can rebound quickly when spring and summer habitat conditions are right. We've seen pheasant numbers go from "almost none" to "pretty good" in just a year. Recently, in an effort to fuel my optimism, I looked at rainfall records and pheasant harvests over the past 50 years to see what patterns emerged.

The department produces a Small Game Harvest Report each year, which consists of estimates for hunter numbers, hunter days, and harvest based on surveys. The first year on record is 1957, which is also the lowest harvest of pheasants on record by a good margin.

To understand the correlation between drought and

pheasant numbers, I looked up precipitation records on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center. The website includes annual precipitation amounts for different zones of the state. I focused on the southwest area and started looking at the years prior to 1957. I discovered that southwest Kansas was experiencing a drought that started in 1952 when just 11 inches of precipitation was recorded. Average annual precipitation for this region is about 19 inches. In 1953, precipitation was just under 15 inches, and in 1954 12.4 inches was recorded. There was a slight rebound in 1955 when 17.4 inches fell, but it was short-lived. Only 8.4 inches were recorded in 1956 – one of the driest years ever recorded for this region.

In 1957, the drought broke, and more than 23 inches of precipitation were recorded, but hunters harvested just 154,000 birds that year. And only 75,000 hunters pursued pheasants that season, about half of normal. Amazingly, and a point that fuels my optimism, the harvest jumped to 650,000 in 1958. All we needed was some rain.

Obviously, there are other factors that impact our bird numbers, but the current drought we're enduring makes me focus on rain. So, while it's depressing to see that we haven't experienced a prolonged drought like the one we're in for more than 50 years, the optimist in me can see hope. The drought will end, and habitat conditions will improve. Coping until then is a matter of patience and being optimistic.

There were other interesting facts uncovered in my research. For example, the highest estimated pheasant harvest on record was in 1982, when hunters took more than 1.5 million birds. Rainfall for that year was nearly 18 inches, just below normal. Harvest remained above 1 million in 1984 but dropped dramatically in 1985 to 645,000. Severe winter weather was the major culprit that year, and it's a reminder that bird numbers are affected by factors other than drought. In 1987, after three years of normal annual precipitation, harvest was back up over 900,000. ♡



