

# OUTDOORS

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## HOMELESS CATS

LET US PLEDGE OURSELVES NEVER TO  
ABANDON A CAT, AND HUMANELY DESTROY

Kan ALL STRAYS

F1.9/2  
1938/April, c.2 APRIL 1938



MONTHLY BULLETIN

FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

PRATT, KANSAS

APRIL--1938

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THE

S P O R T S M A N

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"His Creed and Dogmas"

Shoot carefully and respect the farmer's property.

Take only your share of the game; your license does not permit you to shoot or fish for another.

Leave a goodly number for replenishment. Don't always take the limit.

Stamp out all fires.

Feed the birds in winter.

Do not burn the meadows in nesting time.

Drive with care...the wild life cannot cope with our speed.

Remember the child is somebody's boy or girl...do not drive recklessly or carelessly. Preserve a life.

\*\*\*\*\*

I would that I had the wisdom and eloquence that would enable me by word of mouth or with the point of my pen, to impress upon each and every one living in the state of Kansas, the dire necessity of restoring our wildlife. To bring back once more the interesting and beautiful inhabitants of our woods and fields.

There is much to be done, much that can be done as individuals and in many instances by collective bodies, organizations and clubs who realize the importance of restoring that which we have in the past so wastefully destroyed.

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Wildlife Restoration Week has reminded many of us of our responsibility to the coming generations, who will want an accounting of the entailed inheritance which we have so ruthlessly abused.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Honorable J. N. Darling said, "No sport (hunting), in the world is so abused by participants, who refuse to abide by the rules of the game. Golf, baseball, tennis, football and even marbles, have certain standards of conduct, below which no one would think of conducting him-

self without criticism. But in the field of rod and gun, the sportsmen have yet to come up to the simplest rules of decent practices. Getting away with violations of the seasons and bag limits are still looked upon as smart, and for a hunter to wait until their water fowl bunch upon the water, and then murder them, is so common that attempts to prevent it are ridiculed by some of our "best people."

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"He who hunts and kills not all  
May hope to hunt again next fall,  
But he that kills all that he can,  
Is neither sport or gentleman."

\*\*\*\*\*

Our children and their descendants will be effected even more than this generation by the plans launched during Wildlife Restoration Week. This is a stimulating thought. It suggests something else, "Youth may hold the solution to many problems which vex us now."

\*\*\*\*\*

We have reason to be encouraged in the crusade for wildlife preservation. Progress has been made. It is refreshing to read in the newspapers and periodicals increasing numbers of articles on wildlife from the conservation viewpoint, it is a relief from the stories about taxes, wars, crime and unrest in the foreign countries. Public sentiment has been stirred. State commissions have been formed to administer wildlife resources. Hit or miss methods are giving way to definite planning and scientific research. Experts are replacing experimenters.

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Even so, there are many citizens who daily try to tear down what conservationists build up. These are the game hogs. Adequate laws and strong enforcement offer a partial defense against destructionists. But there is another and better remedy. Nature has a way of mellowing and tempering the passion to destroy. Contact with the out-of-doors, and association with real sportsmen, whose practices in the field exert a powerful influence on the conduct of others, are contributing factors. Rarely will a destructionist reach middle age without changing his viewpoint. Anyone who communes with Nature and wildlife of mountain, plain or stream, cannot remain spiritually warped.

\*\*\*\*\*

"My dad is an Elk, a Lion and a Moose," said one school boy bragging to his playmates.

"How much does it cost to see him?" Came the reply.

Here is the crux of the whole situation. Voluntary compliance.  
It can be accomplished by education in the field, in the public schools,  
in juvenile organizations, and at home.

\*\*\*\*\*

SENTIMENTALIST and other well-intentioned persons say that kittens  
and purring tabbies can do no harm. Sportsmen, conservationists, and  
farmers know better! The cat, a most prolific producer of its kind, is  
a killer by instinct. The roving stray cats take a tremendous toll of  
quail, partridge, pheasant and song birds every year.

It is said there are 78,000,000 stray cats in the world and if each  
cat kills but one of our feathered friends, you can appreciate what an  
enemy to wild life these killers are. (Federal Cartridge Corp.)

\*\*\*\*\*

A college professor, on his first big game hunt, fired nervously  
at a rustle in the brush. He scored a hit and his veteran guide went  
to investigate.

"Well," the novice nimrod called after an interval of waiting.  
"What species have I shot?"

The guides worried voice came back from the brush, "Says his name  
is Smith."

\*\*\*\*\*

The English Starling is appearing in Kansas in increasing numbers.  
This with the sparrow, both of which were originally imported from  
England, justify a declaration of war. With an invasion of starling  
from the east, magpies from the west and crows from the north, what  
can we expect from the south.

\*\*\*\*\*

H. A. Moore and Hal C. Nelson of Reno County, each contributed  
\$15.00 and cost, after an interesting interview with deputy warden,  
Chester Yowell, in Kingman County, who found them fishing without a  
license.

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Deputy Howard Talbott of the eleventh district, reports some nice  
catches of channel cat, bass and crappie at the Scott County State Park

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A prominent farmer and a high school teacher each contributed \$15.00  
and costs, for attempted violation of the migratory bird law. These  
arrests were made by Deputy Raymond Davidson up in the Salt Marsh Country.

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#### IT WAS THIS LONG

Two Kansas anglers, John Dohner of Robinson, and Charles Hardy of Hiawatha, have established a record for Lake Tonganoxie that may stand for sometime. They caught eleven fish weighing a total of sixty-six and one-half pounds. Dr. L. C. Cox, Vice President of the Izaak Walton League, in reporting the catch, said it broke all records for the four and one-half years the lake has been opened for fishing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Once more we are afflicted with the itch, that all the scratching we may do is of no avail. I am now convinced the only cure is to get out the fishing tackle and go out to (Deleted) and see if they are striking. I am sure that the big one that got away from me last season, will have forgotten our last summer's scrap. Should I be successful, I am sure this itch will disappear, and I will promise to give a truthful account of his size and weight, so help me, John Henry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seth Way, our Fish Culturist, placed thirty-two thousand channel cat, bass and crappie, in the Marion County Lake, March 16. This lake contains approximately one hundred and twenty-two acres, and was built by the C. C. C. Boys, sponsored by the county.

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Deputy Jack Nester, of the Second District, reports the taking of a four and one-half pound wall-eyed pike at the Marysville dam on the Blue River, the morning of March 23. This pike was taken by Harry Mandale, Jr., on a live minnow. This fish is not common in Kansas streams, although quite plentiful in Missouri where it is known as the Jack Salmon.

\*\*\*\*\*

There has been much confusion as to the closed season on the various fish in our streams. April 15 to May 15 is the closed season on bass and crappie. There is no closed season on channel cat.

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Guide- "Why didn't you shoot that tiger?"

Timid Hunter- " He-he-he- didn't have the right expression for a rug.

\*\*\*\*\* 4

The Blue Wing teal seem to have advanced their return from their winter quarters by almost two weeks, having observed the first arrivals March 18. This specie of duck usually return to Kansas between April first to tenth. The drakes are all in full plumage and are mating. Many Blue Wing nest and hatch in Kansas when there is sufficient water. In earlier days almost every slough where there was ample cover was the nesting place for one or more pair of these ducks. The Little Salt Marsh and surrounding district in former years were the favorite nesting ground for Blue Wing, Pin Tail, Shovelers and other surface feeding ducks. This Marsh should be made a breeding sanctuary.

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Deputy Davidson of the ninth, and Chester Yowell of the sixth district after a survey of more than thirty lakes in Stafford, Reno, Barton and Kingman counties, report that the spring flight has been unusually large and the Pin Tail and Mallards are rapidly moving northward. They also report that the number of Canvas Back and Red Head seem to be plentiful with a preponderance of females among these two species. The Bald Pate or Widgeon also were in great numbers, as were the saucy Green Wing teal. The gorgeous colored Shoveler drakes supplied plenty of color to all the ponds and lakes. All reports coming in are most encouraging.

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Dr. George Burkett of Kingman, chairman for the National Wildlife Federation in Kingman County, must be given a bouquet for having arranged a real program for the Wild Life Restoration Week.

Tuesday March 22, a meeting at noon with the Rotary Club, and an evening meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

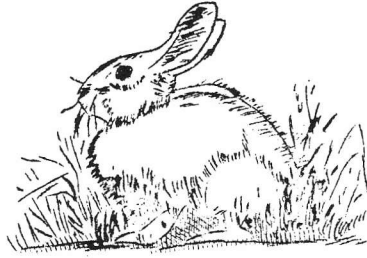
Wednesday, March 23, Meetings at the high schools of Penalosa, Cunningham, Nashville and Zenda.

Thursday, March 24, meetings at the high schools of Adams, Norwich, Belmont and Spivey.

Dr. Burkett states that over 1,500 children attended these meetings.

Much credit for the success of these meetings is due, Professor Edward Naanos, Superintendent of Schools, Dan Ramey, Superintendent of the quail farms and the writer assisted in showing the department movies and making short talks about our wildlife.

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Wildlife has always been and still is the Little Orphan Annie of conservation. Wildlife has never had a home it could call its own. Farmers own the land, cattle and sheepmen control the grazing rights, foresters own the woods, power dams the navigation, and pollution own the water. Little Orphan Annie has lived only on the crumbs that fell from the tables of other agencies of public service. It has been abused by the ne'er-do-well sportsmen parents, and refused subsistence by all the foster parents that have been approached.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the present time the most serious problem in our wildlife restoration plan, is to bring about some equitable arrangement between the farmer and the sportsman. It must be conceded by all that the farmer is the main factor that must be depended upon to bring about a successful conclusion to our efforts. There are many farmers who, for sentimental reasons wish to help increase our bird life, but there are very few who will make any worthwhile effort to increase our upland game birds, such as quail, prairie chickens and pheasants, for the questionable results he may derive therefrom. In many instances he is transformed from a likable easy-to-get along with farmer, into a pessimistic, hard-boiled cuss, by trespassers, highway shooters, torn down fences, crops driven on, etc., and when he attempts to remonstrate with these vandals, he is cursed and abused.

This condition exists in a large degree in every community, until the farmer has come to the conclusion, "What is the use, what is there in it for me?" Settle this problem and convince him that the game birds on his farm have a cash value, and that a real sportsman is willing to pay a reasonable amount for the same. Then watch him produce game the same as he produces his other live stock. It is simply a reversal of supply and demand, it can be supplied at a profit.

\*\*\*\*\*

The promised tragedy of the Little Salt Marsh, will have to be deferred for a later issue, for the reason that some data necessary for this article is not now available.

One thousand fifty-two crows were killed in one dynamite blast set off at the quail farm by Dan Ramey, Superintendent, and his helpers. The crows were piled up on the ground at the quail farm, and anyone who thinks that isn't a lot of crows, should have seen them.

The state of Oklahoma has been dynamiting crows all winter, and has killed hundreds of thousands of them. The legislature there appropriated \$6,000 to buy supplies for dynamiting activities.

Ramey was authorized by State Game Warden, Webb, to set off the charge at Calista as part of an experimental plan. The results proved the practicability of the dynamiting method.

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The following report is from Deputy Allen, of the fourth district; "The chukar partridges that I released on the Ward A. Mc Ginnis farm, have taken up with two prairie chickens. These chukars have been seen several times and each time with these prairie chickens."

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The blizzard of April 7 was very destructive to the fish in many of our streams, we discover from the reports that are coming to this Department. The writer and Seth Way, Fish Culturist, have decided that any one or all three of the following explanations, might have caused this loss; First, the tremendous fall of snow which was driven over the banks of the creeks and ponds, settling to the very bottom, could have caused smothering by lack of oxygen. Second, the fish caught in this heavy slush formed by the snow, would naturally fight to escape and thereby cause abrasions on the protective film which is necessary to all fish, and then being in an emaciated condition and low vitality, they would die. Third, the temperature before the storm of seventy-five degrees with an abrupt drop to twenty-six or seven degrees, could have been the contributing cause.

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Deputy Talbott, of the eleventh district, reports the game birds survived the recent storm in fine shape. Good prospects for pheasants in Logan County, and has seen a large flock of prairie chickens in Gove County.

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I went to town last night and rode  
A street so brightly lit  
That glaring lights soon dazzled me  
And I got lost in it.

Today I found a still, green wood,  
Seldom traversed by men,  
Alone I walked and dreamed awhile  
And found myself again.

Emma Keiler (Tony's Scrapbook)