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NOVEMBER, 1938

K.C. BECK

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MONTHLY BULLETIN
FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
PRATT, KANSAS
NOVEMBER -- 1938

In this the November number of Outdoors with the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission of Kansas, it is our intention to dedicate this number to the 4-H Clubs and the young boys and girls of the coming generation.

The editor realizing and appreciating the fact that the sportsmen (hunters, fishermen, and trappers) by buying licenses supply the funds that enable the Forestry, Fish and Game Department to function, I am sure will agree with us that the future of their hunting, fishing, and so forth, will be in the hands of our boys and girls, who are now growing into man and womanhood.

The generations of the past, on account of the abundance of the natural resources of our wonderful country, gave very little thought to the possibility of their ever becoming exhausted. Never was the old quotation so true, "You never miss the water until the stream goes dry!" Now this condition has come about in its application to our wildlife, and again we have all heard it said, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks!" It means that the youngsters of today must assume the additional responsibility of not only conserving but, also, that of restoring the wildlife of our State and Nation that others of the past, and we of today, have so wastefully exploited. Consequently, this is dedicated to the boys and girls of Kansas.

The Fish and Game Department feel very much encouraged with the activities and enthusiasm with which the 4-H Clubs have taken hold of our wildlife conservation and restoration problem.

The seriousness with which these young boys and girls have taken up this work, has created and stimulated their parents and others to become conservation minded. These young people after having listened to lectures and being shown, on the screen, wildlife scenes and activities during their summer camps, have been continuing their activities at school, with the result that their teachers at many of the schools throughout the state have been calling upon the department for speakers to inform them of the wildlife of our state, its past, present, and future. This, with the assistance of the moving pictures, and the answering of the many questions asked by the girls and boys gives them some idea of what has been done and what can be done with a problem that means so much to us all.

To create among our future leaders a knowledge of wildlife and a demand for its conservation will mean much to the cause of protecting this important resource and should contribute a large measure to the enjoyment and appreciation of the wholesome things that come from an acquaintance with wildlife. The growth of such an attitude should help establish conditions that permit farmers to profit more largely in a financial way through their efforts to conserve and increase wildlife by making food and cover conditions more favorable on their lands. In the eastern states much attention is now being given to wildlife as a supplementary farm crop. It seems important that our young people get a broad and thorough knowledge of our wildlife resources and means by which these resources may be maintained on a permanent and satisfactory basis, and may contribute to the social, recreational, and economic well being of our country.

It is hoped that this publication will be useful not only to the 4-H Clubs but, also, in meeting requests for suggestions and outlines for courses of study in the public schools. Such material will help to increase the number of conservation-minded people who, in the near future, will be the citizens that are managing the affairs of our Nation.

Wildlife conservation dovetails very nicely with at least two of the general objectives of all education. Nature appreciation prepares the boy and girl for better citizenship. It teaches him to live and let live. It is a pursuit that occupies his leisure time. Intimacy with the objects of nature develops an appreciation and satisfaction that are difficult to measure in terms of any utilitarian or monetary standard, yet they are as real and important as are values derived from bank stocks or agricultural products. They have a cultural value and provide a genuine enjoyment that is indispensable.

The recreational value of wildlife represents the peace of mind and healthful enjoyment which we gain through the study and observation of birds and animals in their natural surroundings. It is one of the incentives which draw hundreds of thousands of us into the great outdoors each year. Who among us, does not enjoy the song of a bird, the murmur of a brook, or the cool shade of a tree?

The end results of any teaching program, however, are to develop better boys and girls, better young men and women. Nature is another means of broadening their experiences. The material things accomplished are an aid to this ultimate purpose, but it is necessary to advance toward the goal, namely: Better American Citizens.

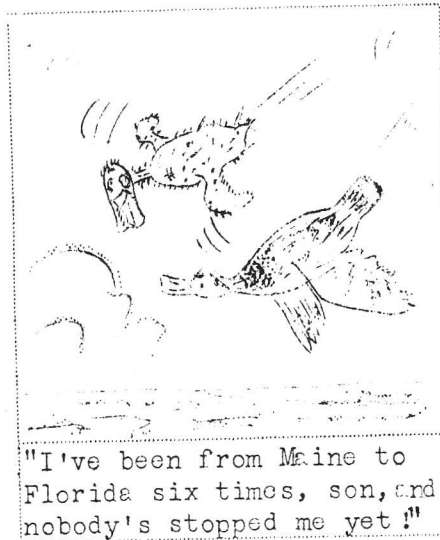
Hunter-- "Don't you think that was a pretty good shot bringing down a duck from that height with only one shell?"

Wifey -- "Yes, dear, but you just wasted the shell; the fall alone would have killed it!"

Once more that long looked for event, the opening day for the shooting of our migratory water fowl has come and gone! The morning of October 15 found every lover of this particular phase of hunting in one of the thousands of blinds surrounding every lake or pot hole in the state. The few that were unable to be on the firing line were either detained by attendance at some death bed, or were involved in some business transaction where millions were at stake.

The ammunition dealers did a land office business as the average duck hunter figured a box of shells for each duck. While the reports from the eastern part of the state would indicate that ducks were not plentiful, in the central and western sections ducks were in greater numbers than for years. This was especially true of the sections around the marshes in Stafford and Barton Counties.

The four shooting clubs surrounding the Little Salt Marsh had 111 shooters on the opening morning. The Horse-Shoe Lake, northeast of the marsh, and the Miller, Parke Smith, and other lakes had most of the ducks in hatched there, some While the Blue and Green abundant, quite a few Bald Pate or Widgeon seeing a couple of Red some Ring Bill or Black expected same and decided



Derry Dam, Ellinwood, full attendance. While this district were flight ducks were seen. Wing Teal were most Mallards, Pin Tail, and were shot. The writer Heads, Shovelers, and Jack in the bags, in that these were, un-

doubtedly, flight birds. The hunters who did not get their limit in the above mentioned district were few. Of course, the old saga that to hit is history but to miss is mystery still holds good!

The writer who has helped in the ceremonies of the opening day at the Little Salt Marsh for 44 years, was reminded of 20 years ago as there has not been as many ducks and geese seen in this section for many years.

At ten minutes of 7:00 o'clock, someone accidentally discharged his gun, then hell broke loose, everyone of the shooters were busy taking a pop at every duck that came within 150 yards of his blind. There were one million gulls on the lake, augmented by 500 or more pelicans, 5,000 coots and at the lowest estimate 10,000 ducks, hundreds of White and other Heron, with many geese, the latter were mainly Cackling and White Fronts.

All of these birds not having been shot at previous to the opening, became bewildered, flying in every direction, making a sight that can never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to see it.



The quail season which opens November 20 to November 30, both dates inclusive, will mean that thousands of our sportsmen will take to the open fields in pursuit of this, to many of our sportsmen, The King of Upland Game Birds. While, as stated in previous issues of this bulletin, our Bob White Quail have staged a wonderful comeback this season, yet at no time has it been more necessary for

the sportsmen to exercise true sportsmanship and to remember that the progress that has been made in the past year can very easily be destroyed unless the principles of sportsmanship are used.

At this time, we wish to remind you that the Fish and Game Department, last season released 250 Chukor Prtridge in various districts over our state, and this year will release between 800 and 1,000 more. It will be very necessary to be extremely careful while afield should one of these birds be flushed, not to shoot same out of curiosity to see what kind of a bird it is.

To dog owners, we ask that they be exceptionally careful when their dog makes a stand.

John Quincy Holmes, Federal Game Warden for the State of Kansas and the western half of Nebraska, was as busy as a cur dog scratching fleas, seeing that the migratory bird laws were strictly adhered to on the opening day, October 15. John Q., as he is known to his many sportsmen friends, inspected the bags of many of the shooters to see that the limit had not been exceeded by the hunters in their excitement of the most wonderful mornings shooting in years. John Q. is a very congenial sort of fellow, when sportsmen are sportsmen, but a tough hombre when they cease to be such.

Many of our Kansas sportsmen made a try for deer and elk in Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, and Texas. While a large number of them were successful in bagging a deer, very few of them were able to connect with an elk.

THE ODDEST ANIMAL OF ALL, - THE SPORTSMAN

by
Carl D. Shoemaker, Executive Secretary
of the
National Wildlife Federation

Scientists are studying animals in a way they never have been studied before. Measuring skulls and counting ribs, feathers, teeth and toe-nails aren't enough any more. Behavior is being carefully checked under methods that justify accurate conclusions as to why a bird or beast or fish acts in certain ways under certain circumstances.

It would be interesting to get some real bed-rock studies of the sportsman, the strangest animal of all. How many times has the remark been made, in a duck-blind on a stormy day, or slogging through heavy going behind a dog. "If anybody tried to hire me to do this, I'd tell him to jump in the lake."

The sportsman has the strongest affection for that which he pursues. He would go far out of his way to rescue a young bird in distress, and just as far out of his way to shoot that same bird when it was full grown.

We who have learned to love the outdoors as hunters and fishermen have the support of illustrious examples. John Burroughs first went afield with a muzzle-loading musket over his shoulder, in search of game. Henry Thoreau, the gentle philosopher, confessed that hunting taught him to love nature. Theodore Roosevelt, America's first great sportsman for conservation, was a mighty hunter.

It is easily proved that the farmer, manufacturer, merchant, banker have just as much at stake in our natural resources as has the sportsman, but the fact remains that conservation got its start in the various states through the demands of the sportsmen.

At first, these demands were simple and short sighted. Hatch fish in large quantities and pour them out of cans into streams. Later on, raise birds, buy rabbits, turn them loose. Kill crows, hawks, owls, and stray cats.

We know, too, that a generation ago the average sportsman thought it was pretty smart to violate game laws. The enforcement officer was somebody to be outwitted.

The sportsman is changing his ways of thinking. He realizes that increasing natural production comes first, artificial planting, second. Predator control is like spraying fruit trees. It is necessary, but is by no means the final answer. Twice as much spraying will not produce twice as much fruit.

The sportsman is at the forefront of the conservation movement, and as his vision widens, he is coming to see that his interests and those of the naturalist, the bird lover, the wild-flower enthusiast, the Boy Scout, 4-H Club member -- all who have a concern in the outdoors -- are identical.

Each state has just the degree of wildlife restoration and conservation that its people, lead by organized sportsmen, will demand and support.

The Oddest Animal of All - The Sportsman (continued)

For sportsmen to condemn "politics" and not unite to protect wildlife is childish. In politics, those who go after what they want, backed by the power of votes, get what they want. The Pittman-Robertson Act, and the special appropriation of \$1,000,000 for its functioning the first year, were put through Congress by united conservationists, brought together by the National Wildlife Federation. That means between three and four millions of dollars to be spent for wildlife restoration in the states, coming from the federal excise tax on arms and ammunition.

There is never a session of state legislature, hardly a week that Congress is in session, that the interests of wildlife are not in the balance, in some way or another.

Through state federations and through national unity, sportsmen can turn wishful thinking and indignant protest into effective action.

The sportsman who does not unite with other conservationists has no right whatsoever to complain, no matter what happens to wildlife through the workings of our political system.

A couple of young amateurs asked the writer to look at their bag of ducks, stating that they had 14 little ones and 4 big ones, wanting to know what kind they were. When informed that they had 14 Blue and Green Wing Teal and 4 geese, they nearly collapsed.

There seems to be more or less dissension as well as dissatisfaction among the fur buyers throughout the state as to the laws, rules and regulations which apply to them.

Your editor having had some experience not only as a trapper but, also, as a buyer of raw furs, knows whereof he speaks.

On account of the practices and unscrupulous methods used by a few of the unprincipled buyers, it had become necessary to enact laws, rules and regulations, which in some instances are unjust to the buyer that wishes to conduct his business in a lawful manner. The writer would suggest that before the season opens, the fur buyers in the State of Kansas call or have a meeting in some centrally located city, organize a working organization, with rules and regulations that would take the business out of the junk dealer plane.

We are confident that the Fish and Game Commission would be pleased to meet with such an organization and cooperate with them to adjust some of their difficulties.

Can't you make a noise like a duck?



The duck shooting, with the exception of the opening

day, October 15, has dwindled until it seems hardly

worth while to make long drives to the blinds. This

was especially true of the central portion of the state, which usually covers the main flyway over Kansas. Reports from the western part of Kansas were more encouraging, there seemed to be much more water in the low areas of this section, the former Dust Bowl, and ducks and geese have been plentiful and bags have been satisfactory. In the central section the weather has been mild which, no doubt, has delayed the usual flight of the diving ducks, Blue Bill, Ring Neck, Red Head, and Canvas Back. The annual flight of these ducks can usually be looked for any-time around October 20.

As this is being written, November 3, the Blue Bills and Red Heads are coming in by the thousands. We have had a three inch rain and water is standing everywhere, boys are coming in with their bag limits, some that were bagged within thirty minutes. Many geese and quite a few mallards are flying. The main flight of mallards can be expected toward the latter part of November.

With the abundance of water we now have, we can look forward to some good duck and goose shooting during the balance of the season.

Our State Fish and Game Warden, L. C. Webb, demonstrated his skill by getting his limit of ducks very easily. We are very glad to record this as there had been some doubting Thomases. Dan Ramey, Superintendent of the Bird Farms, also, made good, adding a nice goose to his bag on the way home.

The promiscuous killing of hawks by many of our hunters is a mistaken idea they may have that by shooting a hawk, they have killed a game bird enemy. Most of our hawks are beneficial as destroyers of rodents and insects. This is especially true of the migratory hawk that you see in large numbers early in the fall, on the wheat fields, where they destroy countless numbers of grasshoppers, their main food.

Among the hawks that are destructive to game and other birds, we will mention the Sharp Shinned, Coopers Hawk, Goshawk, often called Partridge or Blue Hen Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon and Duck Hawk.

We have some twenty different hawks that visit our state and aside from those mentioned above, are beneficial or at least more beneficial than harmful.

Study your hawks!!!

T H E D O G

I've never known a dog to wag
His tail in glee he did not feel
Nor quit his old-time friend to tag
At some more influential heel.
The yellowest cur I ever knew
Was to the boy who loved him true.

I've never known a dog to show
Halfway devotion to his friend;
To seek a kinder man to know,
Or richer; but to the end
The humblest dog I ever knew
Was to the man that loved him true.

I've never known a dog to fake
Affection for a present gain,
A false display of love to make
Some little favor to attain.
I've never known a Prince or Spot
That seemed to be what he was not.

And I have known a dog to bear
Starvation's pangs from day to day,
With him who had been glad to share
His bread and meat along the way.
No dog, however mean or rude,
Is guilty of ingratitude.

---Anon.

Once again the hunting season is open and will continue throughout the winter on various game, and once more we are reminded almost every day of accounts of some person being accidentally shot while out on these expeditions. Scarcely do we pick up a paper that we are not confronted with headlines of these tragic happenings. We know, of course, in nine cases out of ten it is negligence and carelessness in proper handling of firearms.

Perhaps if we take the time to go into the thing and analyze the whole situation, we will find it is in many instances, the lack of knowledge in the use of weapons. As the instinct to learn to shoot and carry a gun is inherited in most boys, I don't think our admonitions and warnings of being careful are going to get so far, unless we take the youngsters in hand and try to teach them the fundamental principals in the use of firearms. I feel sure much could be accomplished if when the boy first shows an interest in hunting and the mechanism of guns, that a little time and patience in teaching him proper respect of personal property and scientific training along these lines.

Let him approach the whole idea with a responsibility in knowing that he is handling not only a very marvelous piece of machinery, but a highly dangerous one. If more fathers or older relatives would start in the beginning with their young sons and take them out on short hunting expeditions and make more real pals out of the boys, there might not be so many uncalled for accidents and tragedies which each year take a toll of our youth. --Grace Thompson Bigelow.



Wardens page



CHESTER YOWELL, Sixth District Warden, spent the opening day of the duck season along the Ninescah River. He reports that all the hunters had good shooting and that ducks were numerous.

WAYNE FIGGOTT, Fifth District Warden, reports a very successful dog meet at Erie. He, also, reports being on the trail of some fish dynamiters whom he expects to give a run for their money.

CY GRAHAM, Tenth District Warden, advises that the sportsmen in his district during the three day open season on Pheasants had fine success -- some were fortunate in getting their limit, while others were not so successful.

RAY DAVIDSON, Ninth District Warden, says that the shooting of doves in his district, during the open season, did not seem to be popular, as he saw only two dove hunters during the open season.

MERLE ALLEN, Fourth District Warden, reports many of the streams are low and that it has been necessary to salvage thousands of fish. He advises that he has received splendid cooperation from the sportsmen with this work. Geese, says Merle, are more plentiful in his territory than ducks.

BRICE REZEAU, Third District Warden, has many parties under suspicion, he reports, who, he believes, have been shooting prairie chickens. He told of a deaf and dumb man who caught an 86 lb. yellow cat in the Osage River near Iola. The man might be deaf but surely not dumb!

CARL TEICHGRAEBER, of the First District, reports that the weather is too warm for duck shooting. Fishing only fair.

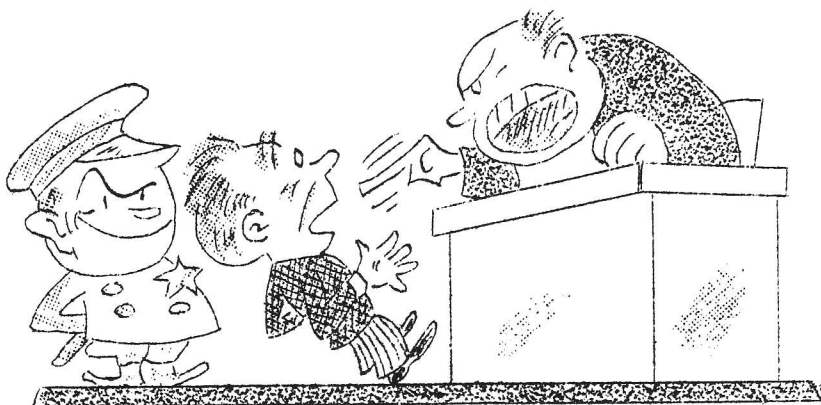
JACK NESTER, Second District Warden, reports that ducks are scarce in his territory. Channel Cat biting best on limburger cheese.

GEORGE WALLERIUS, Eighth District Warden, reports the streams in his district as being low. Duck shooting not so good.

H. D. BYRNE, of the Seventh District, advises that pheasant hunters in his district were well satisfied with the three day open season. Also, that it will be necessary for the department to have many beaver trapped in his territory as they are becoming too plentiful in some places.

CHESTER YOWELL, Sixth District Warden, reports being very busy inspecting locations for quail and chukar partridge in his territory.

C. R. DAMERON, of the Ottawa County State Park, reports that a change in weather slowed up fishing at the lake but brought out the hunters. He advises that some good catches of fish were made by using angle-worms and patented cat-fish cheese dough bait.



The following arrests and convictions were made during the month of October. Fines include costs.

Marrison Bybee, Kansas City, Missouri, hunting without a non-resident license. Local Warden O. A. Gordon. Fined \$20.00.

H. Fink, Johnson County, shooting doves sitting on highway, and having no plug in gun. Local Warden O. A. Gordon. Fined \$20.00.

John Kudzma, Johnson County, shooting doves on highway, and having no plug in gun. Local Warden O. A. Gordon. Fined \$20.00.

Harold Ellison, Sherman County, shooting pheasants out of season. Local Warden Martin Ciboski. Fined \$37.50.

J. L. Fryback, Rawlins County, hunting without a license. Local Warden D. W. Saunders. Fined \$16.50.

C. J. Cusan, Jewell County, trespassing (Sec. 61). Local Warden E. Luman. Fined \$17.50.

W. B. Baker, Jewell County, hunting without a license. Local Warden Luman. Fined \$17.50. (Given until November to pay)

Harlan Epperson, Jewell County, hunting without a license. Local Warden Luman. Fined \$17.50. (Given until November to pay)

Floyd Jasperson, Rawlins County, hunting without a license. Local Warden Saunders. Fined \$16.50.

Tom Coleman, Allen County, shooting ducks before 7:00 A. M. Local Warden B. Barber. Fined \$16.85.

Frank Tregallas, Kingman County, hunting without a license. Local Warden Eldon Hart. Fined \$20.00.

B. Frisbie, Kingman County, shooting doves on public highway. Local Warden Eldon Hart. Fined \$20.00.

Frank Burwell, Lane County, hunting without a license. District Game Warden Howard Talbott. Fined \$18.50.

Fred Urie, Kearny County, Carl Granberger and Lawrence Urie, of Kearny County, shooting ducks out of season. Arrests made by U. S. Deputy Game Warden P. Osborn. Fred Urie, also, did not have a duck stamp in his possession and was fined \$37.50. Granberger, and L. Urie were each fined \$18.75.

Vernon Hattabaugh, Pratt County, shooting and having in his possession protected migratory birds. Local Warden Paul Garst. Fined \$24.25.