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Hanson

First Anniversary Issue



March 1939

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K.C.BECK

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 Elmo Huffman..... Engineer Belle Wilson..... Stenographer
 Wilbur Wahl, Landscape Architect

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Seth Way..... Fish Culturist
 Leo Brown..... Biologist

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 Raymond Davidson..... District 9..... Greensburg, Kansas
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K. C. Beck..... Hutchinson, Kansas

PARK SUPERINTENDENTS

J. L. Hustin..... Butler County State Park..... Augusta
 W. I. Thomas..... Crawford County State Park..... Pittsburg
 C. R. Ridgway..... Leavenworth County State Park..... Tonganoxie
 John Carlton..... Meade County State Park..... Meade
 Sidney Baxter..... Neosho County State Park..... St. Paul
 C. R. Dameron..... Ottawa County State Park..... Minneapolis
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MONTHLY BULLETIN
FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
PRATT, KANSAS
MARCH - 1939

A few of the readers of this bulletin have spoken to and written the editor that some of the articles appearing in "Outdoors With The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission of Kansas" were too pessimistic as to the wildlife situation in our State. The editor wishes to say that he is a natural born optimist but that by too close associations with optimists, he has become somewhat pessimistic. Having spent about sixty years of his life in Kansas, always a lover of not only our wildlife but the great outdoors, which from year to year is becoming more restricted and less available to so many who need it the most, it is only natural that in the three score years, he has seen some things happen to the God given resources with which we were so abundantly supplied, how they have been raped and exploited so that the real Kansan of today realizes that possibly a few pessimistic bullets shot at them, and the true facts given them as to the actual condition as it exists, and not superficially glossed over statements as we have been listening to for many years, will bring us all to the realization as to how chronic our ailment has become.

In the new law as passed, during this session of the legislature, our governor will appoint six men on the Commission who should have the wildlife interests at heart, regardless of political affiliations, and should be able to get together and diagnose and discuss our wildlife condition as it actually is, regardless of what effect it may have from a republican or democratic view point. Then, your magazine editor will again become optimistic.

The National Wildlife Federation's vote among anglers and outdoor editors on the popularity standing of fish, resulted in an easy victory for the large mouth bass. This fish likes shallow, weedy lakes, not too cold. In Florida where bass feed voraciously all winter, specimens weighing as much as twenty pounds have been caught.

Reports are being received of some nice catches of bass and crappie, during some of the mild spring like days this winter. But remember that ere this bulletin reaches you, the season on bass and crappie will be closed--March 1 to May 15.

On February 18, the wildlife motion pictures were shown at the Kiowa County 4-H Club Meeting, held in Greensburg.

FISHERMAN IN MARCH

Fishin' creel needs dustin',
An' moths have ravished flies;
Fly rod needs rewindin';
Ol' boots have shrunk a size.

Spring is at the winder,
An' snow is meltin' fast;
Fishin' bug's a-bitin'--
How long's March gonna last?

---National Sportsman

The Bob White Quail by reason of its non-migratory nature is one of the most responsive of all our birds to encouragement on individual farms. If the environment is favorable--if food resources are in the proper relation to suitable brush cover, and the birds are not driven out by shooting, Bob White coveys frequently spend the winter in a very restricted area. Often coveys may be found throughout the season within a couple hundred yards of the same spot at nearly every visit.

Over hunting or the destruction of cover by burning or cutting down the brush along fence rows and the like, will at least force them to leave, if they don't suffer actual mortality. A great deal of the shifting of quail coveys in the fall is doubtlessly due to changes in food and cover combinations brought about by frosts, and agricultural practices.

While the winter coveys in the northern states have been observed to "stay put" if everything was going well with them, there is a general dispersal of the birds when the time for mating and nesting comes on--this is generally true in Kansas.

During the summer, dense growths of green vegetation offer abundant cover almost everywhere, and quail take up quarters many places where they could not possibly maintain themselves in winter. Then with the advent of late summer or fall, the coveys are formed from mixed broods and miscellaneous adults and eventually station themselves where ever the environment is in the same territory as it did the first. The redistribution of adult birds after breeding seems largely a matter of chance and opportunity for finding the right living conditions. Much of the winter mortality commonly laid to freezing is more the result of starvation, wounds, or reduced vitality from other causes, according to Dr. Paul L. Errington. It has been observed that physically fit, well fed coveys withstood, in the wild, very low temperatures (24 to 30 degrees below zero) with no perceptible difficulty, whereas even moderately cold nights, killed large numbers of half starved or otherwise weakened birds.

The pictures on Page 3 were furnished through the courtesy of J. Luther Hanson, of Greenleaf, Kansas.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION WEEK

MARCH 19 - 25

"The week of March 19-25, 1939, is the second annual observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week. The primary purpose of designating National Wildlife Restoration Week is to appeal to all citizens, first to recognize the importance of the problem of conservation of our natural and wildlife resources, and then to work with one accord for the proper protection and preservation of these aesthetic, economic assets!"--American Wildlife.



The 1939 Wildlife Poster Stamps will be issued in

sheets containing 80 stamps and will sell for

\$1.00 per sheet. There are 20 stamps

double sized in height, these being

valued at 2¢ each and 60 regular sized stamps valued at 1¢ each.



There will be 80 various designs, all painted by outstanding American artists, which are as follows: Wild Flowers, 10. Trees, 10. Fish, 15. Song and Insectivorous Birds, 15. Mammals, 15. Upland Game Birds and Waterfowl, 15.

The new Wildlife Poster Stamp Album containing space for the 16 1938 and 80-1939 Poster Stamps is available for distribution. These albums sell for only 25¢ which, also, includes a set of the sixteen 1938 stamps. As stated above, this album contains blanks for placing in the 1938 and 1939 Wildlife Stamps, together with a printed description of each species, giving its colors and habitat. In the Poster Stamp Album, there is, also, a very interesting article en-

titled "The Story of Wildlife Restoration". Stamps and Albums

may be purchased by writing to L. C. Webb, President,

Kansas Wildlife Federation, Pratt, Kansas.



Your editor spent a most pleasant evening February 13 with the Jackson County Fish and Game Club at Holton. The moving pictures of the department were shown in addition to wildlife films supplied by the Biological Survey, of Washington, D. C. Representatives W. W. Fowler of Butler and C. G. Gard of Cloud Counties gave interesting talks as to the new game laws passed in the present session of the Legislature. Your editor made a short talk on the present condition of our wildlife in Kansas as he sees it.

A nice lunch was served after the meeting. The sincere interest shown by all those in attendance has your Uncle Koon convinced that these men mean business and that the Jackson County Fish and Game Club intend to put Jackson County on the map as one of the pioneer clubs that will help restore our wildlife in Kansas. An invitation to meet with them will always be received with pleasure by us.

It is not our wish to become boresome in repeating in part some of our articles of previous issues of this bulletin, nevertheless, there are some fundamental or basic facts that cannot be stressed too often, so that these facts may become so thoroughly impregnated in the minds of our sportsmen and those sincerely interested in the conservation and restoration of the wildlife of Kansas will give them their most serious consideration as a major problem, but also as the duty of a citizen of our state--not only as a problem that effects you as an individual but as a problem that means so much for the general welfare of us all.

It may be possible, but hardly probable, that you may be one of the minority who do not enjoy an occasional day in the field with dog and gun, or with your rod and reel or a willow sprout or bamboo pole along some lake or stream, but even should this be true, we still feel that even you who will admit to this abnormal attitude, must agree that the absence of birds flitting from tree to tree or soaring through the air, an accomplishment man has spent centuries of time and billions of dollars to only imperfectly imitate, the songs of our song birds, the beautiful and harmonious blending of colors found so much in birds and flowers, not forgetting the wisdom of the beaver, who can accomplish so much with so little that he has the respect of our most prominent engineers, the beautiful stream lining of the agile antelope and deer, the dignity and strength as seen in the grizzly bear and moose, the beautiful flowers and trees that have meant so much to us all, the many streams so arranged that proper drainage is given to the land. You surely must respect the wonderful co-ordination of nature's gifts to man which mean so much to us all--perhaps you will begin to appreciate and miss them when it is too late, and you are surfeited with the artificial substitutes which are so unsatisfactory.

Up to the present time (Feb. 25) a few more than 100 beaver have been trapped and pelted in the north and northwestern part of the state. There are still many complaints from farmers in the northern districts as to beaver damage. The department intends to trap some of these animals alive during the latter part of March for distribution in sections of the state where applications have been received for them. Parties who have made applications for beaver will be notified before delivery.

District Warden Davidson, of the Ninth District, had a somewhat unique experience the other day. Having arrested two men for violating the migratory bird law, and taking them before the Justice of the Peace at Alden, in Rice County, he was informed by the J. P. that he knew nothing of the necessary procedure and that he had never had a case before him. The J. P. then insisted that Warden Davidson act in his place, which Davidson proceeded to do, first in the capacity of complaining witness, then assumed the judicial cloak of Judge with an occasional lapse into the role of prosecuting attorney, as well as attorney for the defense, making both pleas to the ghost jury, who upon the recommendation of the judge protem assessed a fine of \$15.00 and costs of \$1.00 in each case. The duly elected Justice of the Peace collected costs at once.

The eagle was just about to receive National protection not long ago but it was held that the Constitution did not give this power to the Federal Government and that it was a responsibility that each state should assume. Kansas is one of ten states that does not afford protection to the eagle. The eagle is protected in the other thirty-eight states. The Bald Eagle is the eagle that has been adopted as our National Emblem. We have two species of eagles in Kansas both the Bald and Golden, or Prairie Eagle. While the Bald species is not very plentiful, the Golden is found in all parts of the state.

Our fish culturist, Seth Way, has just given us the figures of fish distributed during the months of January and February. During the month of January, he has released fish in the following counties: Scott, Sedgwick, Finney, Logan, Barber, Pratt, Jackson, Brown, Dickinson, Marshall, Pottawatomie, and Riley--a total of 95,000 fish.

During February, fish were distributed in the following counties: Sherman, Wallace, Reno, McPherson, Harvey, Pawnee, Barton, and Stafford--total 49,200. Up to the present time, Seth Way has released during the season, a total of 797,300 fish, consisting mainly of large mouth bass, crappie, blue gill and channel cat, also, a number of drum.

Howard Talbott, Eleventh District Warden, reports that two 4-H Clubs in Lane County have taken up Wildlife Conservation Projects for the coming year. This work is being done under the supervision of H. W. Westmeyer, County Agent, of Lane County.

The Dutch Elm disease is causing much concern in our eastern states. In many districts this beautiful and popular shade tree seems to be doomed, and seems to be spreading westward. Anyone having suspected trees, should send specimen twigs of such trees to the Dutch Elm Disease Laboratory, Morristown, New Jersey.

Let us suppose that a State Game Warden approaches a farmer and says----
"It is my duty to protect your rights as a landowner, to prevent trespassing on your land by hunters and fishermen unless they have your written permission, and to see to it, if they do hunt or fish on your land with such permission from you that they fully comply with the existing Fish and Game Laws and Regulations!"
Don't you think the farmer would be apt to say, "By God, you could have knocked me over with a feather, I didn't think that could happen here!"

Recognizing that the possessor of land has, if he wishes to exercise it, the exclusive right to take the wildlife crop produced on his lands or, if he does not wish to have it taken, to forbid any other person from coming on his land and taking it, legislatures of most states have enacted trespass provisions as part of the game laws. The effect of these provisions is to direct those special enforcement officers and game wardens hired for the purpose of protecting wildlife to protect the right of the landowner and to decide whether and by whom wildlife shall be hunted on his land.

Excessive planting of young fish without accurate information as to the conditions favorable to their growth has had some curious results--such as large populations of dwarfed game fish in certain lakes. Also, the crowding of spawning beds has resulted in some odd hybrids among blue gills, sunfish and crappie. These mule fish do not reproduce.

Carl Teichgraeber, First District Warden, reports that he estimated at least 10,000 ducks could be seen on Lake Tonganoxie, February 25. He, also, reports that he has been successful in apprehending another persistent law violator whom he has been after for some time.

Thinking that it may interest many of the purchasers of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses as to the amount contributed by the different counties for the up-keep of the Fish and Game Department, we wish to give the following figures which are for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938 and do not include non-resident hunting or fishing licenses. All resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses sell for \$1.00.

County	Resident Hunting Licenses	Resident Fishing Licenses	Trappers Licenses	County	Resident Hunting Licenses	Resident Fishing Licenses	Trappers Licenses
Allen	825	1,040	135	Lincoln	163	392	67
Atchison	824	1,063	55	Linn	479	644	121
Anderson	573	561	106	Logan	125	158	49
Barber	288	500	65	Lyon	1,043	1,778	220
Barton	1,164	1,174	75	Marion	492	1,298	138
Bourbon	796	1,035	141	Marshall	512	980	143
Brown	378	528	94	McPherson	850	1,365	134
Butler	1,531	2,713	72	Meade	165	494	64
Chase	273	579	89	Miami	844	1,179	144
Chautauqua	402	332	145	Mitchell	283	440	109
Cherokee	1,147	1,303	111	Montgomery	2,744	2,776	320
Cheyenne	145	168	38	Morris	274	425	80
Clark	98	163	23	Morton	17		2
Clay	274	405	110	Nemaha	300	438	47
Cloud	458	526	104	Neosho	828	932	127
Coffey	510	877	152	Ness	170	231	77
Comanche	168	169	66	Norton	209	257	54
Cowley	1,698	1,809	114	Osage	492	966	165
Crawford	1,832	2,489	162	Oshorne	212	435	88
Decatur	154	308	36	Ottawa	276	653	80
Dickinson	668	1,384	153	Pawnee	308	487	56
Doniphan	498	176	90	Phillips	209	144	81
Douglas	1,091	1,153	171	Pottawatomie	318	378	121
Edwards	171	389	46	Pratt	656	926	82
Elk	370	428	108	Rawlins	132	276	24
Ellis	525	939	111	Reno	2,237	2,853	221
Ellsworth	326	345	106	Republic	289	560	55
Finney	349	490	40	Rice	903	1,103	58
Ford	514	954	74	Riley	715	1,336	144
Franklin	906	1,370	167	Rooks	213	276	37
Geary	672	801	75	Rush	182	377	62
Gove	171	242	103	Russell	512	1,144	75
Graham	68	253	15	Saline	1,042	1,507	83
Grant	51	55	11	Scott	148	643	43
Gray	104	188	15	Sedgwick	5,468	7,976	85
Greeley	50	48	4	Seward	191	164	12
Greenwood	1,007	1,485	225	Shawnee	3,940	4,404	168
Hamilton	106	21	27	Sheridan	99	201	47
Harper	359	711	59	Sherman	216	315	30
Harvey	746	1,252	70	Smith	153	182	48
Haskell	56	24	20	Stafford	457	573	29
Hodgeman	89	167	40	Stanton	27	11	2
Jackson	266	233	92	Stevens	63	52	8
Jefferson	348	352	64	Sumner	866	1,647	178
Jewell	179	264	59	Thomas	237	293	38
Johnson	973	958	94	Trego	200	253	76
Kearny	106	103	28	Wabaunsee	306	316	149
Kingman	514	888	121	Wallace	71	109	31
Kiowa	186	246	53	Washington	300	400	107
Labette	1,411	1,777	249	Wichita	77	80	34
Lane	81	240	60	Wilson	654	868	163
Leavenworth	1,383	1,478	63	Woodson	593	671	148
				Wyandotte	6,652	4,682	69

C. R. Dameron, Sup't. of Ottawa County State Park, reports the following:
"Dr. A. L. Hawkins, of Minneapolis, Kansas, gave the park a very large domestic
goose to add with the flock of wild ones here at the park. His reason, he says,
is so some people may see the difference between wild and tame geese. I am very
glad to get it, as it will also help to keep the geese in the park." Thanks Dr.
Hawkins.

Dan Ramey, Sup't. of the Quail Farms informs us that there will be about
5,000 Bob White Quail and 500 Chukar Partridges ready for release this spring.
The department has found that birds released in the spring have proven to be
more successful than those released in the fall. Consequently, all pens were
kept filled to capacity for spring release. These birds will be available about
April 1. Applications will be filled in rotation as they are filed.

The District Game Wardens have been instructed to carefully investigate the
farms of all applicants for quail and partridge as to the adaptability of the
farm for either of these birds, such as cover, nesting areas, feed and water--
and the assurance that the applicant will give the birds the best protection
possible.

It seems to us that, given the leadership of the Conservation and Fish and
Game Departments, the hunting and fishing fraternities have it well within their
power to quit committing gradual suicide. Will they do it? We think so, when it
sinks in that it is they, not the farmers, who need to change their tune. The
handwriting is on the wall, as clear as clear can be. The "Sell more licenses"
spells the end of hunting and fishing as legal sports.

--National Association of Audubon Societies

If hunting and fishing as sports are to prevail, basic policies will have to
be, so it seems to us, not as it is too often the case today, opposition to the
posting of land and seeking maximum current income from the sale of licenses, but
the earnest desire to protect the rights of farmers and other landowners, and
solicitude to assure observance of the laws and regulations and sportsmanlike
conduct.

Joe Gallivan, Twelfth District Warden, reports that more quail were left
over after the open season than the year before and that he has seen more and
larger covies. He further states that the pheasants show a nice increase.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If you have a question you would like to have answered on this page, please write the editor.

E. W. Mc. Hutchinson, Kansas.

Q--"I would like to ask about the requirements and desirability of privately owned land being set aside for a game preserve. What advantage is it both to the owner and the state, and what are the restrictions upon the owner when the Game Preserve is established?"

A--As to the desirability of privately owned land being set aside as a Game Preserve, it is assumed by the Fish and Game Department that the owner of the land to be set aside wishes to increase the game on this land and is asking the cooperation of the Fish and Game Department which means that the department not only supplies, without cost, the birds for restocking, but also posts said preserve, and wardens are instructed to pay particular attention to these preserves.

Relative to the advantage to the owner, it is presumed, as stated above, that he wishes to increase the game on his land or he would not have asked for the establishment of a preserve. As an advantage to the state, it has been proven that where a preserve is stocked and the birds have increased to the maximum that the preserve will support, there will be a spreading of the surplus to adjoining lands, which is beneficial to the state. The requirements of the landowner are that there will be no hunting allowed on said preserve for a period of two years, that he will have small patches for nesting and winter cover as well as small plots of feed, in other words, make every reasonable effort and cooperate with the department to increase the game on the preserve.

In addition to the above, we would further state that after the two year period, it is up to the owner as to whether he wants his land as a preserve for any more length of time. It has been proven that after a preserve has been well stocked that a limited amount of shooting will be an advantage to the birds, and would say that after the carrying capacity of the land has been reached, a 40% take annually can be continued for years to come.

R. D. Greensburg, Kansas.

Q--Is a boy under 16 years of age allowed to set a trot line?

A--G. S. 1935 32-115 (Sec. 73 of the Fish and Game Laws) provides, among other things, that it is unlawful "For any person other than the legal holder of a Kansas fishing license to operate, set or have set any trot line or throw line at any place or under any circumstances." It seems that if this section of the law was strictly construed, it would be unlawful for a boy 16 years of age or younger to set a trot line or a throw line. Citizens of the state under 16 years of age are exempt from licenses; nevertheless, a strict construction of this statute would require every person setting trot lines or throw lines to have a license.

R. S. Wichita, Kansas.

Q--Just what is a navigable stream in Kansas? Also, what is the law pertaining to a farmer seining streams that run across his farm?

A--A navigable stream is a stream that is so designated by the Federal government. The Big Arkansas which traverses across our state and the Missouri, which borders the northeast corner of our state, are so designated.

As to a farmer seining a stream that crosses his farm, he has no right to do this with the exception that he may use a 20 foot minnow seine to catch bait, the same as anyone else may do who has a fishing license.

FEBRUARY ARRESTS

FINES INCLUDE COSTS

Fred Higgins, Douglas County, illegal possession of nets. Fined--\$37.50. Wardens Gordon, Parker, and Teichgraeber.

C. O. Paulson, Johnson County, shooting protected birds. Fined--\$16.00. Wardens Parker and Teichgraeber.

C. M. Mayfield, Cherokee County, illegal purchase of furs. Fined \$23.40. Local Warden Floyd McElroy,

Bernard Thomas, Russell Co., illegal possession of spears. Fined \$20.00. Dist. Warden Graham and Local Warden Belles.

Cecil Francis, Sheridan County, shooting pheasants out of season. Fined \$28.00. District Warden Graham.

Geo. Isernhager, Cheyenne County, illegal possession of beaver pelt. Fined--\$26.90. Wardens Graham and Angell.

Tommie Burns, Douglas County, illegal possession of nets. Fined--\$20.00. Wardens Gordon and Teichgraeber.

Joseph Hendrickson, Wyandotte County, illegal possession of nets. Fined--\$20.00. Wardens Parker and Teichgraeber.

Hubert Heines, Russell County, illegal possession of spears. Fined--\$25.00. Wardens Talbott and Belles.

"When our forefathers first came to this country, they saw such an abundance of wildlife that they never dreamed that in a few years some of the species could only be seen in museums, and many would be carefully guarded in zoos and reservations. It is not a judgment upon us that many things happen, but only that we have upset the balance of nature, and nature relentlessly reacts. The farmer finds that the owl and hawk are stealing his chickens, and the crow is pulling up his corn. He shoots them. Freed of their enemies, the mice girdle his young fruit trees and steal his grain, and the grasshopper and other insects devour his crops. Flocks of sheep and herds of cattle occupy that which once belonged to the buffalo and antelope. Puma, bear and wolves are killed that lambs and calves may live. But these huge masses of animals have cropped the grass to the roots, and the ground in protest, rises up in a huge dust storm and settles back choking animals and people alike. Every year the United States issues about thirteen million hunting and fishing licenses. The true sportsman abides by the law, helps to alter it, regardless of revenue, when it becomes inadequate, takes less than the bag allows, and gives his animal a sporting chance. He has nothing but contempt for that huge army of killers that go forth, in and out of season, with repeating and automatic shot guns, baiting as they go, and hiding that extra duck

or quail from the warden, thinking he has accomplished an act of shrewdness. Americas only antelope, like many other animals, exist almost entirely on reservations.

Land has been drained and improved, but the duck has been left without breeding grounds. Poison has been scattered wholesale, but the U. S. Biological Survey has gathered up the bodies of many besides predators that have eaten of their poison and have died!

"Just as the agricultural lands furnish the principal food supply for the people of the nation, so also do they supply the principle source of food of much of the nation's upland game, and just as the farmer through his farming practices changes for better or worse the fertility of the soil, so also by means of these same practices does he change for better or for worse the food and cover conditions of the wildlife ranging his farmland. Thus it is quite apparent that any program which attempts to improve hunting must center around the farmer, not only because he controls the welfare of wildlife but also because he controls trespass of lands which constitute the greater part of upland game hunting territory.

"But the farmer has a definite stake in wildlife for it provides a check to insect infestations and in order to maintain wildlife in greater abundance he needs protection. Here the sportsman comes to his assistance, for it is through his purchase of hunting licenses that this protection is made possible. Since the farmer and the sportsman are dependent upon each other, active cooperation on both sides is absolutely essential if we hope to pass on to the next generation good hunting conditions. The farmer needs the right kind of hunter; a real sportsman, and the sportsmen need the right kind of farmer; a wildlife conscious farmer.

"Farmers, it is needless to say, are a busy group of people but when sufficiently interested in wildlife they seem to find time to pay some attention to its welfare..." --North Carolina Wildlife Conservation.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved the proposed acquisition by the U. S. Biological Survey of additions to 21 refuges and sanctuaries in eighteen States. Up to the present time Kansas is still asleep as to one or more Federal refuges in Kans. Just who is to blame for this? Kansas contributes its share in the way of excise tax on arms and ammunitions. Let's wake up and call the Conservation Commission's attention to one or more areas that are among the best in the U. S. for breeding sanctuaries of migratory water fowl.