



KANSAS FISH AND GAME



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KANSAS FISH AND GAME BULLETIN

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FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

PRATT - KANSAS

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COVER

Commissioner Jay J. Owens and
Otho Schmidt, of Salina, with
their first of the season.

AN EDITORIAL

By The Director

* * *

Last month we discussed low water dams, mentioning the fact that three counties had simultaneously, and without the knowledge of the others, held meetings, at which the topic of discussion was the necessity and possibility for this type of structure. Since that time the Franklin County Fish and Game Development Association in cooperation with the Lyons Club and Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, have gone out and secured easements on Ottawa Creek, from landowners who desire a low water dam built.

They have presented their plan to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. The Commission have sent their engineer, together with an engineer from the Water Resources Division of the State Board of Agriculture, to view the site for the proposed dam.

This community has taken the first and biggest step in the establishment of this kind of fishing water. The first step is necessarily the willingness of the landowners along the stream to cooperate; the second is the necessity for the community to be interested as a community. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission can readily come in to the program as a cooperating unit. The low water dam on Ottawa Creek is not built as yet, but the important work has been done. The community has not waited for someone else to come in and do their work. They are interested in the project from the good that it will do the local community.

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TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT

"
" Ole Dave j^oi^ts down
* * *

In previous issues of the Bulletin, we reviewed for the information of our readers, the reports of former administrators of the Fish and Game Department. In this issue of the Bulletin we shall recount the performances of Prof. Lewis Lindsey Dyche - a scientist with a program.

^x For the thirty years prior to his appointment as state fish and game warden, Prof. Dyche had been on the staff of the University of Kansas, working with mammals, birds and fish. He was well qualified to fill the position he neither asked for nor sought. The position being literally forced on him by the Regents of his University. ^{Was as for} The letter from Chancellor Frank Strong, ^{indicates} ~~reprinted below, is self explanatory:~~

Lawrence, Kansas
November 30, 1909

Hon. W. R. Stubbs, Governor of Kansas

My Dear Sir: At a meeting of the Board of Regents last night, the following resolution was adopted:

"On account of the lack of appropriations for the fish and game wardenship, and of its great importance to the State, and further, because of the desire and duty of the University to do everything in its power for the commonwealth whose name it bears, the Regents of the University of Kansas hereby offer the services of Prof. Lewis Lindsay Dyche as fish and game warden for so much of his time as may be necessary to place the fish hatchery and the entire work connected with the position on a thoroughly scientific and economic basis, believing that it may be made of great economic importance to Kansas.

Very respectfully yours,

Frank Strong, Chancellor."

This incidentally, is the only record we have of the University of Kansas taking an active interest in the State Game Department. Its interest at that time was probably the result of President Theodore Roosevelt's re-awakening of the Nation to its responsibility of conserving our natural resources.

The Governor readily accepted the services of Prof. Dyche and duly commissioned him State Fish and Game Warden, December 1, 1909.

Fully realizing the importance of the work and the problems to be solved by him, Prof. Dyche went into the fields and into the laboratories for facts. He made a scientific study and survey of our lakes and streams. These he found had been depleted of fish life because of pollution and reoccurring periods of drought. He foresaw that a great demand would be made upon the hatchery for the fish these streams would require. He determined that the production facilities of the hatchery were inadequate to meet the demand. He knew what was needed and drew plans for a hatchery deemed adequate to meet these needs. The Legislature of 1911 approved his plan and appropriated the necessary funds for the expansion of the hatchery. The building work was begun in November 1911. The plans proposed the construction of a dam five hundred feet in length and the laying of a water supply conduit nearly seven thousand feet in length, needed to supply water to eighty-three additional rearing, nursery and stock ponds. The erection of twenty-two buildings, including the present administration building and its aquarium annex was also included in his plans.

The hatchery ponds were completed October 12, 1912, and officially opened on that date with appropriate exercises attended by five thousand Kansas people.

It was the intention of Prof. Dyche to use the nursery and holding ponds for holding fish until they had reached spawning size and age before placing them into our streams and lakes.

During his term of office he authored several scientific books dealing with the culture of fish and the building of ponds. These books are very much in demand today by individuals, schools, colleges and other governments experimenting with pond fish culture.

Prof. Dyche studied the laws that had been enacted by the legislature from session to session. He found many conflicting laws on our statute books. He undertook the revision and codification of them. Many of the laws which he had written and had enacted by the 1911 Legislature are in full force and effect today.

The present twenty-five hook limit trot line law was enacted by the law makers at his request. He asked the legislature to reduce the bag limits. He asked the legislature to prohibit the shooting of game birds while sitting on land or water except when wounded. He asked the legislature for a law against shooting birds from motor boats. He asked the legislature for a law prohibiting the hunting and shooting of birds at night. These requests were granted.

He asked the legislature to require Kansans to have a fishing license. He asked the legislature to make pump and automatic guns illegal. He asked the legislature to establish a five year closed season on quail. He asked the legislature for a law prohibiting spring shooting. These requests, however, were not granted by the legislature at that time. Today, nevertheless, we have on the statute books laws that do limit the shell capacity of automatic and repeating guns. Also a law prohibiting spring shooting and a law providing for the issuance of fishing licenses to Kansas people.

Prof. Dyche championed the rights of farmers. He considered them the custodians of our fish and game. He upheld their rights to prohibit trespassing on their farm land. He took parents to task for permitting their youngsters to play with air guns and sling shots. He pointed out to the indulgent parents that the youngsters were destroying many birds and nests with these seemingly harmless toys. He started a war on house cats, contending that they were a menace to game and song birds. He recommended the killing of nine-tenths of the cats that were in the State at that time.

During the fall of 1913 and the spring of 1914 he not only distributed twenty-nine cars of fish to the one hundred five counties of Kansas, but at the same time placed into our streams and lakes twenty thousand large tadpoles of a species destined to develop into large eatable bull frogs.

Prof. Dyche had a sane and sound conservation program. We regret that space will not permit a complete review of his administration in this issue of the Bulletin. His administration was cut short by his sudden death in Topeka, occasioned by a heart attack January 20, 1915. ²¹ With his death closed ^{by a severe flu} a life and an administration of a man who lived and thought a generation ahead of his contemporaries. X

* * *

Elsewhere in the Bulletin we have reported facts incidental to the Department's annual sale of beaver pelts. We are not proud of this sale. Here are some facts concerning the animal itself, its habits, its life and its economic value to man.

During the days when the beaver hat was a mark of respectability and the reflection of human dignity, man and beaver were engaged in a war which lasted three hundred years or more.

The beaver lost.

Our thick, empty skulls, however, were adorned with glorious magnificence.

We lost.

The animal, a useful and inexpensive ally of man was near extinction because of our vanity.

Then came the time of silk toppers and sanity. And we strove desperately to restore the beaver to a semblance of its former numbers. We were reasonably successful in our efforts. In 1925 it was estimated that the Kansas beaver population had increased to about one hundred. Today we have several times that many.

Our beaver policy today, if not one of madness is at least incongruous. We find ourselves complaining against the drought conditions, bemoaning the scarcity of water, and fearfully watching the dropping of our water levels. At the same time we are destroying the very tools provided by nature and designed to assure the storing of water and the maintaining of satisfactory water levels.

Whose fault? Not the Game Department's. We are anxious to protect and conserve these animals. The fault lies with you and your neighbors. You have not accurately evaluated the beavers worth to you.

We permit the trapping of them because the law tells us that one has a right to confine or kill any animal, known to be destroying his property. The farmer, in this case, petitions us to do this work for him. Respecting the law we heed his petition.

The farmer's chief complaint against the beaver is that it destroys trees on his property. This is true. Some damage is done. Their destructive habits, however, have been magnified. The writer is of the opinion that the presence of beaver along any stream will cause the hastening of tree growth and actually increase the number of trees in the vicinity of their workings.

You as a citizen, have a vested interest in the wildlife of this State. Having such an interest, it is your duty to discuss this problem with the farmers of your neighborhood. Discourage their complaints against these animals. The farmer was approached in earlier years by those who saw an opportunity for profit, and

influenced the land owner to file his complaints. These complaints have increased yearly.

That you might learn more about these animals, we would suggest that you visit the beaver streams in Northwestern Kansas and observe the dams and other activities of these four footed engineers.

The dam building work of the beaver is perhaps its greatest performance. The engineering skill of the beaver has been required on several occasions to help man complete an expensive construction project. There is one instance on record of a dam having been built in Colorado and the impounded waters drained time after time in the effort to find a leak in the dam. In despair the builders placed a colony of beaver in the water. To their astonishment the leak was permanently plugged in a very short time.

Some authorities hold that the beaver is a polygamist, most authorities, however, are of the opinion that they are monogamists by nature. The breeding season is from late January to the first of March. The gestation period about ninety days. Four or five kits are usually born to a matured beaver. At two years they are old enough to mate. Authorities are not agreed on their life span. Some are of the opinion that fifteen years is the limit, others thirty years. Their dens are skillfully constructed and scrupulously clean.

We urge our readers to study the beaver and to take an active interest in its protection and conservation.

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FIELD AND STREAM

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The Fish and Game Commission meeting at Pratt, March 30, designated the 1940 pheasant season as November 1, 2 and 3 in the following twenty-one counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Smith, Jewell, Republic, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Rooks, Osborne, Mitchell, Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis and Russell. The daily bag limit had been set officially at 2 cocks and 1 hen; the season limit 4 cocks and 2 hens.

It is expected that many of the birds that are to be produced at the Commission's newly constructed pheasant hatchery at Meade County State Park, will be liberated in certain sections of the open counties.

* * *

Mr. E. J. Kelly, the secretary of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, and a man of truthful traits, has informed the Bulletin that the hungarian partridges planted by him, and other Franklin County sportsmen in the vicinity of Ottawa, are showing a satisfactory increase in their numbers. These birds, he tells us, have been found in several sections of the county, far removed from the place where they had been planted originally.

Since Mr. Kelly has a financial as well as official interest in these birds, he has kept them under his observation. It has been observed by Mr. Kelly, that the bobwhite quail and hungarian partridges are living in perfect peace and harmony in the same coverts.

* * *

We would remind you again that several state lakes will be open for the first time May 15.

Here they are and their location:

Crawford County State Lake # 2	1 N - 1 E	of Farlington	150 acres
Pottawatomie County State Lake	5 N	of Westmoreland	24 acres
Rooks County State Lake	3 S - 2 W	of Stockton	107 acres
Sheridan County State Lake	4 N - 2 E	of Quinter	124 acres

And some already opened:

Butler County State Lake	3 W - 1 N	of Augusta	232 acres
Crawford County State Lake #1	4 N	of Pittsburg	60 acres
Finney County State Lake	8 N - 3 W	of Kalvesta	325 acres
Kingman County State Lake	8 W	of Kingman	80 acres
Leavenworth County State Lake	3 W - 1 N	of Tonganoxie	175 acres
Lyon County State Lake	5 W - 1 N	of Reading	135 acres
Meade County State Lake	7 S - 5 W	of Meade	100 acres
Nemaha County State Lake	1 E - 4 S	of Seneca	356 acres
Neosho County State Lake	5 N - 3 E	of Parsons	92 acres
Ottawa County State Lake	5 N - 1 E	of Bennington	138 acres
Scott County State Lake	12 N	of Scott City	115 acres
Woodson County State Lake	5 E	of Toronto	180 acres

Fishing at state lakes is permitted at all hours. Recently 12,000 fish were placed in Ottawa County State Lake.

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Bond Hale, Superintendent of the Scott County State Lake reports that fishing has been very good at his lake this spring. He doesn't give us any detailed information regarding the individual catches, but if Bond says it's good - it's actually perfect.

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The Neosho County State Lake, a popular "fishing hole" of Southern Kansas is surrendering some mighty fine fish to its visiting anglers. Nate Moore of Pittsburg took from it two channel cats, one weighing three pounds another ten pounds three ounces. John Glyker of Pittsburg is proud of his catch of one weighing two and one-half pounds and another tipping the scales at seven pounds fourteen ounces.

* * *

L. T. Glenn of Sawyer had a big afternoon recently at the Kingman County Lake. Using worms he landed a four pound bass, a two pound crappie and thirty-three inch eel weighing three pounds.

* * *

STINK BAIT

The fishing editor of Field and Stream gives to his readers the following formulas for catfish bait:

"You asked for it' The following are a few choice, smelly baits for catfish.

In the first place, many readers have told us that they have had good success by simply using pieces of cheese as is. These suggestions vary all the way from chunks of cottage cheese to limburger.

Another cheese bait is made by taking the scrapings of old cheese, putting them in a jar and covering with milk. The jar is then covered with muslin and set aside to ripen for a time. This forms a potent concoction which can be kneaded into small balls to be used on a hook.

Another method is to take small pieces of sponge, about the size of a hickory nut, and keep these soaking in a bottle of rotted minnows or fish. The sponge will stay on the hook well, of course, after a bit of fishing most of the odor will have left it and a new piece of sponge should be used while the old one is put back in the bottle.

Some fishermen merely use chunks of chub which have been left out in the sun for a sufficient time; and there are few baits better than chicken entrails.

You can decide for yourself which of these smells the worst and therefore would be most appealing to the catfish.

Other good baits for catfish, which hardly fall in the same category with those above are: a chunk of white laundry soap, and bread balls baked from sour dough." Fishing Editor

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Hey Moms! Your worries are over; or at least one of them. Hereafter, when your youngsters visit the State Lakes, and rent a boat their lives will be safeguarded. The Commission has ordered the boat concessionaires to provide such a safety device to each boat occupant. What's more, these life preservers must be of a type approved by the American Red Cross. And here is another break for the family. The rental fee of life preservers, decrees the Commission, shall not exceed a "nick". So when the family Lochinvar puts the weekly "bite" on you, hike the ante a bit to help us get him home to you safely.

* * *

The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has launched a state-wide crow and cat killing contest to be participated in by the County Fish and Game Development Associations. The Commission will award a first prize of two hundred pheasants or quail to the county killing the most crows and cats between May 1 and October 31, 1940, both dates inclusive. One cat will be considered the equivalent of five crows. Four other prizes will be given; second prize is one hundred fifty pheasants or quail; third prize, one hundred pheasants or quail; fourth prize, seventy-five pheasants or quail; and fifth prize, fifty pheasants or quail.

It is the opinion of the Director, Guy D. Josserand, that for every crow that is now flying there had just as well be a pheasant or quail; and that cats kill more quail than all the hunters of Kansas.

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Many fur buyers, trappers and other interested persons attended the Department's annual beaver pelt sale held at Pratt, April 1.

The buyers were in a liberal and generous mood, paying relatively good prices for the furs.

Four hundred and thirteen pelts were purchased by the T. J. Brown Fur Company of Topeka, seven pelts by the Johnson Wool and Hide Company of Wichita.

Thirty-one pounds of castoreum glands were purchased by Fred Hanssermann of Scandia, bringing twenty-five cents an ounce.

The sale netted the tidy sum of \$7,234.30. One half of this amount was paid the trappers, and one half was paid into the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission treasury.

The beaver were trapped, under State supervision, from areas where they were reported as doing damage to trees and other farm property.

* * *

United States District Attorney S. S. Alexander and George Viney have given to the Department forty-four spawning size bass and a dozen spawning size channel catfish. The bass were put in the Kingman County State Lake. The fish averaged about eight pounds each. The Alexander Lake will yield several hundred fish of this size. Anglers will have a chance at these large bass in the State Lake after May fifteenth.

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From United States Game Management Agent, John E. Perry, of Memphis, Tennessee, comes good news. John and other agents are bearing down and conducting an intensified drive against southerners who have been suspected of taking ducks out of season and market hunting.

Between one hundred seventy-five and two hundred mid-south hunters charged violating the Federal Game Laws have been arrested in the biggest "clean up" in history.

This is good news as we have always suspected "them rebels" of market hunting, spring shooting, and of an all around general "cussedness" in their interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

* * *

WESTERN HOSPITALITY:- Taken from the Jetmore Republican, under date line of March 28, 1940.

ATTENTION HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN

We welcome pole fishermen to the O'Connell Ranch. Bring the kids and let them enjoy a day on the creek. This will be due notice; we want no seining, hand-fishing, or hunting on the place. No bonfires. No firearms. Please shut gates. Would appreciate it if you would make your presence known at the ranch house on arrival. Signed- Billy O'Connell.

* * *

O. M. Steen, Regional Inspector of the Bureau of Biological Survey, and Director Guy D. Jossierand, are making a tour of the State for the purpose of selecting areas suitable for game management practices to enable this State to participate in the distribution of Pittman-Robertson Funds.

* * *

AS OTHER STATES SEE IT

The Oregon State Game Department is expanding its beaver management work as a Federal aid project. Beaver will be trapped from the Shasta Beaver Range and released in other locations. Old beaver meadows and stream banks will be planted with willows and other feed trees.

* * *

Idaho will use Federal Aid Funds to purchase approximately five hundred acres of land known as the Hagerman Valley Refuge. Part of the area will serve as a migratory waterfowl refuge and part will be used for the growing of hay and grain for emergency feeding of big game. Idaho is also acquiring two tracts of sub-marginal farm and timber lands as a pheasant project.

* * *

Arkansas has obtained Federal aid for improvements to increase deer, wild turkey, quail and fur bearers. Thirty-two thousand acres of land will be leased for that purpose. The State also has obtained funds for purchasing wild turkeys for release on five areas totaling one hundred and sixty seven thousand acres.

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Kentucky's Department of Conservation are using Federal aid funds to purchase materials for the C C C Development of a Wild Life Restoration Unit.

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• ARRESTS | MARCH •

FINES INCLUDE COSTS

Max Hutton, Beaumont. Selling furs without a license. County Game Protector Bill Ayres. Fine \$18.00.

Francis Broacher, Beeler. Selling furs without trapping license. Protectors Golden and Faulkner. Fine \$8.50.

Marion Byrne, Peabody. Hunting without a license. Protectors Carlson and Suenram. Fine \$7.50.

John Holmes, Leavenworth. Trapping fur bearing animals out of season. Protector Teichgraeber. Fine \$12.95.

Noah Mc Carter, Oskaloosa. Possession of fur in closed season. Protectors Benander and Anderson. Fine \$8.00.

H. Kirkpatrick, Augusta. Selling fur without trapping license. County Game Protector Bill Ayres. Fine \$16.50.

Milton Duback, Blair. Hunting without license. Protectors Rickel, Anderson and Benander. Fine \$8.15.

W. L. Hopkins, Emporia. Fishing without license. Protector Hepperly. Fine \$8.00.

Marshall Jacoby, Wichita. Hunting without a license. County Game Protector J. L. Huston. Fine \$2.00.

Fred May, Wichita. Hunting without a license. Superintendent of Butler County State Park, J. L. Huston. Fine \$2.00.

William Hicks, Pratt. Illegal taking of bass. Protector Shay Fine \$7.50.

Ralph Buck, Pratt. Illegal taking of bass and no fishing license. Protector Shay. Fine \$7.50.

E. C. Binford, Haviland. Illegal possession of furs. Protector Gebhard. Fine \$7.50.

George Lucas, Wolcott. Selling furs without trappers license. Portectors Teichgraeber and Deputy Sheriff Scott. Fine \$22.90.

* * *

Give 'em a Break

FISHING in the United States today presents the spectacle of a gigantic mass retreat. Goaded by the arch destroyers, pollution, drought, flood and soil erosion—all the unwise works of man's unthinking hand—over twelve million persons are annually fleeing farther and farther from home and hearth in search of sorely needed recreation. Each year the general "good fishing" frontier is more distant, while each year interest in the sport grows larger. The cry of an ever increasing angling America is "better fishing, at home."

Unfortunately, there is no magic elixir for prompt cure of all existing ills. There is no over-night way to change industrially defiled, silt-charged streams or barren-shored, half-dried lakes into luxurious havens for game fish. Of the major ills, pollution alone can be treated with a stroke having any semblance of swift action, while corrective measure for drought, flood, and soil erosion must be found in a long-time and comprehensive restoration program. There is just no panacea by which twelve million fishermen can immediately fill their creels in backyard lakes and streams.

NEITHER is the suggestion that readers of this magazine practice a policy of giving existing fish populations "a break" offered as a pretentious plan for game fish restoration. We believe, however, that if every one of the twelve million American fishermen will take a true sporting attitude to his catches, a good will result far more important than the combined restocking efforts of all conservation agencies. If every angler will give the fish a break by regarding them as "partners in sport" rather than "possibilities for the pan" an indelible scratch will have been made and in those waters yet untainted by man's unwise doings America's number one recreation will be on the road to assured permanency. The following are points to remember when you pick up your rod and reel the first time this spring, and on all subsequent occasions:

REMEMBER, first and foremost, that you fish for sport and for sport only. If you insist that you fish for food you are prostituting your reason and declaring yourself economically unwise to justify the destruction of a few fish. . . . The price of your rod and reel and the expense of your trip would buy a whole quarter of prime beef!

Remember, you are ethically, legally, and in many instances biologically justified in retaining a carefully considered portion of your catch for food purposes, but by no dictate of man or nature are you entitled to waste one ounce of fish flesh or to wantonly destroy the life of a single fish.

Remember, your friends did not purchase your fishing license and are not contributing money or ef-

fort to fish restoration. You are stealing from others when you kill fish for their tables.

Remember, the creel limit and length minimum laws were not made for sportsmen. A true sportsman may not even know the creel limit of his state as he is guided by his "conscience" limit alone, which per-force of the liberality of the fishing laws is invariably less than the state limit.

REMEMBER, the true sportsman carries a tape measure for but one purpose—to determine the legality of possessing a mortally wounded fish so as to prevent its waste.

Remember, a fish is a living organism, never meant to survive mauling by rough hands. Only in rare instances is it necessary for you to remove from the water any fish you do not intend to keep.

Remember, it is false bravado to "land 'em without a net." The weakest man alive can conquer the strongest bass or trout. A landing net makes possible more careful treatment of undersize fish and is a conservation adjunct to your equipment.

Remember, your photo with a mile-long string of fish does not make you a hero. It is a record of your greed and smallness, rather than of your valor and greatness. Your camera can be used more advantageously.

Remember, you are not doing your children a favor when you allow their natural destructive tendencies free reign. In your parental eyes your five-year-old son may appear "cute" with his gasping string of baby fish, but his acts of torture are sickening to all passer-bys. The remarks they utter are not complimentary to you.

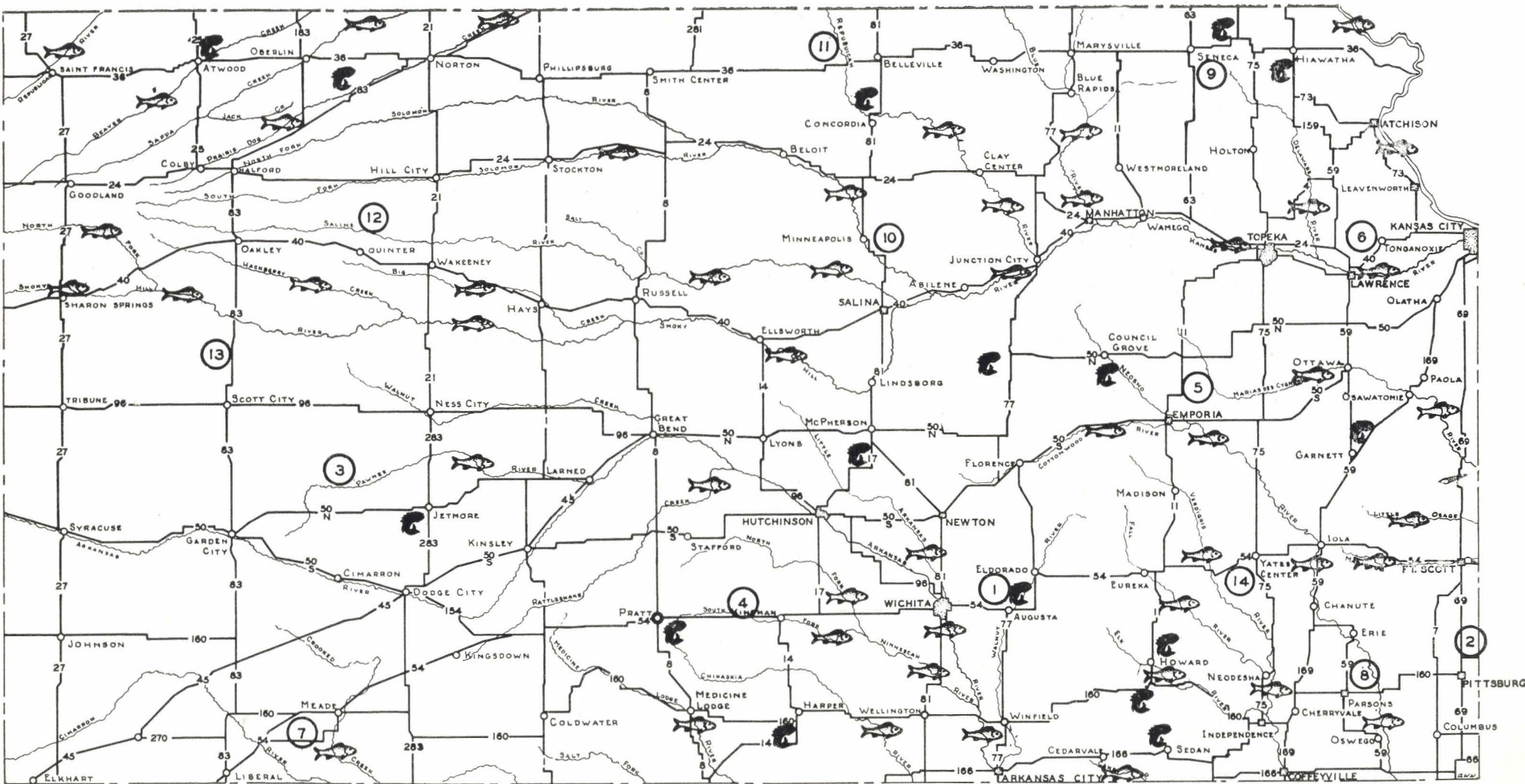
REMEMBER, humaneness is a cardinal rule of all sportsmen. You humanely dispatch all "keepers" before creeling them and always string fish through the membranous tissue of both lips—never through the gills.

Remember the story of the fellow who killed the goose that laid the golden eggs. You think too much of your sport to destroy spawn laden females or to molest nesting fish—whether the state law permits the taking of that species during its spawning season or not.

Remember you have already won the battle when you net the fish. You can't lose by setting it free unharmed. You may win again some other day.

Remember, the poor sportsmanship of others is no justification for similar conduct on your part. You reason backwards when you argue, "Why, should I? Others don't." Someone must be the leader. Good deeds and high motives are catching.

Remember, fishing is the most wholesome sport in the world. You give yourself and your children a break, when you give a bass, trout, pike, or muskie a break.



② State Lakes

- (1) Butler County State Park.
- (2) Crawford County State Park.
- (3) Finney County State Park.
- (4) Kingman County State Park.
- (5) Lyon County State Park.

🐟 City and County Lakes

- (6) Leavenworth County State Park.
- (7) Meade County State Park.
- (8) Neosho County State Park.
- (9) Nemaha County State Park.
- (10) Ottawa County State Park.

🐟 River and Stream Fishing

- (11) Republic County State Park.
- (12) Sheridan County State Park.
- (13) Scott County State Park.
- (14) Woodson County State Park.