

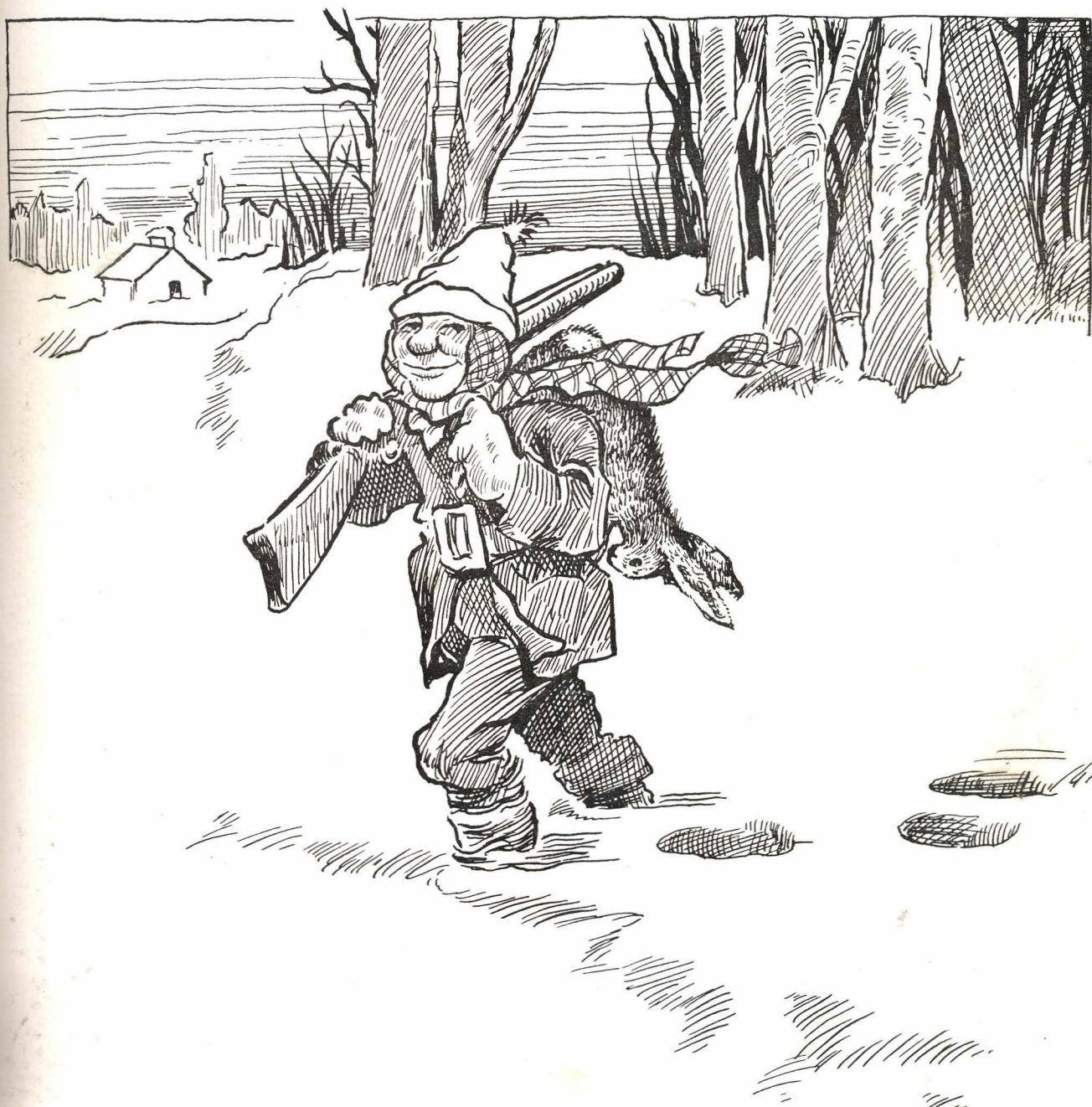
KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. IV

JANUARY, 1942

No. I



—J. Luther Hansen

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KANSAS FISH AND GAME

Published Monthly By

THE KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Pratt, Kansas

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Kansas Has Many Rabbits

This issue of *Kansas Fish and Game* will be used, for the most part, in presenting facts relating to that very popular game animal, the Kansas rabbit. The time, we feel, is appropriate for such a presentation. Now that the state is covered with snow, this form of sport is being pursued enthusiastically by young and old alike in all sections of the state. We here in Kansas, incidentally, are much more fortunate than the nimrods of many other states. We have an abundant supply of rabbits, a long season, and the number of rabbits that may be taken is strictly a matter of individual conscience. The few other states possessing rabbits have extremely short seasons and drastically restricted season limits. We urge the Kansas hunters to take as many of these animals as are immediately needed by them, but at the same time we condemn strongly the practice of many who use the rabbits as targets only, and leave them lying on the prairies to be devoured by owls, hawks and other carnivorous birds and animals.

In this state we have two familiar species of jackrabbits, the blacktail and the whitetail, scientifically designated as *Lepus californicus melanotis* (Mearns), and *Lepus townsendii campanius*, respectively. The blacktail is the smaller of the two animals, ranging throughout most of Kansas. The whitetailed jackrabbit, unfortunately, is rapidly vanishing from the Kansas scene, except in the extreme west and north-west part of Kansas, where a small number of them are to be found at this time.

Jackrabbits are prolific breeders, having three or more litters during the breeding season, which continues from March until September. Two to five young rabbits are usually found in the litter. During the early part of the breeding season families are large, but as the season advances a noticeable decrease in the size of the litters becomes apparent. Because the rabbits are so fruitful in offspring, a new business, the rabbit industry, has been developed. Farmers and others are now profitably engaged in trapping and shipping these rabbits to the east.

There are six distinct species of cottontails in Kansas. To the casual hunter or observer a cottontail is a cottontail in any field. But there is actually a difference, and there follows a list of these rabbits properly designated and classified:

The Mearns cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus mearnsii* (Allen), is to be found in abundance in most of eastern Kansas.

The Nebraska cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus similis* (Nelson), is that rabbit more commonly noted in northwestern Kansas.

The Oklahoma cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus alacer* (Bangs), has its range for the most part in south central and southeastern Kansas. In this section of the state there are to be found also a few swamp rabbits, *Sylvilagus aquaticus* (Bachman).

The Wyoming cottontail, *Sylvilagus audubonii bailey* (Merriam) is also found in the extreme west and northwestern part of Kansas.

The New Mexico cottontail, *Sylvilagus audubonii neomexicanus* (Nelson), is the most likely specie to be noted in southwestern Kansas.

Cottontails breed from March to November. Because of that fact, young rabbits are choice morsels of food during most of the year. It is not uncommon for one female cottontail to have as many as five litters during the breeding season. The number in the litters ranges from three to seven, with four as the average number.

Reappointments

Governor Payne H. Ratner recently announced the reappointment of Charles Hassig, Kansas City, and Harry F. "Swede" Lutz, Sharon Springs, as members of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission for terms expiring December 31, 1945. Mr. Hassig, a Kansas City druggist, was filling out the unexpired term of E. J. Kelly, Ottawa, resigned. Mr. Lutz was filling out the unexpired term of Elmer Euwer, Goodland, resigned.

Wildlife Week: April 12-18

The National Wildlife Federation has just announced April 12 through 18, 1942, as the next National Wildlife Week, an annual fixture established by Presidential proclamation in 1938 to call attention to the need for conserving and restoring our natural resources. A feature of this week is the issuance of Wildlife Stamps.

Wildlife Week in 1941 saw the inauguration of a National Wildlife Federation program to supply educational booklets on conservation to boys and girls in public schools throughout the nation.

Rabbit Season Now Open

These are rabbit hunting days in Kansas. The snow-covered fields are teeming with good healthy rabbits. Far too few Kansas sportsmen consider the cottontail as a food item. To encourage a greater participation in this sport we are reprinting a few suggestions that appeared in KANSAS FISH AND GAME a year ago. The suggestions are good and bear repeating.

"Without question dogs are a great asset to the hunter, but there are a lot of fellows you meet in the field who scorn their use. What's more, their hunting coats are usually bulging with deceased cottontails. The hunter who hunts alone habitually acquires quite a system. Having no dog, he must rely solely on himself to find game, and usually does a good job of it. He is generally familiar with the territory to be hunted; knows just about where the bunnies will be at a certain time of the day.

When hunting alone—or however—make a mental picture of the area chosen and pick out the spots most likely to harbor rabbits. Little weed-grown ditches, brushy swales and open slopes covered with broom sage and high grass should never be overlooked, for these are A-1 rabbit coverts. The briar patch is the cottontail's traditional and most favored refuge. Unless it is particularly small and sparsely grown, a dog is necessary to drive the rabbit out of one of these for a shot. However, the tiny, insignificant briar clumps that stand isolated on hillsides often, upon investigation, prove to house one or more rabbits. A common setup, and a perfect one for rabbits, is the thick, briar-grown bottom of a gully or narrow valley. Here, too, of course, dogs are a necessity. They can work down through the center of the thick cover and drive the rabbits out. As they scamper up the slopes, some perfect though difficult shots are presented by the fleeing bunnies.

The cottontail is a home-loving creature and forms deep-rooted attachments for his native range. Only when absolutely necessary does he go far afield. Sometimes, when driven by dogs, he is forced to run quite a distance, but in due time he will circle back—always, mind you. For this reason it is pure folly to think you have to keep up with the dog. His duty is to bring the rabbit around to you, and if he's any good he will.

The limited range of the rabbit often makes it possible for a rabbit which escaped unscathed from the first encounter to be bagged on a second. When jumped from his retreat, Mr. Cottontail does not travel far. This is especially true when the cover is any-ways thick. After a hasty retreat to what he considers a safe distance, he will squat down and await further developments. Then, if he thinks the coast is clear, he will start hopping back to the place from which he was so rudely ousted. If the hunter has no dogs he can still succeed in getting another chance at

the rabbit. Take the general direction the rabbit has taken, figuring where you would go if you were a rabbit, and you may see him jump up ahead or go slyly slipping off to the side. Once jumped, he will not lie so close on the second approach.

Assuming the role of the rabbit (no belittlement intended) is a quite logical and often successful method of finding and trailing your bag without a dog.

In localities where the bunnies are at all numerous, they travel over well-established paths. In the broom sage and high grass these beaten paths are conspicuous signs. They are good indications as to the number of rabbits in the vicinity. The small, round droppings found in cornfields, briar patches and open cover also mean that rabbits are close by.

FOLLOW THEIR PATHS

The hunter can take advantage of the rabbits' habit of using their established trails. When a rabbit is seen to emerge from cover at a certain point and make his getaway along a "path," then the chances are if there's another bunny in that vicinity he'll make his exit along the same route. When using dogs, take a stand where the rabbits are likely to emerge. If possible, get on a rise or elevation of some sort so that you can command a view of more cover. A hunter precariously perched atop a fencepost awaiting eagerly the emergence of Mr. Cottontail from the cover that his dogs are working, is a common sight in the fall.

While on the subject of rabbit habits here's an important question: If given his choice, which way will a rabbit run? Nope, you're wrong. You would probably run downhill—but you're not a rabbit. It's just the nature of the critter to run uphill. His long hind legs probably make flight in that direction most rapid.

A favorite way to hunt the cottontail, especially in the midwest, is in large groups. Three or four to a dozen men will form a line, each hunter with fifty to sixty feet of the next, the distance varying with the density of the cover. Then, working through a cornfield or a fairly open field, they stand a good chance of jumping up most of the rabbits in the neighborhood. This type of hunting is very exciting and offers a lot of shots, but is more dangerous to the hunter than the other methods. There is always some person, who in the heat of excitement is liable to forget his neighbor and shoot entirely too close for comfort.

Many hunters without dogs prefer a party of about three. Then in tough spots one of them can take the part of the dog and walk through the thick cover, while the others stand back in a desirable position for shooting.

Hunting when snow is on the ground is a favorite time. A dog can be dispensed with then, for bunnies can be easily followed. At this time they seek the thickest cover available and when started seldom travel far. The thickly grown sides of ditches provide

them excellent hiding places. If there are any brush piles or tangled briar patches in the locality, it might pay to visit them. Splendid sport can be obtained in winter by shooting cottontails with a .22 rifle or revolver. The idea is to spot them as they crouch down in the concealment of some friendly briar patch. Fresh tracks leading to a brush pile or similar cover often give their whereabouts away and by carefully scrutinizing the cover you may see Mr. Rabbit and succeed in shooting him before he's up and away.

Being a nocturnal feeder, the rabbit spends most of his day in seclusion. If there is any best time for hunting him, which is doubtful, it is in the early forenoon and mid-afternoon. Any increase in activity at these times, however, is seldom noticeable. But this much is certain: If the morning is quite cold don't go out until late. Rabbits lie close until the sun warms things up a little, or at least 'till they can summon enough courage to leave their warm beds. Extremely wet days are not very good rabbit days. Choose the best day for yourself and you will probably choose the best day for the rabbit.

A word about dogs. The accepted rabbit dogs are beagles and bassets. They have no rivals in this field. The beagle is the most popular of the two, though the basset is running him a close race. His small size allows him to get through places no other hound could. Some hunters are quite successful with only one dog, while others use a pack of six or eight. In the "other dogs" class come a host of canines: Redbones, foxhounds, coon hounds, springers—in fact, any dog with a good nose and a penchant for rabbit hunting. Their idea of hunting sometimes is rather broad. In some cases it consists of running the game clear out of the county. But in this sport, any dog is often better than none.

There's a lot to be said about the proper gun to use on rabbits. But it can all be summed up into this: Take the gun you can kill rabbits with best and don't let anybody confuse you with theories about patterns, gauges and such. If your pet scattergun tumbles bunnies over with regularity and you like it, hang on to it. But if you're in a position of buying a gun for rabbits and need a helping hand, here are some suggestions. Most of your shots at rabbits will be fairly close, within thirty yards; there will be a few requiring long shots. So if it's a double-barreled model you want, the tried and true full and modified combination would be about right. Some hunters prefer the modified and improved cylinder type, especially if birds are to be shot with the same gun. In a single-barreled gun, a modified choke is in order. There are those who swear by a full or an improved cylinder. With a polychoke you couldn't go wrong. The question of gauges is a mighty ticklish one. There are probably more 12-gauges in use than all other gauges combined, and it's true this will reach out farther than the others. But

the 16's and 20's kill at remarkable distances and at the end of a day's tramp feel a couple of pounds lighter. The gun described by most authorities as ideal for upland game is a 16-gauge, double-barreled model, with modified and improved cylinder choking or else a full and modified. This gun has 28-inch barrels and weighs about six and one-half pounds.

Here's a word of warning. Be careful when you handle rabbits, regardless of whatever anyone might tell you about the district in which you are hunting. For tularemia is prevalent in many places, and this is distinctly a lethal infection. Tularemia brings an agonizing death, and it is foolish to risk contracting this strange disease when absolute prevention is so simple. Always clean rabbits with rubber gloves—and leave the job to someone with whole hands if the skin on either of yours is broken. Once a rabbit is cooked, danger of tularemia is removed, but while he's in a raw stage, handle him as little as possible.

But he's a grand little animal, and if you are one of the few persons who have never tasted a succulent rabbit stew, don't let this season pass without doing something about it. Here's the recipe: Take one hunter, full of vim and the desire to go hunting (that's you), add a shotgun (with shells) and a dash of dog (if available), then hie to the outdoors. Work the cover well. Return with rabbits.

You've done your part. Let someone else make the stew.—*Hunter's Guide and Almanac.*

Hits the Jackpot

When it comes to seizing unusual hunting equipment illegally used, and making wholesale arrests, Game Protectors Andrew, Concannon and Shay are the boys that hit the jackpot. Here's their story:

Acting on information given us by farmers who suspected a train crew of killing pheasants near the state game farm in Kingman county, we set our sights on catching them. And our first attempt was successful. Each of us taking a position along the right of way, we awaited the approach of the suspected train and crew. The head end of this train would open petcocks and valves, blowing steam into likely looking pheasant cover. As the birds were flushed, informative signals were flashed to the rear end where another member of the crew was stationed to blaze away at the blinded and half scalded bird. The train crew was taken into custody, paid a heavy fine, got the carpet in the superintendent's office and brownies from their train-master.

The American Indians, in Colonial days, not only consumed oysters in the fresh condition, but dried and smoked them for preservation; some of the tribes used dried and smoked oysters for barter.

State Association Holds Interesting Meeting

The Kansas Fish and Game Development Association recently met at Salina and discussed many matters of interest to the organization and sportsmen generally. George Gould, secretary of the Association, has sent us a report of this meeting, which has been summarized as follows:

Charles L. Pinney, third district director, Ellis, reported that his club has for its primary project the building of more farm ponds.

Director V. A. Perkins, from the third district, Rooks county, Plainville, reported that his club has adopted the motto: "Every license holder a member of the county organization." The county organization has done considerable fish stocking, and Rooks county is fairly well stocked with pheasant; the county has few quail and some prairie chicken; the feed and cover are good and considerable interest in conservation is being taken by both nonlicense holders and license holders.

Director Don Brubaker, from Hugoton, Stevens county and the sixth district, reported that Stevens county has some prairie chicken, one flock of sixty having been reported, and lots of pheasants; that the farm pond program in that county has helped in the production of quail and pheasants; that feed is plentiful; that in coöperation with Grant county and the Fish and Game Department a low-water dam of considerable size has been obtained; that there are lots of coyotes in Southwest Kansas and the hunting thereof is good; that Morton county probably will be reorganized and join the state organization soon; and that the counties of southwest Kansas will coöperate in restocking that territory with prairie chicken, particularly the land which has been removed from cultivation and which is now owned by the federal government.

Director George Wallerius, of Salina in Saline county and the second district, thinks he has the sportsmen of Saline county convinced that the Kansas fish and game development association is not a political organization; that no district meeting has been held in the second district, but that one will be held soon; that directors should be located in the various fish and game districts so that a director will be available readily and without too much expense to himself for personal contact with any county unit.

Dr. W. M. Benefiel, of Kingman and Kingman county in the fifth district, reported that the district meeting at Kingman was not as well attended as he had hoped it would be; that some county organizations are officered and membered by alleged sportsmen who have too much bone in their heads or lead in their feet to function properly as officers of a county organization and that in such counties the true sportsmen should take charge of the county organization;

that county association memberships can be had if someone will go out personally and get them.

Director J. R. Nuttle, of El Dorado in Butler county and the fourth district, reported that all the fourth district directors were present at the meeting held in Eureka on November 16; that not many sportsmen were present, but that he considered the meeting beneficial to the interest of the organization. Butler county holds meetings in various parts of the county and finds that such a practice is advisable in that county. The county organization put out quite a few quail this year and some prairie chicken.

Director Paul Curtis, of Coffeyville in Montgomery county and the fourth district, reported that his county organization is coming along fine; that he has visited Crawford county and Labette county; that he anticipates new memberships in the state organization from counties in his part of the fourth district; that in his opinion the state association and the fish and game department should spend more time in trying to get the fundamentals of fish and game propagation, development and protection into the minds of every license holder in the state; and that quail are plentiful in his county.

Director D. O. Cloe, of Atwood in Rawlins county and the third district, reported that no district meeting has been held in the third district; that the county association in Rawlins county is active; that there are plenty of pheasant, a few quail and a very few prairie chicken; and partisan politics has never been mentioned in his county association.

Director E. H. Bradshaw, of Council Grove in Morris county and the second district, reported that they had completed a good lake of about 350 acres, which they had stocked with about 95,000 channel cat, bass and crappie during this year and had fed the channel cat until they were big enough to care for themselves; that they have lots of quail and that hunters did not kill enough of them so that they were missed; that his county organization has been coöperating with 4-H boys and farmers on a pheasant program; that feed and cover are plentiful and that they have in Morris county a number of mighty fine farmer sportsmen as members of their organization.

Director Raymond Morris, of Clay Center in Clay county and the second district, reported that he has found the forestry, fish and game commission willing to coöperate and assist the active sportsmen in bettering the game conditions of their counties; that his county organization has as a project, the ownership of a lake; that the Rawlins county club stocked fish and quail as projects this summer; that the club is planning on renting a recreation room for the use of its members; that quail hunting this season was good; and that anyone who desires some interesting moving pictures taken by another sportsman and which should

be appreciated by any sportsman, can obtain the same by communicating with him.

R. G. Becker, Topeka, director of the first district, reported that his club had a membership of about 500; that the first district has not yet held a district meeting; that Shawnee county holds regular meetings monthly. The work of the organization is divided among as many workmen as can be obtained; that the phone is used to remind members of meetings; that any hunter or fisherman who is a true sportsman should never fail to obtain permission from the landlord or tenant in charge before going upon the premises to hunt or fish; that such courtesy to the landowner creates good will; that Shawnee county had some little difficulty with Preston Hale, county farm agent, who undertook to organize all the farmers of the county in such a way that no sportsman would be able to hunt in Shawnee county, but that such efforts were stopped; that "Ducks Unlimited" is getting a few more members in the state. Mr. Becker then gave a brief history of "Ducks Unlimited." He said a membership cost the sportsmen \$2. He then told us that the original gift to that organization from a single individual was \$200,000. Mr. Becker also thinks that feeding grounds should be prepared by the sportsmen in order to pull ducks from state lakes and other preserves.

We Shall Carry On

The commission has not, because of the war or an uncertain future, been stampeded into a neglect of their fish and game program. On the contrary, they are resolved to continue to improve the fish and game conditions of Kansas, come what may. They have, for instance, but recently engaged the services of an experienced fishing crew to improve fishing conditions in the state lakes and streams. At the present time this crew has been charged with the responsibility of removing oversized cannibalistic fish from such waters. On the completion of that task they will undertake to remove gar and coarse fish from many of the otherwise good fishing streams. The commission's program of stocking the state with your favorite game bird will not only continue, but be enlarged as well. In order that more game birds may be produced during this emergency, the commission recently authorized the building of additional hatching and rearing facilities at the three state game farms. The commission is aware of possible decline in license sales during the next fiscal year, but as business men, and with their heads above the ground, they have prepared for just such an emergency. You may rest assured that if it becomes necessary to curtail any of our activities, the commission's essential functions will not be made to suffer.

The Home Front

You and I, buddy, went to one war together, and have a full knowledge of the worth and the need of a unified civilian war effort. We would like to make ourselves and others believe that after a week or two in camp we could, with honor and distinction, take our place at the side of fighting men. There is little chance of our doing that, buddy. This time you and I must stay here to keep the home fires burning and to lend our talents and energies to the civilian effort. By so doing we can do our bit in keeping the home front normal and sane.

One worthy effort, and one of the home fires to be kept kindled, is the protection and care of our natural resources. The natural resources, and that includes fish and game, must not be wasted or destroyed. An adequate supply of these things must be maintained, not only to meet any possible emergency, but for those who are away fighting the enemy wherever and whenever contacted. If you agree, why not join me in such an effort. Here is a suggestion. Attend your next post meeting and discuss this matter with your fellow buddies and comrades. Point out to them the necessity of such an effort. Get your post and community interested and foster a local conservation program. You can say to them that such a program includes the propagation and distribution of game birds, the planting of feed, trees, shrubs and other types of cover, the watching of streams to prevent pollution, the rescuing of fish from drying waters during the coming summer months, and above all, you can take a personal interest in the enforcement of fish and game laws by keeping a watchful eye on the known and suspected fish and game hog. They will attempt to sabotage your program and effort by shooting out of season, giggering fish, or in exceeding the statutory bag limits. They are common enemies to your program and should and will be interned in the local brig or otherwise punished through the courts, if you will report the facts to the proper officers. We stand ready to assist you and your post in such an effort.

Trumpeter swans are the largest migratory waterfowl in North America, but since the birds were almost exterminated some three decades ago they no longer migrate long distances. A flock of some 200 trumpeters now nests on the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana and many "migrate" relatively short distances from the refuge and from Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, some thirty miles southeast of the refuge.

The buffalo, traditional King of the Western Plains, at one time normally ranged from the Atlantic Seaboard to beyond the Rockies.

Forty-Five Pounders Taken from Ottawa County State Lake

All you fisherman who thought there were no fish in Lake Goodwyn should have been there when the lake in the Ottawa County State Park was seined, and surplus fish removed this week. C. R. (Dinger) Dameron, supervisor of the park, is authority for the statement that there are thousands of fish in the lake, and he knows—because he has seen them.

Since last August the water level of the lake has been lowered twelve feet. This has been done under supervision of Jay C. Owens, Commissioner of the Fish and Game Department for this district. The idea of this drainage was to see if something could be done to clear up the water, and provide food and shelter for the fish. Now the water is crystal clear, as the springs which feed the lake have pushed the muddy water out, since the lake has been lowered.

Thirty acres of this clear water remains in the lake, which normally contains 138 acres at the spillway level. One thousand pounds of sweet clover has been planted along the banks; seventeen underwater shelters for the fish have been built, and more are to be completed. Under normal conditions Lake Goodwyn will be full by June or July—and what a fisherman's paradise it should be.

Commissioner Owens and Seth Way, fish culturist of the State Department at Pratt, were at the lake Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, directing and supervising the seining and removal of surplus fish.

Thousands of small fish were seined and placed in the state fish department transports, and taken to other state lakes and parks. Many people brought containers and were given small fish for their own ponds and private lakes. Two commercial fishermen from Atchison, hired by the Department, did the seining and removing of fish from the lake. These fish ranged all the way from tiny little fellows, up to 40-odd pounders. The largest fish taken were yellow cats, or flatheads. Ten of the big ones ranged from 15 to 45 pounds each. The biggest of these, a 45-pounder, was given to George Kubach of Bennington, to be mounted. Others of the big ones were taken to Pratt for exhibition at the state hatchery. The smaller fish were put in the rivers. Nine hundred pounds of fish were taken in one drag of the seine Friday evening. And here is another outstanding note—out of all the fish seined, only two were carp.

The shelter house at the Ottawa County State Park is almost ready for the roof. The fireplaces have been completed. This shelter house is of native stone, built by NYA labor. Scarcity of labor is the reason this has not been finished. Many of the boys who formerly helped on this job are now employed on defense work, consequently work has lagged on this project.

Speed Records

Most people credit birds with flying that is too fast and, at the same time, think that these feathered creatures are slower on the ground than they really are. Flight speed has been extensively recorded, but comparatively few records of the running speed of birds are available.

Recently two biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, clocked a number of running birds and reported surprisingly fast time for some birds.

Ring-necked pheasants proved to be as fast as good sprinters, one bird being clocked at 21 miles an hour, which is a shade better than a sprinter doing the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds flat. Other ringnecks hung up records of 8 to 15 miles an hour for distances of 50 to 100 yards.

Chukar partridges proved to be fair sprinters in the 50-yard and under distance, hitting the "tape" at 12 and 18 miles an hour.

Despite their names, two roadrunners failed to set the record. One was timed for 50 yards at 12 miles an hour and the other at 15 miles an hour for 300 yards.

A Hungarian partridge scooted along at a 9-mile-an-hour clip; Gambel quail at 11 and 14; killdeer, 5; long-billed curlew, 8; and avocet, 8. Slow-poke of the feathered runners was a sage grouse that ambled along at a 2-mile-an-hour shuffle.

The recorded speeds are not necessarily average or even the best the birds can do, the Fish and Wildlife Service explains. The timing was done by the biologists when they happened to be driving their car in the same direction in which the birds were running. No great importance is attached to the figures. The biologists pass them on as information they picked up casually and which probably would interest a lot of people. And it probably will.

Fur Season Closes Soon

The 1941-'42 fur season will come to a close on February 2. We take this opportunity of asking the trappers to submit their annual reports as soon as possible after the season closes. The information obtained from such reports are of much value to the Fish and Game Commission in determining the condition of our fur supply.

Fur buyers have ten days after the season closes to dispose of any and all furs on hand. Fur dealers' reports must be on file with the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, on or before March 15.

An early survey of the fur dealers' records by the district game protectors indicates that many furs were trapped and sold during the season.

Rabbits and Hats

Unless the supply of domestic pelts can be increased substantially, the American hat industry faces a tight supply situation because of a 20 to 25 percent reduction in rabbit skin imports, according to a joint statement released today by officials of the Office of Production Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Plans are now being made to encourage raisers of domestic rabbits, particularly white rabbits, and trappers of wild rabbits in western states to increase the supply of pelts.

"Rabbit fur is essential in the hat industry," explained J. H. Bleistein, New York fur dealer and OPM consultant on fur problems. "A large portion of the imported skins came from countries now dominated by the Axis powers."

Besides the curtailment of imports, inroads into the hatters' supply have been made by the fur trade, which uses rabbit skins to make fur coats and to "trim" cloth coats.

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Forty-Five Pounders Taken from Ottawa County State Lake

All you fisherman who thought there were no fish in Lake Goodwyn should have been there when the lake in the Ottawa County State Park was seined, and surplus fish removed this week. C. R. (Dinger) Dameron, supervisor of the park, is authority for the statement that there are thousands of fish in the lake, and he knows—because he has seen them.

Since last August the water level of the lake has been lowered twelve feet. This has been done under supervision of Jay C. Owens, Commissioner of the Fish and Game Department for this district. The idea of this drainage was to see if something could be done to clear up the water, and provide food and shelter for the fish. Now the water is crystal clear, as the springs which feed the lake have pushed the muddy water out, since the lake has been lowered.

Thirty acres of this clear water remains in the lake, which normally contains 138 acres at the spillway level. One thousand pounds of sweet clover has been planted along the banks; seventeen underwater shelters for the fish have been built, and more are to be completed. Under normal conditions Lake Goodwyn will be full by June or July—and what a fisherman's paradise it should be.

Commissioner Owens and Seth Way, fish culturist of the State Department at Pratt, were at the lake Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, directing and supervising the seining and removal of surplus fish.

Thousands of small fish were seined and placed in the state fish department transports, and taken to other state lakes and parks. Many people brought containers and were given small fish for their own ponds and private lakes. Two commercial fishermen from Atchison, hired by the Department, did the seining and removing of fish from the lake. These fish ranged all the way from tiny little fellows, up to 40-odd pounders. The largest fish taken were yellow cats, or flatheads. Ten of the big ones ranged from 15 to 45 pounds each. The biggest of these, a 45-pounder, was given to George Kubach of Bennington, to be mounted. Others of the big ones were taken to Pratt for exhibition at the state hatchery. The smaller fish were put in the rivers. Nine hundred pounds of fish were taken in one drag of the seine Friday evening. And here is another outstanding note—out of all the fish seined, only two were carp.

The shelter house at the Ottawa County State Park is almost ready for the roof. The fireplaces have been completed. This shelter house is of native stone, built by NYA labor. Scarcity of labor is the reason this has not been finished. Many of the boys who formerly helped on this job are now employed on defense work, consequently work has lagged on this project.

Speed Records

Most people credit birds with flying that is too fast and, at the same time, think that these feathered creatures are slower on the ground than they really are. Flight speed has been extensively recorded, but comparatively few records of the running speed of birds are available.

Recently two biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, clocked a number of running birds and reported surprisingly fast time for some birds.

Ring-necked pheasants proved to be as fast as good sprinters, one bird being clocked at 21 miles an hour, which is a shade better than a sprinter doing the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds flat. Other ringnecks hung up records of 8 to 15 miles an hour for distances of 50 to 100 yards.

Chukar partridges proved to be fair sprinters in the 50-yard and under distance, hitting the "tape" at 12 and 18 miles an hour.

Despite their names, two roadrunners failed to set the record. One was timed for 50 yards at 12 miles an hour and the other at 15 miles an hour for 300 yards.

A Hungarian partridge scooted along at a 9-mile-an-hour clip; Gambel quail at 11 and 14; killdeer, 5; long-billed curlew, 8; and avocet, 8. Slow-poke of the feathered runners was a sage grouse that ambled along at a 2-mile-an-hour shuffle.

The recorded speeds are not necessarily average or even the best the birds can do, the Fish and Wildlife Service explains. The timing was done by the biologists when they happened to be driving their car in the same direction in which the birds were running. No great importance is attached to the figures. The biologists pass them on as information they picked up casually and which probably would interest a lot of people. And it probably will.

Fur Season Closes Soon

The 1941-'42 fur season will come to a close on February 2. We take this opportunity of asking the trappers to submit their annual reports as soon as possible after the season closes. The information obtained from such reports are of much value to the Fish and Game Commission in determining the condition of our fur supply.

Fur buyers have ten days after the season closes to dispose of any and all furs on hand. Fur dealers' reports must be on file with the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, on or before March 15.

An early survey of the fur dealers' records by the district game protectors indicates that many furs were trapped and sold during the season.

Rabbits and Hats

Unless the supply of domestic pelts can be increased substantially, the American hat industry faces a tight supply situation because of a 20 to 25 percent reduction in rabbit skin imports, according to a joint statement released today by officials of the Office of Production Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Plans are now being made to encourage raisers of domestic rabbits, particularly white rabbits, and trappers of wild rabbits in western states to increase the supply of pelts.

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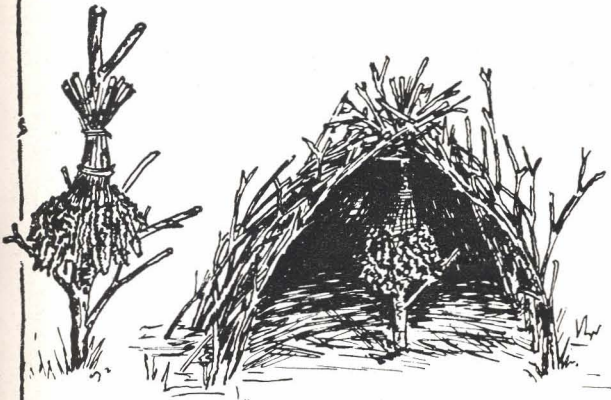
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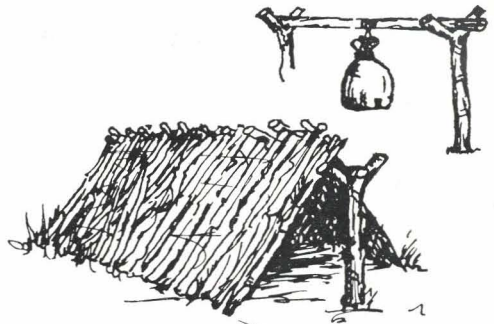
DECEMBER ARRESTS

DEFENDANT	CHARGE	PROTECTOR	DISPOSITION
Aura Henderson, Derby	Selling fish	Andrew, Shay	Convicted
A. V. Angle, Newton	Illegal possession of fur	Suenram, Carlson	Convicted
Michael Dillon, St. Paul	Illegal possession of pelts of fur-bearing animals in closed season	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
Dennis Berry, St. Paul	Possession of pelts of fur-bearing animals in closed season	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
Earl Gray, Fredonia	Illegal possession of pelts of fur-bearing animals in closed season. Possession of pelts without trapping license	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
George Rus, Kansas City, Kan.	Trapping fur-bearing animals in closed season	Minckley	Convicted
Glenn Whisenhunt, Wichita	Violation of game laws	Andrew, Shay, and County Game Protector George Harrington	Convicted
W. C. Calvert, Wichita	Violation of game laws	Andrew, Shay, and County Game Protector George Harrington	Convicted
W. A. Miller, Wichita	Shooting pheasant	Shay, Andrew and Concannon	Convicted
A. B. Brown, Wichita	(1) Shooting wild game bird out of season; (2) shooting wild game bird while not on wing; (3) hunting without license	Shay, Andrew and Concannon	Convicted
D. P. Wallinford, Wichita	Shooting pheasant	Shay, Andrew and Concannon	Convicted
Leonard Berglund, Larned	Buying fur without a fur dealer's license	Jones	Convicted
A. J. Dwyer, Cambridge	Buying furs without a fur dealer's permit	Toland	Convicted
Boyd W. Smith, Winfield	Hunting upon enclosed land without leave of owner	Toland	Convicted
Lon Hendrickson, Winfield	Hunting upon enclosed land without leave of owner	Toland	Convicted
Carl Kiel, Elk Falls	Hunting upon enclosed land without leave of owner	Toland	Convicted
Herbert Osborn, Buffalo	(1) Fur in closed season; (2) possession of pelts of fur-bearing animals for commercial purposes without trapping license	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
Steve A. Parsons, Benedict	(1) Fur in closed season; (2) fur in possession for commercial purposes without having trapping license	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
D. A. Girard, Longton	Destroying dens of fur-bearing animals	Rickel	Convicted
R. E. Folk, Longton	Destroying dens of fur-bearing animals	Rickel	Convicted
Leonard Heinze, Denmark	Unlawful possession of fur out of season	Carlson	Convicted
Robert Davidson, Elk City	(1) Taking pelts of fur-bearing animals; (2) same, without having in his possession a trapper's license	Rickel	Convicted
F. B. Hanlon, Coffeyville	(1) Shooting quail from roadway without permission; (2) shooting quail from automobile; (3) shooting quail not on wing	Rickel, Piggott	Convicted
Ralph White, Cedarvale	(1) Possession of fur in closed season; (2) possession of gray squirrel	Rickel	Convicted
Delery Harshman, Altoona	(1) Hunting and having in possession fur-bearing animals taken for commercial purposes without trapper's license; (2) hunting without license	Rickel	Convicted
Firman Reed, Kiowa	Hunting without first procuring a license	Andrew	Convicted
Buel White, Sedan	Taking fur-bearing animals out of season	Toland	Convicted
Orvall White, Sedan	No trapping license	Toland	Convicted
Ernest Higgins, Lawrence	Operating a net in Kansas water	Benander, Toburen	Convicted
Richard Higgins, Lawrence	Operating hoop net in Kansas water	Benander, Toburen	Convicted
Harold Bernhaert, Tecumseh	Trapping fur-bearing animals in closed season	Benander	Convicted
Boyd Cunningham, St. Joseph, Mo.	Buying fur in Kansas without a license	Benander, Anderson	Convicted
Clarence Mohler, Eudora	Trapping without license	Benander, Toburen	Convicted
Freeman Hoppock, Mound Valley	(1) Hunting and killing mallard ducks in closed season; (2) entering premises of G. S. Decow without permission; (3) hunting without license	Rickel	Convicted

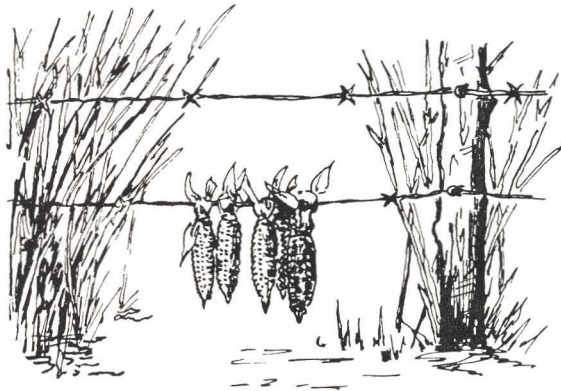




TEPEE-TYPE BRUSH SHELTER & FEEDER



LEAN-TO SHELTER & FEEDER



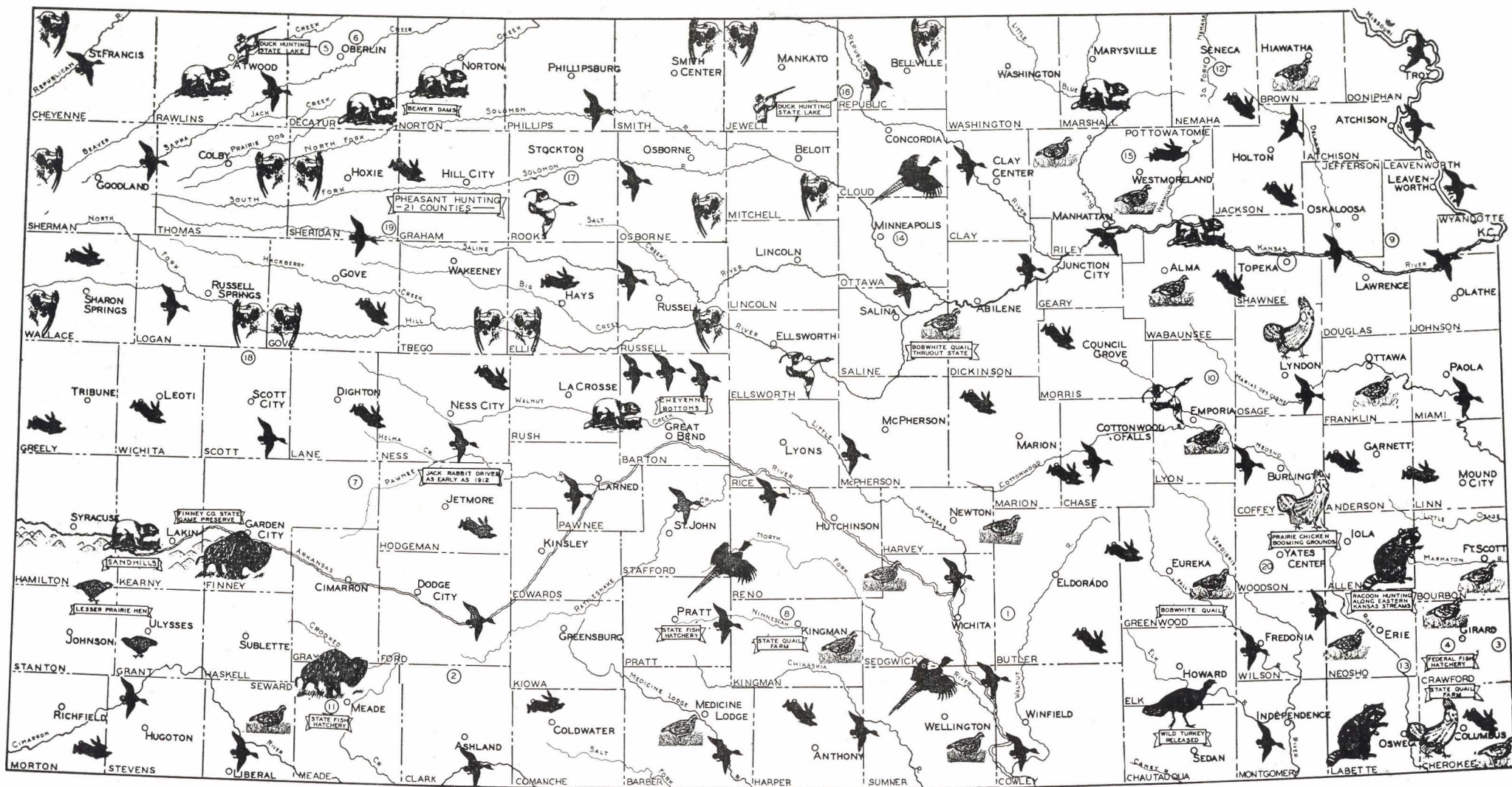
FOOD SUSPENDED FROM A WIRE FENCE



LEAN-TO SHELTER ON FALLEN TREE

TEPEE-TYPE SHOCK SHELTER & FEEDER

KANSAS WILD LIFE AREAS



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|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Butler County State Park 2. Clark County State Park 3. Crawford County State Park No. 1 4. Crawford County State Park No. 2 5. Decatur County State Park No. 1 6. Decatur County State Park No. 2 7. Finney County State Park | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Kingman County State Park 9. Leavenworth County State Park 10. Lyon County State Park 11. Meade County State Park 12. Nemaha County State Park 13. Neosho County State Park 14. Ottawa County State Park |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Pottawatomie County State Park 16. Republic County State Park 17. Rooks County State Park 18. Scott County State Park 19. Sheridan County State Park 20. Woodson County State Park |