



KANSAS

Fish and Game

Fall, 1962

Fall

1962

No Blame Here

If you asked your neighbor to mow your lawn, you would expect either to pay or render service in return. If you asked, but offered no payment or service in return, he would likely refuse. And you would not blame him.

Yet scores of campers, picnickers, sight-seers, camera clickers and others are asking the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to render service without repayment. And really, they are asking their neighbor, the hunter and fisherman, to mow their lawn.

Sportsmen provide the support of the Commission by buying hunting and fishing licenses. Much of the land purchased and developed by the Commission for hunting and fishing is purchased with federal aid funds, again provided by the sportsman through an excise tax on sporting arms, sporting ammunition and sport fishing tackle.

For years, not only in Kansas, but across the United States, the sportsman has been providing facilities which other people use and enjoy. At the state lakes of Kansas, a recent survey revealed that only one out of four persons using the lake areas even possessed a fishing license.

Now the sportsman and the Commission do not object to the use of the state lake areas for nonfishing recreation. In fact, we welcome it. But this practice has been going on for so long that many people feel the sportsman is responsible for furnishing elaborate facilities for all sorts of nonhunting and nonfishing types of recreation.

While the sportsman is willing to share, there is a point at which he must draw a line or other uses of the area interfere with the uses for which the area was built. This has already happened in some instances both inside Kansas and in other states.—*Bob Todd.*

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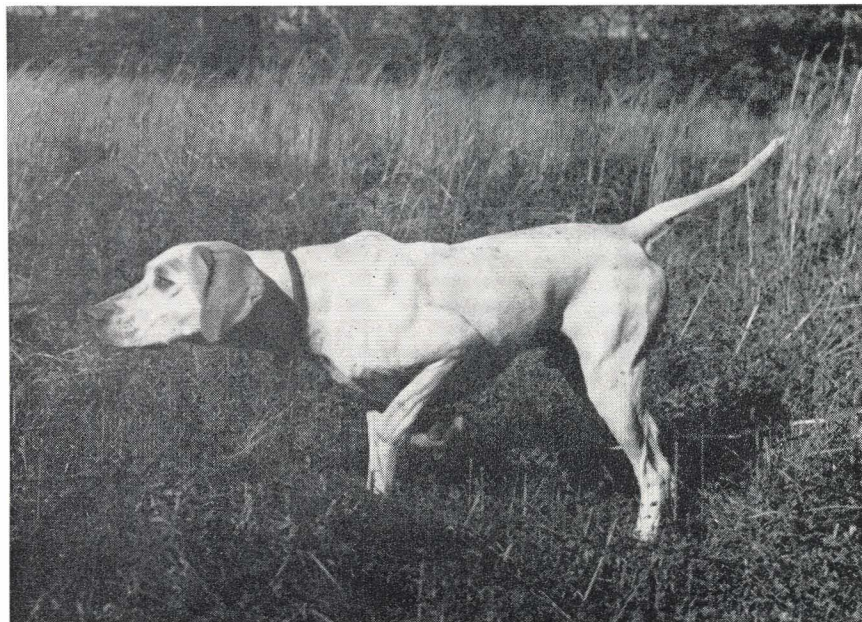
Magazine Editor

BOB TODD

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1962 Hunting

Seasons *Limits* *Prospects* Recipes



With the scent of game in the air, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission weighed the facts and established the 1962 hunting seasons. Read the story which begins on this page and it may well point to more enjoyment of this hunting season for you.

Limits on game this year are high enough to provide a full day's hunting for most hunters. For a few hunters, the limits may seem too low, but it is only because they are luckier, better shots or just plain work harder to get their game. Only with prairie chicken and waterfowl are the limits lower than could be reasonably taken in an average hunt. These birds need the additional protection.

Included here are bits of information which should be valuable to you before, during, and after the seasons:

QUAIL

SEASONS, LIMITS: *Zone 1*—East of U. S. highway 183. November



17 through 25 and November 27, 29, December 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16. Daily bag limit, 8; possession limit, 16. *Zone 2*—West of U. S. 183. November 17 through December 2. Daily bag limit, 8; possession limit, 16. Shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS: Available information points to a moderate increase in the quail population this year over most of Kansas. In local areas where production has been good, hunting should be excellent.

RECIPE: Sprinkle four quail inside and out with salt, pepper and flour. Fry in butter until brown on all sides. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, cover and cook over low heat for 15 minutes or until tender. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup seedless green grapes and cook 3 minutes longer. Stir in 2 tablespoons chopped nuts and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Serve quail on buttered toast with sauce.

PHEASANTS

SEASONS, LIMITS: *Zone 1*—East of U. S. highway 77 and north of U. S. highway 24. November 10

through November 25. Daily bag limit, 3 cocks; possession limit, 6 cocks. *Zone 2*—West of U. S. highway 77 north from El Dorado, west of the Kansas turnpike from El Dorado south and east of U. S. highway 281. November 10 through November 25 and December 8 through December 31. Daily bag limit, 5 cocks; possession limit, 10 cocks. *Zone 3*—West of U. S. highway 281. November 10 through November 25 and December 8 through December 31. Daily bag limit, 5 cocks; possession limit, 10 cocks. EXCEPT, that 1 hen may be included in the daily bag limit in *Zone 3* during the first part of the season, provided that 1 cock bird has been killed previously that day and is in the possession of the hunter. Possession limit may include 2 hens in *Zone 3* during the first part of the season, provided 2 cock birds are also in possession. *Zone 4*—Greenwood county north of Kansas highway 96, east of Kansas highway 99 and south of U. S. highway 54. November 10 through November 25. Daily bag limit, 3 birds, not to include more than 1 hen; possession limit, 6 birds, not to include more than 2 hens. (The



taking of a cock before taking a hen is not mandatory in Zone 4. This is a special study area with no native population of pheasants. Extensive stocking has been carried out on the area. Nearly all stocking was done on the public hunting areas of Fall river reservoir.) Shooting hours, all zones, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS—As usual, the western one-third of the state has the highest population density. However, pheasants are there for the hunting in all open areas. Information indicates a slight decrease in the over-all population trend of pheasants, but hunting should again be excellent for this species.

RECIPE—Sprinkle pheasant inside and out with salt and pepper. Place one bay leaf, 1 clove garlic, a few celery leaves and lemon slice in cavity. Tie legs together with string. Cover breast with bacon slices and cheesecloth soaked in melted butter. Place pheasant breast up in baking pan and arrange onion slices and mushrooms around pheasant. Pour 1 cup chicken broth (canned or made with bouillon cube) over pheasant and roast 30 minutes per pound in 350-degree oven. Baste frequently

with liquid in pan. Serve with rice, tomatoes and fruit.

PRAIRIE CHICKEN

SEASONS, LIMITS: The open season for prairie chicken will be in that part of Kansas east of U. S. highway 77, except that all of Butler county will be open and the following counties will be closed: Atchison, Brown, Cherokee, Crawford, Doniphan, Jefferson, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Miami, Montgomery, Wyandotte. November 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Daily bag limit, 2; possession limit, 4. Shooting hours, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.



PROSPECTS—The open area again has a reasonably good population of prairie chickens, with no significant change from last year. Hunting should be good for those shooters who pick the right feed field or are willing to walk the pastures.

RECIPE—Sprinkle two prairie chickens inside and out with salt, pepper and flour. Heat $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bacon fat in skillet, add birds and brown on all sides. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ can celery soup and pinch of caraway seeds. Bring to boil, cover and cook over low heat for 30 minutes or until tender. Baste frequently with sauce in pan. Serve with tart fruit and hot rolls.

MOURNING DOVE

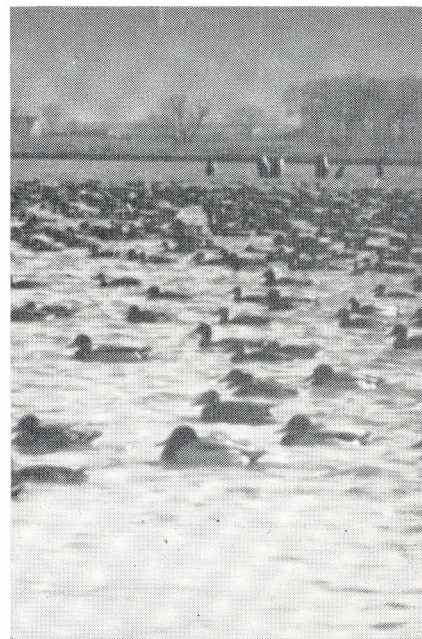
SEASONS, LIMITS: September 1 through October 30. Daily bag limit, 12; possession limit, 24. Shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS—Excellent prospects, as usual, await the dove hunter in Kansas. However, again this year it will be a rare hunter to take his full bag limit. It's not a scarcity of birds, it's just that they are so hard to hit.

RECIPE—Sprinkle four doves inside and out with salt, pepper and flour. Heat $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salad oil in skillet, add doves and brown on all sides. Add 8-ounce can of tomato sauce, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup beer, 4 medium onions and $\frac{1}{4}$ tablespoon oregano. Bring to boil, cover, cook over low heat for 30 minutes or until tender. Just before serving, stir in 3 tablespoons chopped parsley. Serve with green salad, Italian bread.

DUCKS, COOTS AND MERGANSERS

SEASONS, LIMITS: November 3 to November 27, both dates inclusive. Provided that there is no open season on canvasback and redhead ducks. Daily bag limit on ducks, 2; possession limit, 4. The daily bag limit may include not





The coyote, like yourself, is a hunter. And from all indications, both you and the coyote should find plenty of cottontails this year. Jack-rabbits are plentiful too, but not in the numbers found during the drought years.

more than 1 mallard and not more than 1 hooded merganser. The possession limit may not include more than 2 mallards, no more than 2 wood ducks and no more than 1 hooded merganser. In addition to species above, the daily bag limit

on scaup is 2; possession limit, 4. (Note: A hunter may take 4 ducks as a daily limit provided at least 2 are scaup. Possession limit may be 8 ducks provided at least 4 are scaup.) Daily bag limit on coots, 6; possession limit, 6. Daily bag

limit on American and red-breasted mergansers, 5; possession limit, 10, singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours for ducks, coots and mergansers will be from sunrise to sunset except on opening day when shooting hours for all species will start at 12 noon.

PROSPECTS—In general, reports from the northern breeding grounds indicate that this fall's flight of ducks should be slightly below that of 1961. While nesting conditions improved, much of the improvement came too late for this year's breeding population.

RECIPE—Sprinkle two ducks inside and out with salt and pepper. Place 2 sprigs parsley and $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon in cavity of each. Cover breast with bacon and fasten legs with string. Make sauce separate by stirring $\frac{1}{2}$ cup beer into $\frac{1}{4}$ cup dry mustard. Stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon salt, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 cup apricot preserves, 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 1 teaspoon grated orange peel. Heat in double boiler. Place ducks in baking pan breast up and bake in 350-degree oven 15 minutes per pound. Baste frequently with butter and once with sauce. Carve ducks and serve with rice and remaining sauce.



GEESE

SEASONS, LIMITS: October 6 to December 19, both dates inclusive. Daily bag and possession limits on geese, 5; provided that the daily bag and possession limits may include not more than 2 Canada geese or its subspecies or 1 white-fronted goose, or 1 white-fronted goose and 1 Canada goose. Shooting hours from sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS—According to reports from the northern breeding grounds, geese should be in reasonably good supply again this year. There should be good goose hunting in Kansas during this season.

RECIPE—Sprinkle young goose inside and out with lemon juice, salt and pepper. Melt $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter in large saucepan. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped onion and cook until tender. Stir in 1 cup chopped tart apple, 1 cup chopped dried apricots, 3 cups soft bread crumbs and salt and pepper. Spoon stuffing into cavity. Close cavity with skewers and string. Cover breast with bacon slices and cheesecloth soaked in melted bacon fat. Place goose breast up on rack in roasting pan. Cook 25 minutes per pound in 325-degree oven. Baste frequently with bacon fat. If goose is old, pour 1 cup water in pan and cover for last hour of cooking.

SQUIRREL (1962)

SEASONS, LIMITS: September 1 through November 30. Daily bag limit, 8; possession limit, 16. Shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS—The population is largely unchanged from last year. Squirrels are plentiful throughout their range and have increased slightly in many western areas.

RECIPE—Cut three squirrels into serving pieces and place in large kettle. Add 3 quarts of water and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 2 hours or until tender. Skim surface of water occasionally. Remove meat from bones and return to water. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup crisp,



diced bacon, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cayenne, 2 teaspoons salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper, 1 cup chopped onions, 2 cans tomatoes (drained), 2 cups diced potatoes, 2 cups lima beans (fresh or frozen). Cook 1 hour. Add 2 cups fresh or frozen corn and cook 10 more minutes. Spoon into soup plates and serve with cornbread and coleslaw.

RABBITS

SEASONS, LIMITS: Closed season from October 16 to December 14, except that rabbits may be legally taken during the open season for quail, pheasant and prairie chicken. Daily bag limit on cottontails, 10; possession limit, 20. No bag or possession limits on jackrabbits. Shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

PROSPECTS—Good increases have occurred in the cottontail population, but jackrabbits are still well below the high populations of the drought years. Hunters seeking cottontails will find more in the eastern half of the state while hunters seeking jackrabbits will probably do better in the west.

RECIPE—Cut rabbit into serving pieces and sprinkle with salt, pepper and oregano. Combine 2 tablespoons milk and 1 egg and beat slightly. Dip seasoned rabbit pieces in egg mixture and roll in fine, dry bread crumbs. Brown on all sides in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of fat. Reduce heat, cook 20 to 30 minutes or until tender. Drain on absorbent paper and serve with green salad and hot biscuits.

OTHER SEASONS

RAILS and GALLINULES: September 1 to October 20, both dates inclusive. Bag and possession limits on sora rails, 25. Other rails and gallinules, 15 daily limit and 15 in possession of any species or an aggregate of all species. Shooting hours from sunrise to sunset.

WILSON'S SNIPE: October 1 to October 30, both dates inclusive. Daily bag limit, 8; possession limit, 8. Shooting hours from sunrise to sunset.

WOODCOCK: October 1 to November 9, both dates inclusive. Daily bag limit, 4; possession limit, 8. Shooting hours from sunrise to sunset.

FURBEARING ANIMALS: (Except otter, badger, beaver and raccoon) December 1 through January 31.

RACCOON: No closed hunting season. (Trapping permitted only during regular furbearing animal season, December 1 through January 31.)

BEAVER: January 1 through February 28.

RED and GRAY FOX: No closed season.

SWIFT or PRAIRIE FOX: No open season.

OTTER: No open season.

OTHER NEW REGULATIONS: Pheasants in the possession of hunter and in lockers must retain one leg and foot intact.

Permanent opening dates for upland game birds have been established. Prairie chicken season will open on the first Saturday in November; pheasant season, the second Saturday in November; and quail season, the third Saturday in November. These dates will remain in force until revoked by the Commission. Season lengths and bag limits will be established annually based on current game populations.

Public Hunting Proposed at Kingman Lake Area

By BOB TODD

About a year ago, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission directed the staff to take a long, hard look at the state lake lands under their control with the view of making more use of these lands.

And specifically, they directed the staff to investigate the possibility of using some of these lands for public hunting. When they suggested public hunting, they had several lakes in mind. One of these was Kingman County State Lake.

With about 1,500 acres of land and less than 200 acres of water, surely there must be some place around the lake which has been getting very little use of any kind. It would be a shame to keep such an area closed to hunting.

Well, tentative plans for Kingman lake and Game Management Area have been completed. These plans are presented along with a map of the area on the following page.

The plans for Kingman were based on the qualities of the Kingman area. Plans for the other lake lands will also be based on the individual characteristics of those areas.

While the plans for Kingman can hardly be called typical, they do

NOTE. — The Kingman lake lands have not yet been opened to public hunting and probably will not be opened until the fall of 1963. Local news media will announce the opening as well as final zoning and regulations on the area.



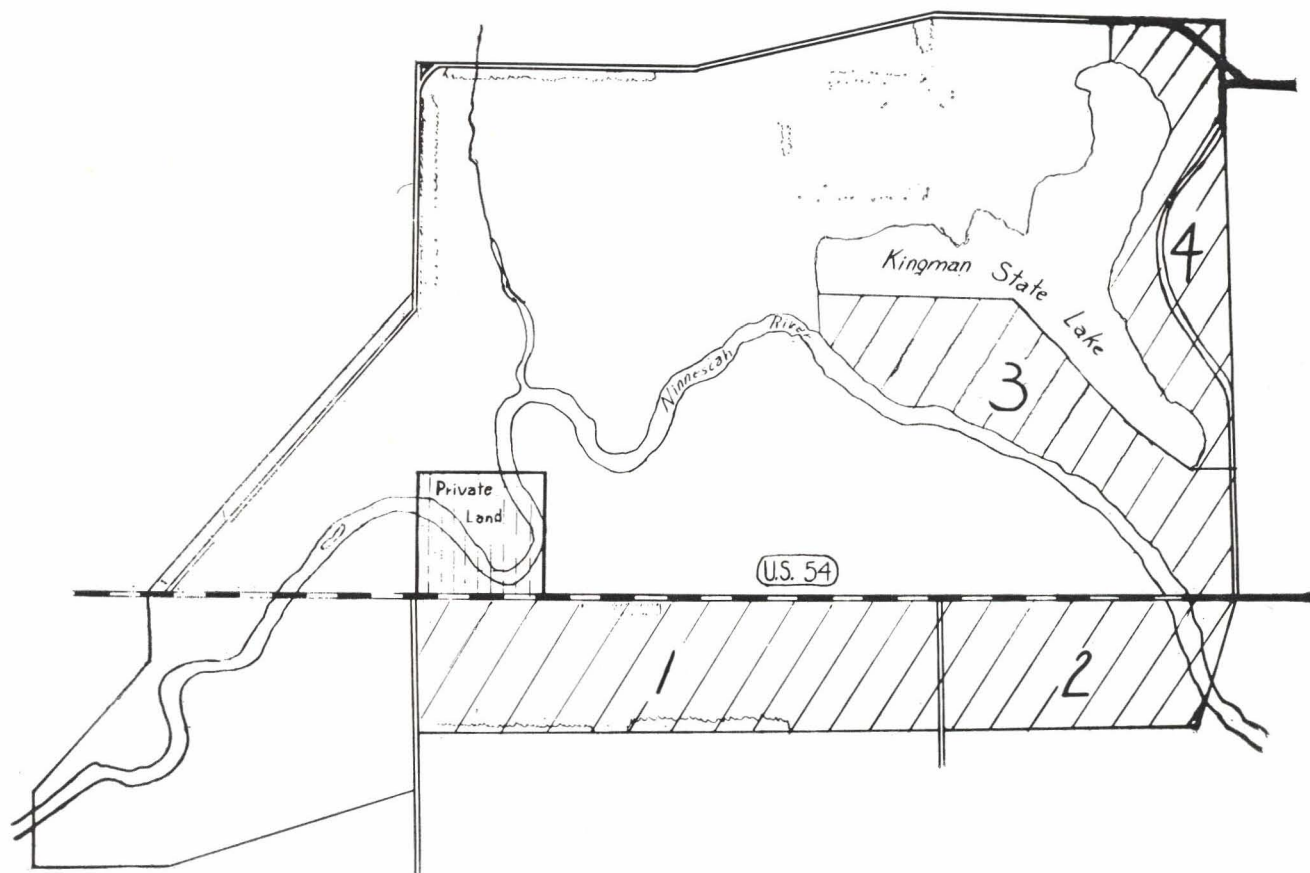
CAMPING ON A GAME MANAGEMENT AREA. At Kingman County State Lake and Game Management Area, picnicking and camping will be as usual. During the spring and summer a picnicker and camper will hardly know that a change in the use of the area has been made. During fall and winter however, he may hear gunshots from across the lake, signaling that hunting seasons are open. Other than the occasional sound of shots, persons using the developed picnic and camping areas will be totally unaffected by the public hunting on the Game Management Area.

reveal the kind of thinking which will be used in evaluating other areas. The lake lands surrounding the various state lakes in Kansas range in area from more than 2,000 acres to less than 100 acres. It can hardly be expected that one plan will fit all or even most areas.

Taking a long, hard look at these areas will involve the possibility of consolidating picnic and camp areas, where such movement would create better use. On the other hand, it may involve better distribution of existing facilities. And on many areas, probably the bulk, no changes will be recommended.

We have much water and recrea-

tion land in Kansas. But by the same token, we have a great many people who are coming more and more to enjoy outdoor living. The Commission's aim is to accommodate as many of these people as possible without jeopardizing the purpose of fish and game areas. On many of the older lakes, the use which was established when the lake was built is no longer economical or efficient and creates direct interference with the primary uses of the area. It is these situations which the Commission would like to clear up. And too, when hunting can be permitted, this use of the area should be added.



The above map shows the Kingman County Game Management Area as it is being used today. The numbered and cross-hatched areas are those which have an established use. The plain areas are largely unused at the present time.

1. Game bird farm. This area is open for public inspection and no change in use is planned. Hunting will not be permitted here.

2. Buffalo pasture. This area adjoins a roadside park and contains a small herd of buffalo. The park is a favorite of tourists as well as teachers in the area who sometimes take their students on field trips including a stop to see some of the few remaining buffalo. This area will remain closed to hunting.

3. Undeveloped picnic and camp area. Although no major facilities are provided, this area is popular with campers, picnickers and fishermen. Tentative plans call for limited hunting in this area. Waterfowl hunting will probably be permitted at designated blind sites and dove hunting may be permitted from the south bank of the river.

4. Developed picnic and camp area. This area contains facilities for camping, picnicking, swimming and boat launching. Other activities which take place here include nature study, outdoor meetings and others. This area will remain closed to hunting according to tentative plans.

The remaining area will be opened to public hunting, with the following restrictions: (a) Shotguns will

be the only permissible firearms. (b) Waterfowl hunting will be allowed only at designated blind sites. (c) That section of the river which adjoins area 3 will be closed to all hunting except that doves may be taken from the south bank of the river. (d) This area is to be one of the state's quail study areas and hunters will be required to fill out a hunting report upon leaving the area during quail season. Information will be needed from both successful and unsuccessful hunters and your co-operation will be needed. (e) Regular hunting seasons will be applied to this area as will other statewide hunting regulations.

As in the past, the entire length of the Ninescaw river through the state's land will be open to fishing. Kingman lake underwent rehabilitation recently, but fishing will be permitted all year after the lake is reopened.

The public hunting areas will be available for other uses, such as picnicking and camping, but no facilities will be provided for that use and picnickers and campers will be required to remove their own litter and abide by other state regulations. Campers will need a permit to stay overnight in the undeveloped areas as well as in the developed area.

Commission Trains Young Hunters



Leon Hopkins, state game protector from Lincoln, instructs Scouts from Troop 16, Salina, and Troop 232, Scandia. This particular session was held at the Brown Memorial Scout Camp near Abilene on July 24 and 25. Other hunter safety courses were presented at Cedar Bluff Camp, Scout Ranch at Sedan and Camp To-wakoni near Augusta.

Gun accidents take the lives of many hunters each year in the United States. The blame for these accidents cannot be laid on guns, so hunters must assume the responsibility. No gun ever discharged by itself, it had to be loaded by someone. Therefore, someone is responsible whenever there is a hunting accident.

Helping to reduce these accidents was the goal of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission when it inaugurated its "Hunter Safety" training this spring. Under guidance from the National Rifle Association, Commission personnel pro-

vided safe gun handling instruction to 302 Boy Scouts in four camps during the months of June and July. Scouts successfully completing the course were awarded the N. R. A. Safe Hunter certificate.

Participation in Scout camps was limited this year to those located in the Coronado and Quivera councils but it is hoped that trained personnel will be available in the near future to expand the program to include the four other councils in Kansas. The hunter safety instruction is also available to individual Scout troops during the fall and winter months.

Safe gun handling was also

taught to 240 4-H members from all over Kansas at the annual conservation camp at Rock Springs. This session, during the first week in August, included six different periods with approximately 40 different students for each period. Due to time limitations, the complete N. R. A. course was not given but the two-hour periods provided an opportunity to present the basic principles to the alert 4-H'ers.

Participating as instructors during the summer program were Leon Hopkins, Alvin Michel, George Valyer, Henry Byrne, John Polson, Jim Andrew and Alvin Ayers, all of the Commission staff.

The Ring-Necked Pheasant

It is not surprising that the ring-necked pheasant is a favorite Kansas game bird. He erupts from the grass or the end of a milo field with a harsh cackle which startles even the experienced hunter. Although he is large, about three pounds, his flight is swift and he presents a difficult target.

The pheasant has long been renowned for his eating qualities. When properly dressed, he can be cooked in about the same manner as chicken. However, the flesh is richer tasting and many fancy and involved recipes have been concocted for cooking this bird.

For many western Kansas communities, the pheasant has a special economic value. Hunters from eastern Kansas and from other states annually travel to western Kansas for the opening of pheasant season. These hunters, by spending money for food, lodging, gasoline and other items, contribute to the economic prosperity of the communities.

DISTRIBUTION

Ring-necked pheasants are not native to Kansas, nor for that matter, to the United States. They originated in Asia and were first successfully stocked in Oregon in 1880. In Kansas, stocking began in the early 1900's.

Today the pheasant is distributed over most of Kansas. His principal range, however, is restricted to the area west of a line between Atchison and Caldwell. He can be found occasionally in all of the state, but is found in the greatest numbers in the western one-third of the state.

LIFE HISTORY

As pheasants reach maturity in early fall, the male develops a patch of red around his eyes, green feathers over much of his head and a pronounced white ring around his neck, from which he gets his name. The female pheasant remains a light buff color with mark-



ings similar to a female bobwhite quail.

Male pheasants have a spike or spur on the back of their legs which they use in battle during mating time. In early spring, the males stake out a territory and crow to attract hens. If another male enters the area, a battle will follow.

The males generally serve several hens, forming a harem of three to seven hens. Since only one male, or cock, is required for several hens, there is annually a surplus of males. These males can be harvested by hunting with little harmful effect on the pheasant population.

Pheasant hens generally lay about 12 eggs and if something destroys their nest, will generally nest repeatedly throughout the summer until they are successful in bringing off a brood.

HABITAT

Pheasants are principally cropland birds. The broad expanses of fertile farmland in western Kansas provide them with an ideal home. The food and cover found in wheat, milo and cornfields supply the pheasant with most of his needs.

However, weed patches in draws, fence rows, shelter belts and small thickets are important also. Undisturbed nesting cover is essential for the production of young birds.

Among the more important pheasant foods are waste grains such as milo, wheat, corn and sunflower seeds. Young birds consume large quantities of insects during the early summer, but gradually shift to a grain-weed seed diet as fall approaches.

MANAGEMENT

Pheasants are now well established in Kansas in suitable range and can withstand a liberal hunting season without endangering the breeding stock, provided the birds are protected during the nonhunting portions of the year.

As in the case of quail, good management for pheasants includes leaving adequate cover and food on the land. In those areas where pheasants nest frequently, mowing should be delayed until the major hatching period has passed. The use of insecticides should be kept to a minimum and used only at minimum recommended application rates.

Project W-20-L Approved

By OLIVER GASSWINT

Currently the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission owns some 2,000 acres of land in the strip pit areas of Cherokee and Crawford counties.

Recognizing the need for additional public recreation lands and the potential value of strip pit lands, the Commission proposes to acquire approximately 11,000 acres of these lands to be developed for public use.

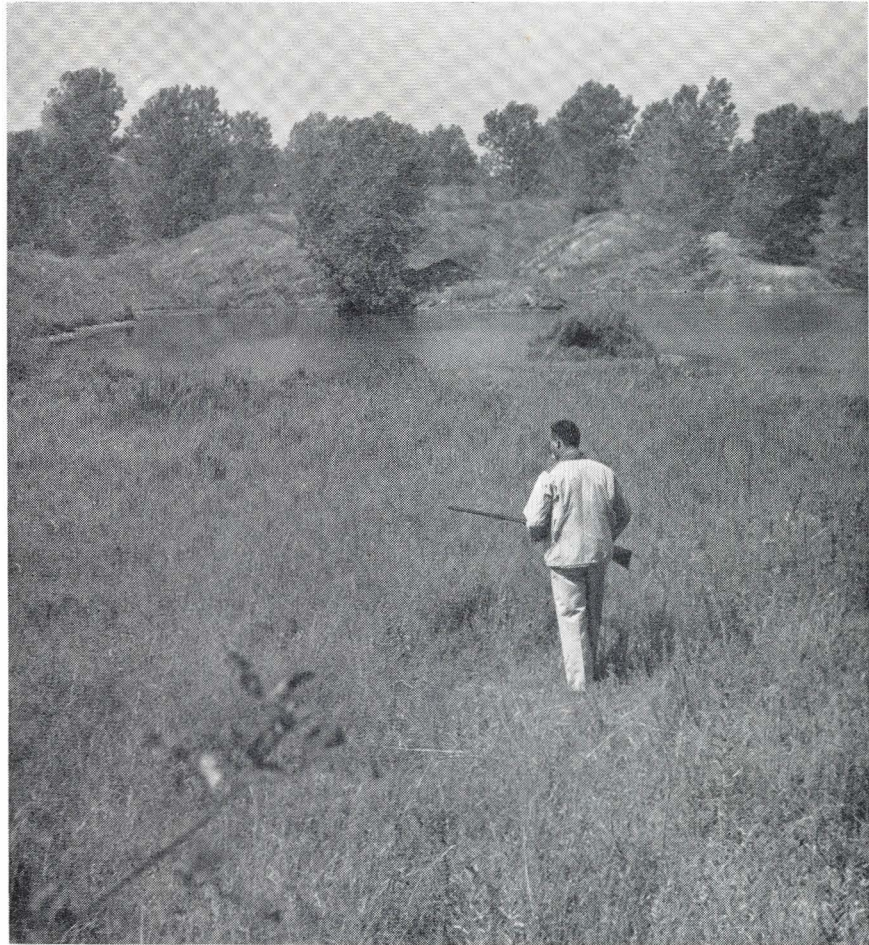
Although hunting will be the prime objective, fishing, camping, boating, picnicking and hiking will also be permitted.

Federal aid project W-20-L has been approved to provide for the purchase of these lands. Under this project, 75% of the purchase price will be reimbursed to the state from funds provided by the Pittman-Robertson Act. These funds are made possible by a 10% excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. The funds are then prorated back to the several states on the basis of land area and total license sales.

In addition to land acquisition, the maintenance, management and development of these lands is approvable for federal aid participation.

Through negotiation with the Spencer Chemical Co., the Commission has secured an option to purchase some 2,300 acres of strip pit lands this first year at an approximate total cost of \$50,000.

Within the proposed project boundary, about one-fifth of the land is under water trapped in the numerous pits. Another fifth is

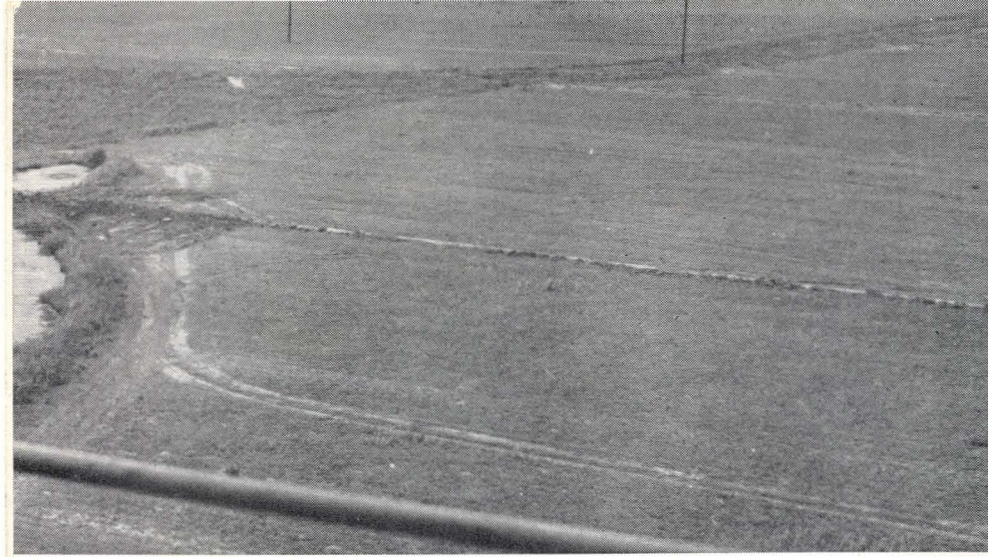


A hunter stalks up to a favorite dove-hunting area in the strip pits. Later in the season, he will hunt quail over this same land, and just a short distance away is another pit which he has come to count on as a good duck-hunting spot. Much of the strip pit land is already open to hunting, and the Commission's purchase of strip pit lands will insure that at least some of the land remains open in the future.

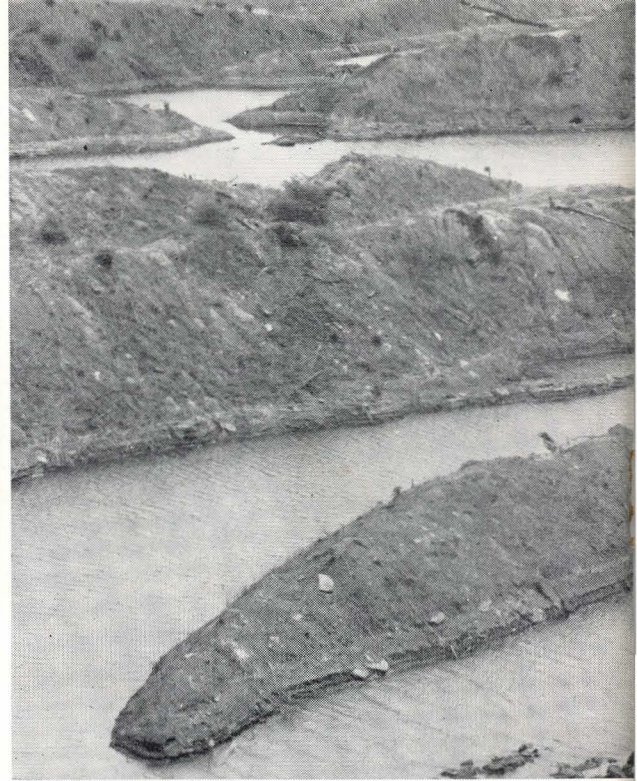
farm lands in small parcels on the perimeter of the pit areas. The remaining three-fifths is covered by spoils banks resulting from mining activities.

Proposed development includes the following activities:

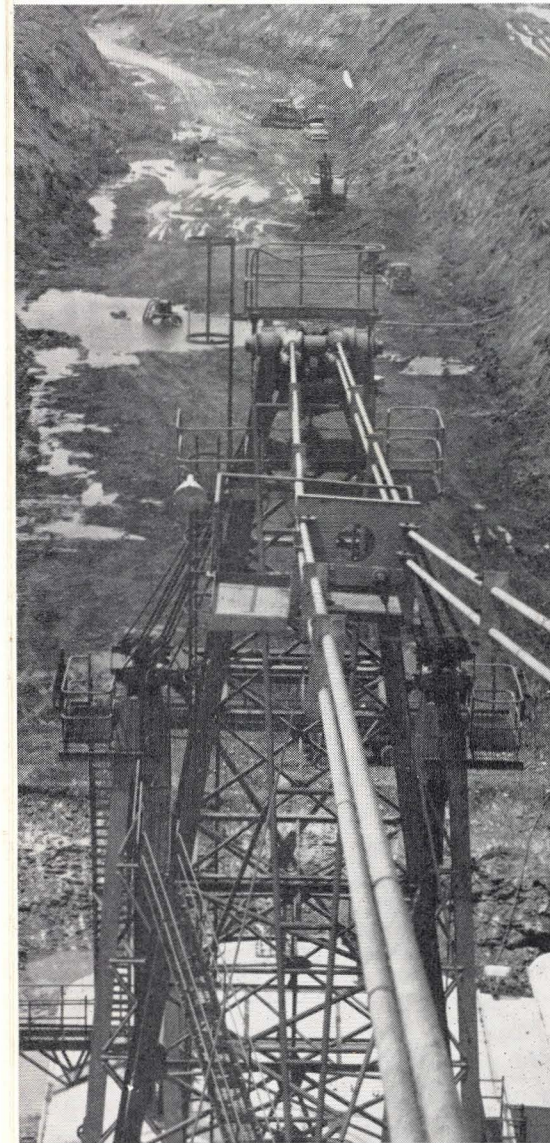
1. Construction of access roads, parking lots, turn arounds and foot paths.
2. Construction of basic sanitary facilities.
3. Posting and fencing of the boundaries.
4. Construction of dams and dikes to impound additional shallow water areas in the lateral pits.
5. Management of pits suitable for fishing.
6. Share cropping of farm lands. The state's share to be left in the field to provide food and cover for wildlife. This will include pasture for geese, cereal crops for ducks and upland game and permanent meadows for nesting cover.
7. Bulldozing and herbiciding will be used to open up areas of heavy cover to provide additional edge and set back the plant succession to a condition more suitable for game food and cover.
8. Establishment of small areas of food and cover within the pit areas.



ABOVE — The land as it looks before strip mining operations. A community of man, plants and tractors.



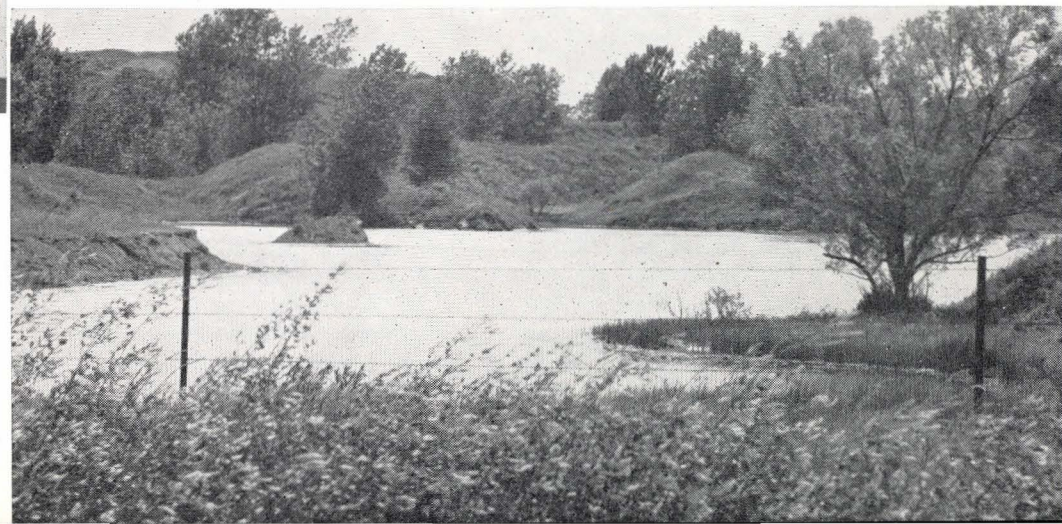
RIGHT—A section of new pits. The revised community consists of land, few plants, water, fish and access is very difficult for man.

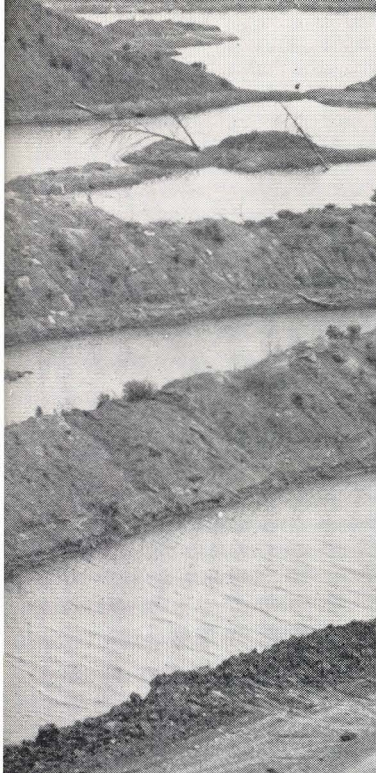


ABOVE—A view of a main strip pit from atop the giant dragline which dug it. This pit will be deeper still before mining operations have ended. This turning over of the soil places the land in a primitive state with very little vegetation growing.



ABOVE—Early growth on the "dumps." Not particularly good wild-life habitat yet. BELOW—Later stages of plant development. Provides excellent food and cover for wildlife.





ABOVE—Older growth on “dumps.” Fair to good for wildlife, but too little food grows beneath heavy stands of trees. This area is nearing the point at which it will no longer provide excellent game habitat.



ABOVE—When vegetation becomes so thick and tangled that almost no food plants can grow near the forest floor, it is time to clear a little and thin the trees out.

ABOVE—One of the primary tasks of developing the pits will be opening up roads and paths to provide access for hunters and fishermen. RIGHT—In the older pit areas, it will be necessary to plant some wildlife foods such as this milo.



Bourbon County State Lake

Seventeenth of a Series on The State Lakes of Kansas

By GEORGE VALYER

For some time now I have been convinced that a person cannot really get a good impression of the state of Kansas by traveling the federal highways. With a few exceptions, the majority of the highway mileage seems to avoid the more picturesque and scenic parts of the state. I am now more thoroughly convinced of this fact since

visiting Bourbon County State Lake.

The traveler who passes through eastern Kansas on U. S. 54 can little imagine what beauty lies just a few miles to the south of Bronson. Although the highway passes through rolling hills, one has little inkling of the sharp hills and deep valleys which are associated with the countryside surrounding the lake.

Bourbon County State Lake is

located four miles east of Elsmore and approximately eight miles south of Bronson. Due to the fact that it is close to the Allen county line, it is sometimes called the Allen-Bourbon State Lake. Access is from state highways K-6 and K-39 and U. S. 54. All-weather roads lead to the lake with signs to point the way.

If any lake ever looked "fishy," this one certainly does. Its clear, blue-green waters rippling in the breeze seem to sing a siren song to any fisherman who gazes upon them. Although peace and serenity come from the hills and woodlands surrounding, the angler's

pulse cannot help but quicken with the promise of what is to come.

Pathways and trails lead to all parts of the lake so it isn't necessary to have a boat to fish this lake. Nevertheless, it is quite apparent that many persons prefer to fish from watercraft. The launching ramp on the west side is a busy place on weekends and one can almost always see boats and rafts moored in the adjacent cove.

Camping spots are plentiful at Bourbon County State Lake. The gently sloping shore line on the west side provides an ideal spot to pitch a tent or park a camp trailer. Water is available just south of the boat ramp and, although it is of high mineral content, it is safe for drinking. Picnic tables are also

located at many spots around the shore line.

The lake itself is relatively new. Construction of the dam was begun in 1957 and fishing was not permitted until late in 1959. Since that time the fish have made good gains and channel catfish up to 7½ pounds have been taken this year. Unconfirmed reports tell of at least one 9-pounder of this species. Largemouth bass are plentiful and several in excess of 5 pounds can usually be seen on stringers during a good fishing week. Other species include crappie, bluegill, green sunfish and bullheads.

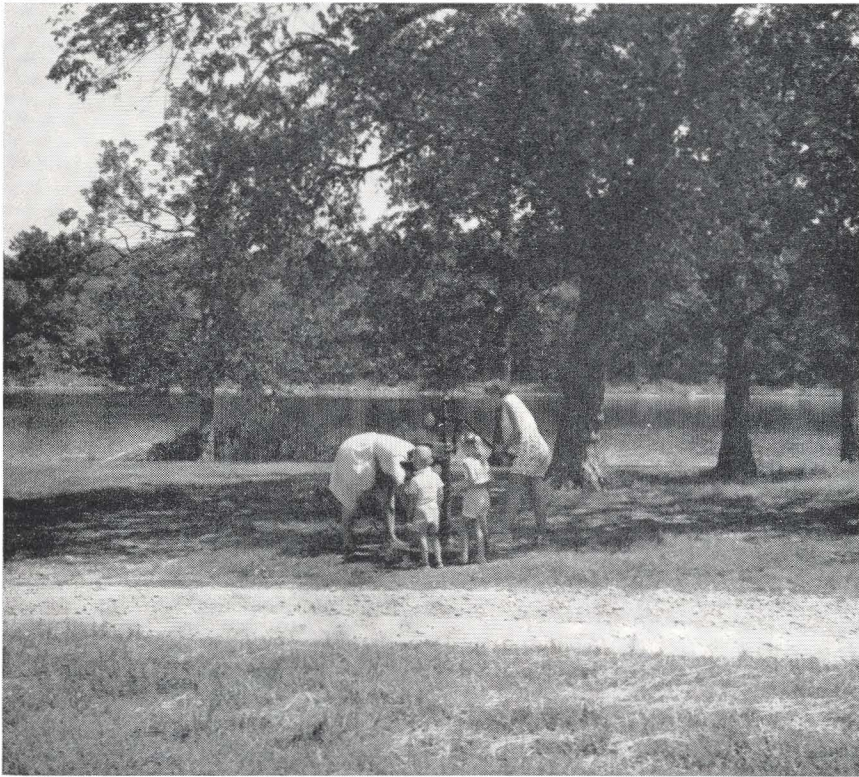
The cost of constructing the dam was partially financed by the federal government through the use of Dingell-Johnson funds. These funds

are derived from an excise tax on fishing equipment and are apportioned to the states for approved projects. Although the state stands all of the cost originally, it is reimbursed for three-fourths of the amount from the federal funds. In the case of Bourbon County State Lake, federal participation amounted to \$66,622 of the total construction cost of \$88,829. The Dingell-Johnson funds are used for fishery purposes only; other federal funds (Pittman - Robertson) are used for wildlife restoration and management.

If you are interested in statistics, the total surface area of the lake measures 103 acres set in a land area of 380 acres. A considerable part of the upper portion of the lake



The boat-launching ramp is heavily used on weekends and many watercraft may be seen anchored around the cove. Due to the roughness of the surrounding terrain, most of the watershed is meadow and pasture land.



Time out to fill the picnic jug. This well is located south of the boat-launching ramp. Picnic tables are located at many spots around the shore line.

has a solid rock bottom as do the streams which feed the impoundment. Due to the roughness of the surrounding terrain, most of the watershed is meadow and pasture land. Naturally, the result is clear water and very little siltation. Sight-feeding fish such as largemouth bass make the most rapid growth in waters such as this. We can look for Bourbon lake to produce fine fishing for many years to come.

Several residents of the area have become enough convinced of the potentialities so that they have purchased land adjacent to the state property for the construction of weekend cabins. Several of these are now located near the lake, at least one additional cabin is now under construction and several lots serve as a parking place for house trailers. This gives an indication of the growing popularity of Bourbon County State Lake.

There is no concession at the lake but most kinds of fish bait are available just off state property at the west end of the dam. Eating establishments are available in Elsmore and Bronson.

The canyon which contains the lake is known locally as the "wolf pen." Just why it carries this name seems to be lost in unrecorded history. Perhaps at some time in the early history of the area, someone captured a wolf in the valley and it thusly was named. A variety of wildlife can still be found in the vicinity. Deer are known to frequent the lake, especially the eastern shore, and small animals and bird-life are abundant.

Yes, Bourbon County State Lake has a lot to offer to anyone who likes to get off the beaten path. If you prefer your fishing in a setting of rocks, trees and hills, you'll like this lake.

About Doves

The pleasant, almost sorrowful coo, coo, coo has given the *Zenaidura macroura* the name "mourning dove." It also is called the Carolina, turtle or wild dove, and wild pigeon.

There are three sub-species: *Z.m. carolinensis* (Eastern United States and Canada); *Z.m. marginella* (Western United States and Canada); *Z.m. macroura* (believed non-migratory and restricted to the Caribbean islands).

The male, topped with ash-brown feathers tinged with green, has a "sunny" beige to its underparts. Its tail, blue-gray and spotted with white, has black running along the sides. A black spot adorns the "cheek," and the neck feathers are iridescent. The bill, small and slender, curves slightly downward.

The female has a shorter tail and lacks the iridescence of the male. Adults average about 12 inches, tipping the scales at around 4 ounces.

Nests are built in a variety of places, usually seven or eight feet from the ground. (Some have been found as high as 20 feet.) A clutch generally consists of two eggs, and hatching occurs in about two weeks.

Both the male and female contribute to incubation—the male takes over from morning (about 8:00 a. m.) to evening (about 5:00 p. m.). Maturity is reached in about six months.

Fires and heavy rains account for heavy losses during the nesting period, and snow adds to the toll by covering the precious food supply. Wheat, oats, rye, corn and barley make up about 30 per cent of the diet, with the remainder coming from seeds of weeds. About 1 per cent of the food consists of insects (grasshoppers, worms).

25 Years Ago

A Turning Point For Kansas Sportsmen

By GEORGE C. MOORE, Director
Kansas Forestry,
Fish and Game Commission

There is a turning point in the life of everyone. For the sportsmen of Kansas, that turning point was 25 years ago, September 2, 1937. At that time, the "Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act" was passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by the President.

This act, better known as the "Pittman-Robertson Act," authorized and directed the Secretary of the Interior to co-operate with the states through their respective fish and game departments in wildlife restoration.

The term "wildlife restoration" means and includes the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of areas of land and water adaptable as feeding, resting or breeding places for wildlife. This included the acquisition of areas suited for these purposes. It also included research in problems affecting wildlife.

Money to carry out the act comes from a 10 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition. This money is apportioned to the states as follows: one-half in the ratio which each state's area bears to the total area of all states; and one-half in the ratio which each state's number of paid hunting license holders bears to the total number of paid hunting license holders in all states.

The cost of projects that meet the requirements of the act and have been approved will be reimbursed by the federal government up to 75



CHEYENNE BOTTOMS has always been a waterfowl haven due to its unique topography. When Pittman-Robertson money became available, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission purchased the bottoms to guarantee the sportsman a place to hunt and something to shoot at. Considerable improvement has been made to create even better waterfowl habitat.

percent of the total cost of the project.

These projects can take a wide range of activities, but the intent of the act was to restore wildlife habitat. The intent was not to take over duties already being carried out by the states, but to supplement them. Since the purpose was to "restore" habitat, the act prohibits participation in certain functions which have dubious values to restoring wildlife habitat.

Some of the functions which are not subject to federal aid participation are law enforcement, extension and educational work, operation of game farms and plant nurseries. Stocking to restore a population and the establishment of food and cover vegetation are eligible provided they meet the requirements of the act.

There are certain restrictions and limitations which must be met to qualify a state to receive funds from the Wildlife Restoration Act. Among these is the requirement

that a state must submit for approval projects that are substantial in character and design.

Another restriction is that no benefits can be given any state if funds paid to the fish and game department in hunting and fishing licenses are diverted or the department otherwise loses control of these funds for any other purpose than the administration of state fish and game departments.

During the past years the Kansas Fish and Game Commission has used the major part of its federal aid fund for the purpose of acquiring land and improving it for wildlife. The Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Area is one of the largest projects undertaken in Kansas and has proven to be a real benefit to the waterfowl hunters of the state.

Cheyenne Bottoms has always been a waterfowl haven due to its unique topography. The Bottoms is a large sump consisting of some 20,000 acres in which several inter-

(Turn to page 22)

Public Hunting at Cedar Bluff

Cedar Bluff reservoir is located on the Smoky Hill river in west central Kansas, in Trego county, approximately 15 miles south of Wa-Keeney and 20 miles southwest of Ellis.

Cedar Bluff dam was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in July, 1951, as an irrigation, municipal water supply and flood-control reservoir. At irrigation pool, contour elevation 2,144, an area of 6,869 surface acres of water is impounded, creating a shore line of approximately 50 miles.

The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission originally assumed the management of wildlife lands under a fish and wildlife "General Plan" in July, 1954. In May, 1962, with an amendment to the "General Plan," the Bureau of Reclamation made available for administration by the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission approximately 12,034 acres of lands and

water for wildlife conservation and management.

The wildlife lands are being managed as a public hunting area with particular emphasis being placed on pheasants and waterfowl. Lack of tillable lands has created problems relative to large feed fields for waterfowl. However, six areas at the reservoir are being cultivated in an effort to create food plots. Cover plantings of mainly sweet clover and native grasses have been established throughout the wildlife area.

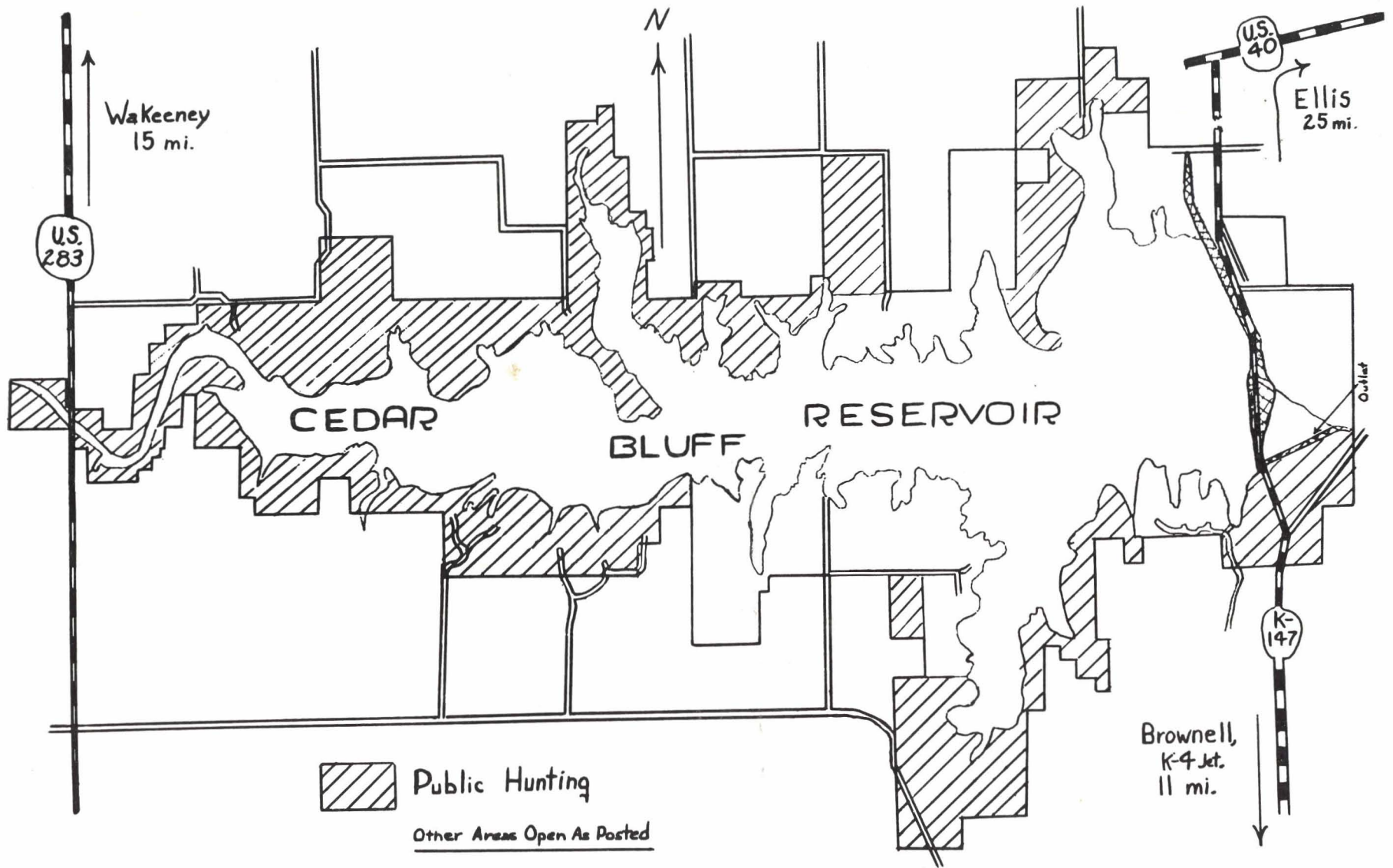
Access to the dam area is possible from the north at Ogallah (located on U. S. 40) by Highway K-147 and from the south at Brownell (located on Highway K-4) by Highway K-147. The upper end of the reservoir is accessible by Highway U. S. 283 from WaKeeney situated to the north and Ransom to the south. Access along the south side of the reservoir is made possible by

an all-weather county road. For the most part, access along the north side of the reservoir is restricted by dirt road systems.

The entire wildlife area is fenced and entrances are designated by public hunting signs. Some areas in addition to those shown on the map are open for public hunting on a year-to-year basis. These areas are marked by signs stating, "Public Hunting Allowed."

There are some special rules relative to hunting at Cedar Bluff reservoir. In regard to waterfowl hunting, there are two special regulations which pertain to the reservoir. First of all, a buoy line is placed in the water to zone the hunting and refuge area. Secondly, floating duck blinds must be registered with the Commission for a special use permit and land blinds must be constructed from natural materials. Digging of pits is prohibited.





Public Hunting at *Webster*

Webster reservoir is located on the south fork of the Solomon river, about eight miles west of Stockton, and about 23 miles east of Hill City, in Rooks county.

Access to the area is provided by U. S. highway 24 along the north of the reservoir and by all-weather roads from Zurich and Damar, located on Kansas highway 18, from the south.

Webster dam was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in June, 1956. The reservoir impounded by Webster dam is one of the units being operated by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation and flood control in the Kansas river basin.

The reservoir at irrigation pool, elevation 1,889.6 feet, impounds a surface area of 3,485 acres of water. At this elevation, water is backed up approximately five miles from the dam, making a shore line of about 27 miles.

The fish and wildlife areas at Webster reservoir are managed by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission through a gen-



eral plan with the Bureau of Reclamation. The general plan has made available approximately 5,562 acres of land and water to the Commission for wildlife conservation and management.

An extensive wildlife habitat program was started in 1957 and has included the development of cover and food plantings for upland game and waterfowl. Cover types included in the development were shelter plantings with berry-producing shrubs, sweet clover and tall native grasses. Agricultural fields are leased to local farmers on a share basis with the state's share, for the most part, being left standing in the field for utilization by wildlife.

In addition to share cropping, the Commission has established several food plots in the grassland areas.

Those lands at the reservoir open for public hunting are fenced and marked accordingly. In addition to those lands designated as public hunting areas on the map, some other lands are opened on a year-to-year basis and will be marked as open when applicable.

Good populations of pheasant, doves, rabbits, quail and waterfowl

are to be found on the wildlife areas.

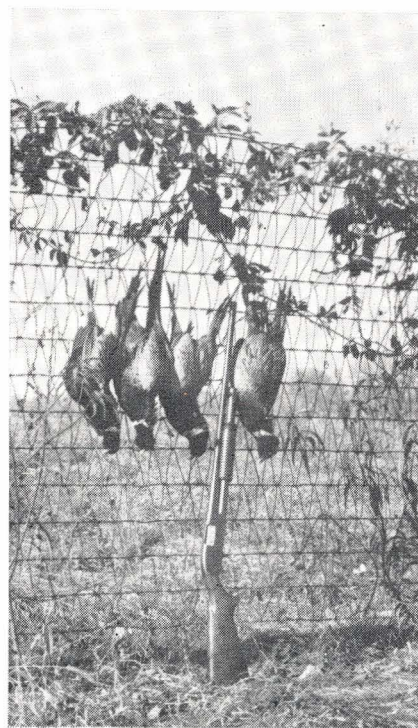
There are some special regulations regarding hunting on federal reservoirs. Of interest to duck hunters are the regulations prohibiting the digging of pits for building a blind or any other purpose. Blinds must be constructed of natural materials, found at the site of the blind. Hunters desiring to use floating blinds must acquire a special permit from the Commission.

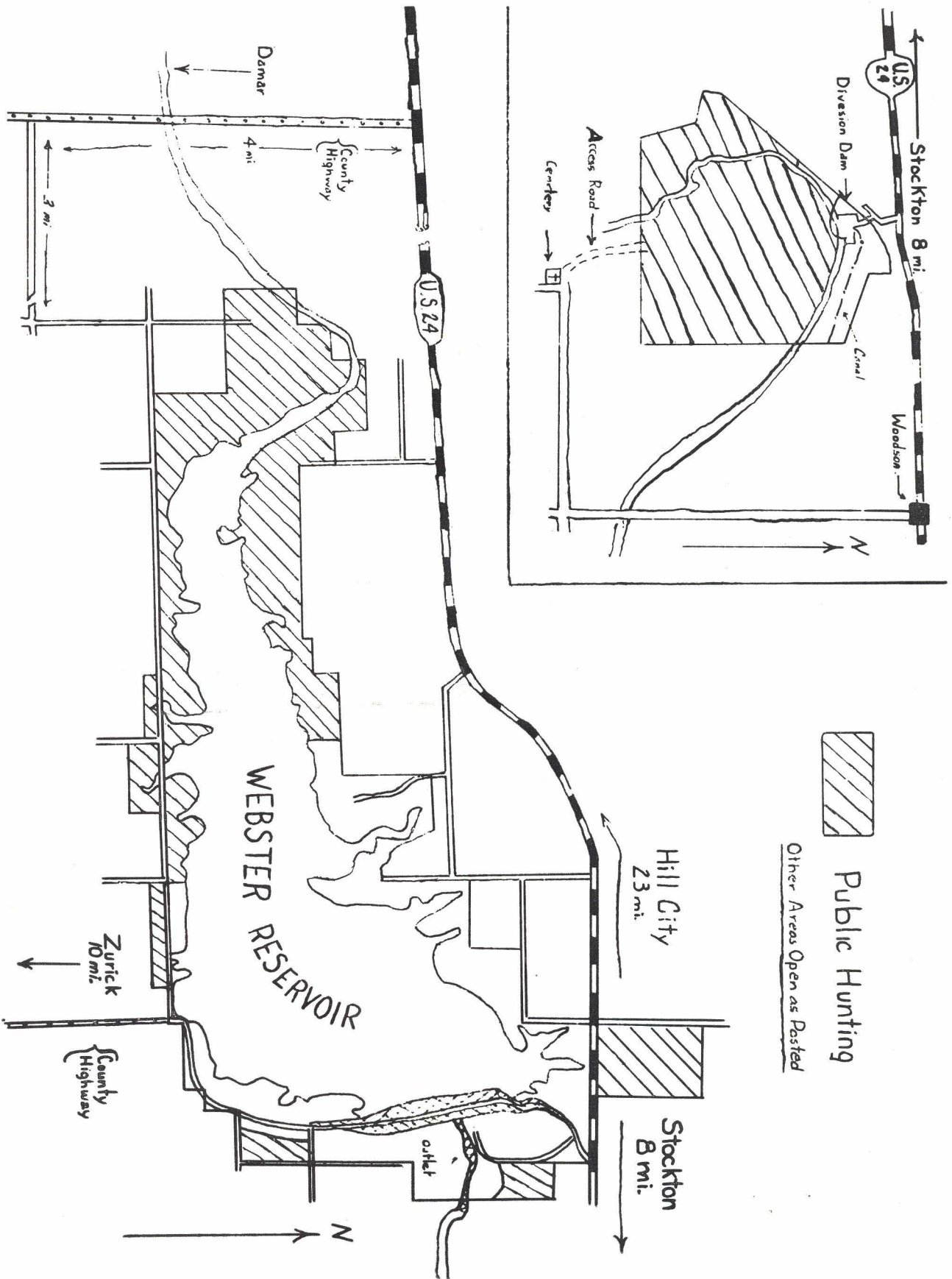
WOODSTON DIVERSION

Woodston diversion is located eight miles east of Stockton and 16 miles east of Webster reservoir. This diversion dam was constructed to divert water for irrigation purposes.

A general plan for this area was executed in 1960 whereby the approximately 210 acres of land and water have been made available to the Commission. Hunting is restricted to the south side of the area, where access is provided (see map).

Although this project is small, such game species as pheasant, doves, rabbits, quail and squirrels are to be found.





25 Years Ago

(Continued from page 17)

mittent streams flow, but it has no outlet. For that reason, farming is impossible or uncertain at best.

As a result of the periodic flooding and drying, it produces a considerable amount of high-quality duck foods. Since it nearly always has some water during the fall and winter, it is an ideal habitat for waterfowl.

The Kansas Fish and Game Commission saw the opportunity to guarantee the sportsmen a place to hunt and something to shoot. Therefore, when Pittman-Robertson funds became available the Bottoms were purchased.

In succeeding years considerable improvements have been added to give better control over the water and to assure maximum management of the waterfowl to give the best opportunity possible to the hunter. Cheyenne Bottoms has about 3,300 acres of permanent water and some 16,000 acres that are flooded during the fall and winter to afford better control of food production and waterfowl harvest.

Cheyenne Bottoms is located about five miles north of Great Bend and is one of the outstanding waterfowl areas in the Central United States. It belongs to the hunters of Kansas because of the Wildlife Restoration Act, enacted 25 years ago.

Because of the act, there are other public hunting areas in Kansas. Three such areas acquired and developed for waterfowl are the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Area, the Republic Waterfowl Area and the Neosho Waterfowl Area.

The Marais des Cygnes is located in Linn county and comprises 6,343 acres of bottom land and pools. The Neosho area is located in Neosho county and comprises nearly 3,000 acres. Republic area is located in Republic county and contains about 2,200 acres.

Other public hunting areas under

development with the assistance of "Pittman-Robertson" funds are the several thousand-acre strip pits which are in Cherokee county and the National Grasslands Area in Morton county. The strip pit area will be valuable when fully developed for waterfowl and upland game. The Grassland area is a large tract of land under the control of the U. S. Forest Service on which co-operative endeavors are underway to improve the range for all game species indigenous to the area.

The area will be open to public hunting and will assure a place where the public can always find a place to hunt without fear of trespassing.

The above-mentioned areas will assure many thousands of acres available to the public and will also assure them a supply of game as well as assurance that the population of no species will be endangered.

To assure proper management of the public hunting areas and gather facts for future management, Kansas has developed a well-trained staff of biologists. These men will work untiringly in finding new areas to develop and devising new management techniques which will give Kansans more game to hunt and a better opportunity to fulfill his desire.

All this because of the "Wildlife Restoration Act," passed just 25 years ago. That act was the turning point in good game management in Kansas.

REMEMBER—Closed season on Canvasbacks and Redheads again this year.

Conservation History Set In Booklet

The U. S. Bureau of Land Management is issuing a special report tracing the history of 150 years of land management in this country. The 32-page booklet offers a concise text and numerous photos, many in color. Topics include the Last Frontier, forest fire control, rangeland management, control of wilderness areas, and a report on the findings of the recently completed Outdoor Recreation Review. Copies of "Our Public Lands" are available for 15 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The booklet commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Homestead Act.

New Magazine Aim of NWF

"Should We Feed the Birds?" "A Blizzard Can Panic Anyone." "The Ice Fishing Is Fine." "Can We Grow Enough Timber?" "There's a World of Beauty in Your Back Yard."

These are titles of just a few of the exciting articles that will appear in the charter issue of *National Wildlife*, a new, high-quality, color magazine for outdoor enthusiasts to be introduced this December by its publisher, the National Wildlife Federation.

National Wildlife will be a 48-page, top-quality magazine with at least two colors used throughout. Sixteen pages of every issue will feature full four-color reproductions of the best wildlife color photography and artwork available.

Details on associate membership in the National Wildlife Federation may be obtained by writing to: Magazine, 1412 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Three Fish Records Set

Three new records for big fish were established in Kansas during the summer. Two old records were surpassed and one new mark has been set forth for anglers to aim at.

Glen Barrett, Caney, landed a 10-pound, 1-ounce largemouth bass from Bee creek lake to become the new record holder in that division. The retiring record holder is Dean Marsh, Emporia, whose 9-pound, 8-ounce largemouth held the record.

Robert Jefferies, Modoc, pushed the state bluegill record up by seven ounces with his catch weighing in at 2 pounds, 5 ounces. A Scott county farm produced the big bluegill. The old record holder is Jack Douglass, Wichita, with a 1-pound, 14-ounce specimen.

Cedar Bluff reservoir yielded the state's first official record white bass. C. L. Olson, Great Bend, took a 3-pounder which is a good mark for other anglers to strive for.

Some existing records, which had not been topped as of August 31, are: Flathead, 64½ pounds; channel, 26½ pounds; black crappie, 4 pounds, 10 ounces; white crappie, 3 pounds, 4 ounces; walleye, 10½ pounds; drum, 27 pounds; carp, 20½ pounds; bullhead, 4 pounds, 3½ ounces; green sunfish, 2 pounds, 2 ounces.

Other fish for which no official entry has been made include: Warmouth, spotted bass, sturgeon, blue catfish, eel, spoonbill and gar.

If you catch a big fish, you can have it certified as a record if it qualifies. The rules for establishing a record catch are as follows: The fish must be taken by legal means in Kansas. Upon landing, it should be measured for length and girth and weighed on scales legal for trade, with at least two witnesses to the weighing.

The fish should be photographed with the angler. Then write the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Pratt, for an entry blank. Fill in the form completely and return to the Commission along with the photo. The fisherman will receive a letter of confirmation when his catch is certified as a record.



Glen Barrett, Caney, with 10-pound, 1-ounce largemouth.



Robert Jefferies, Modoc, with 2-pound, 5-ounce bluegill.



C. L. Olson, Great Bend, with 3-pound white bass.

The challenge to us is nothing less than preservation of our species by restoring and maintaining its essential environment. If we wish to preserve our present way of life we must come to terms with what is left of natural forests, soil, water and wildlife. And it will be on terms laid down by nature, not imposed by us. Any wrong which nature may for centuries commit, she has centuries to repair. But we, whose days are short, must walk warily lest we become the victims of the wasteland we make.—WYOMING WILDLIFE

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