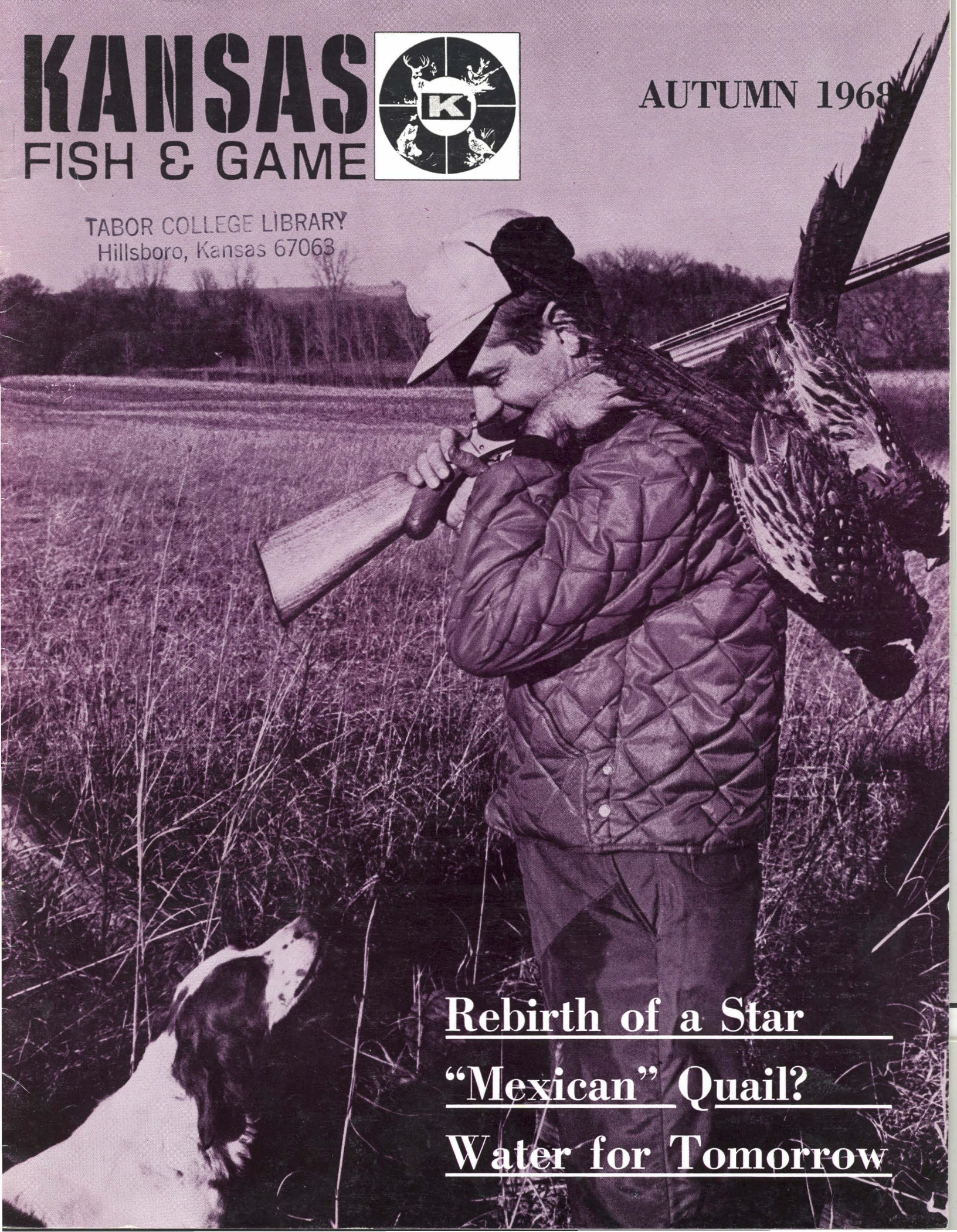


# KANSAS FISH & GAME



AUTUMN 1968

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Rebirth of a Star

“Mexican” Quail?

Water for Tomorrow



# Kansas Fish and Game

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## Cover Photo

To the sportsman, Autumn means only one thing—hunting.

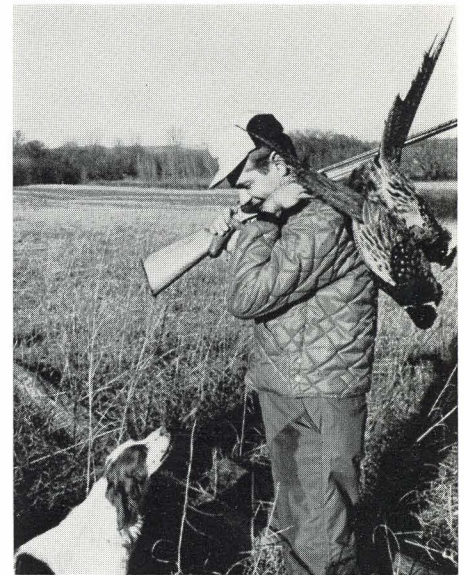
Actually, the Kansas sportsman is blessed with “mixed” seasons in Autumn, because it’s also one of the finest of times to fish in the state. However, most—following the hot months of Summer and the good fishing that Springtime generally offers—are eager to take to the fields in quest of their favorite birds and animals.

In early Autumn, the call goes to doves, squirrels, rabbits, and a dozen animals on the predator and varmint lists.

Then, as time passes, ducks and geese come into their own, to be found on every lake, pond, marsh and most of the streams of the state.

The only “big game” season in the state—deer—is being sought by archers in the meantime, to be followed by the firearms season in early December.

Before that time, however, in November, the long-awaited “Big Three”



seasons are with us—prairie chicken, pheasant and quail.

Therefore, it’s only fitting that we wish you “good hunting” this Autumn, like that enjoyed by Bob Stuewe, editor of the *Alma Signal-Enterprise*, and his good dog, Lady, the day our cover picture was taken. While you’re at it, please hunt safely.—THAYNE SMITH.

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# A "Mexican" Quail Tale

By BOB WOOD  
*Game Biologist*

And so continues what is undoubtedly one of the longest lived wildlife myths to ever tramp the boondocks of Kansas quail hunters' minds. Every year, similar inquiries are received by many Forestry, Fish and Game Commission personnel. Since Mexican quail are a perennial worry for Kansas sportsmen, it is time some facts were brought to light.

First, does our "Mexican" quail tale have any basis in fact? Yes, it does! It all began shortly before 1900 when eastern sportsmen noticed apparent declines in resident quail numbers. In an effort to maintain quail populations, many eastern states, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, to name a few, imported birds from various locations outside their borders. Surprisingly, Kansas was a late-comer in jumping on the bandwagon for quail importations, not getting started until 1926. P. W. Bidwell recently wrote an excellent summary of national activities leading to quail importations from Mexico. Let's look at some facts he revealed.

An idea of importing quail to replenish native populations got started in the late 1800's in northeastern U. S. Gross habitat changes, brought about by increased human populations and pressures on the land, were causing native quail numbers to dwindle. In attempt to remedy the situation, northern industrial states began to have wild quail trapped in more agricultural southern states and brought north for release. Such operations undoubtedly benefited northern hunting to some degree, but southern sportsmen, seeing their favorite game bird being exploited in increasing numbers, soon pressured their legislatures to prohibit trapping and shipping of live quail. By 1925, all interstate shipment of quail was forbidden.

**In 1900, southern imports being increasingly difficult to arrange, a few states began dealing with Mexico. As prohibition of commercial marketing of quail in the U. S. increased, Mexican quail imports also increased.**

Overall, importations from Mexico

Kansas Fish & Game Dept.  
Pratt, Kansas  
GENTLEMEN:

Having hunted quail in central Kansas for many years, I couldn't help noticing what appeared to be a difference in their behavior this last season. They flew farther, hid tighter and generally disappeared more completely than ever before. I have never seen a season, even in the poor ones, when these birds were as hard to dig out, singles, that is, and in all types of weather and times of day. They usually just were not there or could not be found—by man or dog.

Several natives insisted that the state had mixed the species, introduced some sort of Mexican quail and that present day birds are no longer genuine Bobwhites. They look the same to me as ever.

Very truly,

A QUAIL HUNTER

spanned a 50-year period from 1900 to 1950, peaking around 1929 at 90,000 birds a year. The Great Depression put a damper on imports until the late '30's when quail importing again went into high gear with 80,000 birds a year being shipped to U. S. buyers from 1936 to 1940. War years of the '40's pretty well marked an end to Mexican quail "migrations" into the U. S. In 1950, Mexico prohibited further marketing of live quail.

Quail interest in Kansas followed a trend similar to that described for more eastern states. Trapping and transplanting activities were tried during 1923 and 1924. State Fish and Game Warden Bert Doze, in the Fish and Game Department biennial report for 1924, stated in reference to quail and prairie chickens, "Both species show increases this year, especially the quail, which now have a state-wide distribution, owing to the policy of the department in trapping quail where plentiful and shipping them to counties where they had either been shot out, frozen out or



drowned out. This plan has been tried two years. It will be continued."

Trapping and transplanting apparently lost favor soon thereafter. By the end of the next biennium, Warden Doze turned to Mexico as a source for birds. First substantial imports of quail from Mexico were made in 1926 with arrival of 5,078 birds. As an interesting sidelight, these birds were purchased through an individual named "Snake" King of Brownsville, Texas.

Bidwell also mentioned King as, ". . . the self-styled 'world's largest importer of snakes, birds and wild animals.' This colorful figure, on excellent terms with the Mexican authorities, acted as agent for American game commissioners on obtaining export permits for quail, a task requiring ingenuity and diplomatic skill (to provide official status, Maryland and other states made him Honorary Game Commissioner)."

During the late 1920's and early to mid-thirties, nearly all quail stocked by Kansas were obtained from Mexico. As Warden Doze stated in 1928, "The only place in the world where bobwhite quail can be purchased in any large number is Mexico." Kansas' last record of release was in 1934. State-owned game farms began operation in 1935. During the nine years 1926-1934, only about 44,000 quail were released, or an average of less than 5,000 per year.

Now, back to that letter! What impact did Mexican imports have on native quail? First, what are our "native" bobwhite quail? As a species, all bobwhites are the same bird, taxanomically named *Colinus virginianus*. However, taxonomic authorities consider two subspecies of bobwhite occur in Kansas. The Eastern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus virginianus* (sometimes listed as Interior Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus mexicanus*), is found in northeastern Kansas. It is the same subspecies found in Missouri and points east. The Plains Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus taylori*, is found over the remainder of Kansas. Only slight physical characteristics differ between these two subspecies. Sub-specific differences in wildlife generally are a result of distributional-



TARGET IN FLIGHT—Bob Stuewe, Alma, draws gun to shoulder as Bobwhite quail takes flight from tall grass in eastern Kansas hunt. Kansas is considered one of the nation's top quail hunting states.

environmental variations and often are not discernable to an untrained eye. So-called "Mexican" quail imported during the 1920's and 1930's were another subspecies, *Colinus virginianus texanus*, or Texas Bobwhite, a quail native to central and southern Texas as well as Mexico.

**Only the fact they were trapped in Mexico made them "Mexican" quail. Texas Bobwhites are merely a southwestern strain of the same bird found in Kansas. All are Bobwhite Quail.**

To get some idea what influences small annual liberations of quail from Mexico might have on Kansas birds, we must consider both numbers released and numbers of native quail already here. Although no definite population surveys were being made, even as early as 1926, Warden Doze estimated Kansas' quail population as being, ". . . into the millions." With estimated annual populations of one to several million quail, such nominal releases of Mexican birds as 5,000 per year for only nine years, had very little potential effect on Kansas' overall quail population. Each annual release of Mexican birds constituted only one-half of one percent, or less, of existing quail populations. In the thirty years since foreign im-

portations ceased, what little blood line that may have been introduced has long since disappeared. In fact, more recent intensive studies of quail survival indicate without doubt, all traces of Mexican quail disappeared within five years after cessation of stocking.

The fact that bobwhites found in Mexico have evolved into a different subspecies, a subspecies adapted to an environment quite different to that in Kansas, precludes any chance of a lasting effect on native Kansas quail. If the subspecies of bobwhite in Mexico was adapted to Kansas environment, it undoubtedly would be here naturally. Since we do not find it as a native bird, introductions in areas where it competed with more adapted members of the same species were futile and had no lasting effect. State Fish and Game Warden Strong alluded to that fact as early as 1934.

**Why does the "Mexican" quail myth persist? Because every year, a few hunters will encounter birds that do not hold for a dog, are small in size, may be off-colored in some way, or in one manner or another do not conform to what they consider are normal bobwhites. Naturally, the easiest explanation for such discrepancies is to blame "pol-**



lution" of native birds by Mexican imports. After all, hasn't everybody been saying so for thirty-odd years?

A real cause for misfit birds encountered each hunting season is difficult to pin down. Each instance would have to be investigated, which for all practical purposes, is impossible. Nearly all reports of "Mexican" quail are received well after a hunter's experience with them. Actual examination of birds in question or conditions under which they are taken is seldom feasible.

Although it is impossible now to explain each particular "Mexican" quail incident during thirty years past, we can state present Fish and Game Department opinion based on knowledge gained about bobwhites over the past quarter-century. Fish and Game Department technicians are certain that most so-called "Mexican" quail shot in Kansas are young birds which have not attained their full growth, which takes about 22 weeks. Quail from an age of four weeks or so, can fly well enough to be vulnerable to hunting. However, until they are fully plumaged and have learned all the tricks of their trade, young quail react just as is described in most "Mexican" quail incidents. Other factors also play important roles in quail behavior, such as environment or habitat conditions, hunting pressure, or weather conditions. In reality, unusual quail behavior may not be abnormal, but actually normal reactions under unusual influencing conditions.

Along with weird behavior, coloration can be a most unreliable characteristic to use as evidence of "Mexican" quail lineage. Pure strain bobwhites may have color variations from pure white to blonde to chocolate brown. Age even makes a difference. Young birds are lighter in color than adults. Genetically, color variation alone in wild birds can usually be traced to mutation, not hybridization.

What it all boils down to is this. Those limited numbers of bobwhites imported from Mexico had very little, if any, effect on Kansas' quail population from 1926 to 1934, let alone now, over 30 years after the last bird was turned out.

There is no more fitting summary

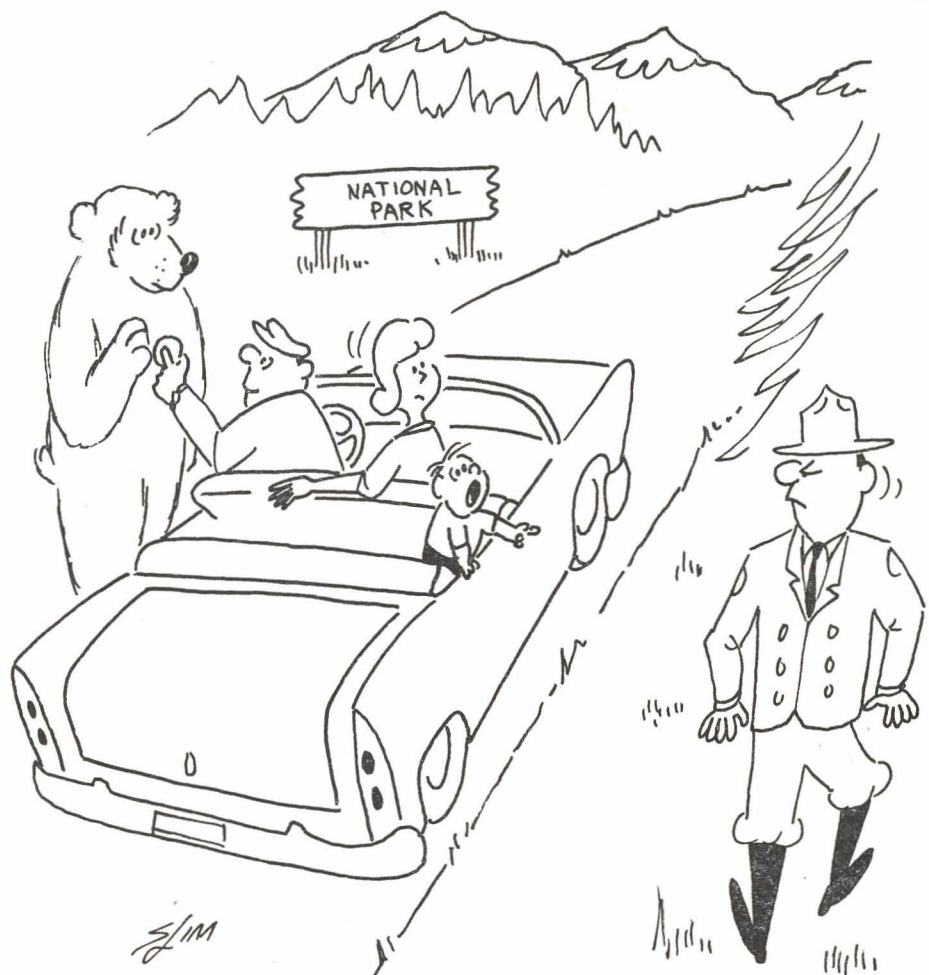
and conclusion drawn than was penned in 1934 by State Fish and Game Warden W. G. Strong in the Fifth Biennial Report of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

"The passing of each year has brought a noticeable decrease in our supply of upland game birds. This is particularly true of the native bobwhite quail, which as everyone knows, was at one time in abundance in Kansas. This was a pleasing condition, but one which was not, unfortunately, permitted to continue, thereby forcing the Commission to resort to the importation of the Mexican variety of bobwhite in an attempt to bring our quail coverts back to a normal condition. This attempt was, in a measure, successful, but the desired results were not obtained, and while we decline to enter into a discussion of the merits or demerits of the Mexican bird, we do know that many authorities are of the opinion that the native species has suffered deterioration through the planting of the Mexican bird. The same authorities, with justification, contend that the Mexican quail is unable to withstand the rigors of the northern winters and have, in most instances, passed from existence shortly after their introduction in many localities. This, however, is not the primary cause of the present condition of our quail supply, as

the scarcity of this bird is not a condition confronting Kansas alone, but a problem confronting every state in this country, where agricultural activities have been extensive and farm lands cleared of hedge rows and other natural protective coverts."

**In his summation, Warden Strong hit upon ineffectiveness of Mexican quail importations and the true cause of most game declines, habitat destruction. Native quail undoubtedly did suffer, ". . . deterioration through the planting of the Mexican birds."**

It was, however, deterioration because of increased competition for living space, not a weakening of bloodlines. As farm-land hedge rows, ". . . and other natural protective coverts," were cleared, competition for quail living space increased and quail numbers decreased. There was little gained but experience for nine years of "Mexican" quail releases. Could we not learn a lesson now from those nine years of experience???



"Hey, Dad, can we feed this one, too?"



## The Answer to Pollution - - - -

# Water Quality Control .

By LEROY E. LYON

A Topeka businessman hurriedly brushes his teeth before leaving for work. It never occurs to him that he has used someone's reclaimed dishwater. Halfway across the state, a Wichita housewife shampoos her hair in water which only a short time ago had been used to cool engines in an industrial plant.

Such is the way of life in our highly technological age where abundant supplies of quality water are necessary for our benefit and comfort. It has been said that we need water more than any other single substance, except air. But most of us seem unaware of where our water comes from and unconcerned about where it goes, provided, of course, that we have enough to meet our own personal needs.

Local wells or nearby springs served as the first public water supplies of most Kansas towns and cities, but as their needs increased many communities turned to nearby streams for their water supply.

While watercourses have been important as supply sources, they have also long been used as giant disposal systems carrying away man's domestic wastes. Through the years a philosophy developed that another important value of a river was its use as a dumping ground for all the waste, filth and unwanted things found in a community of humans.

Because water possesses a tremendous capacity for self-purification, we have counted heavily on the capacity of our rivers and streams to dilute contaminants and on the ability of water to purify itself.

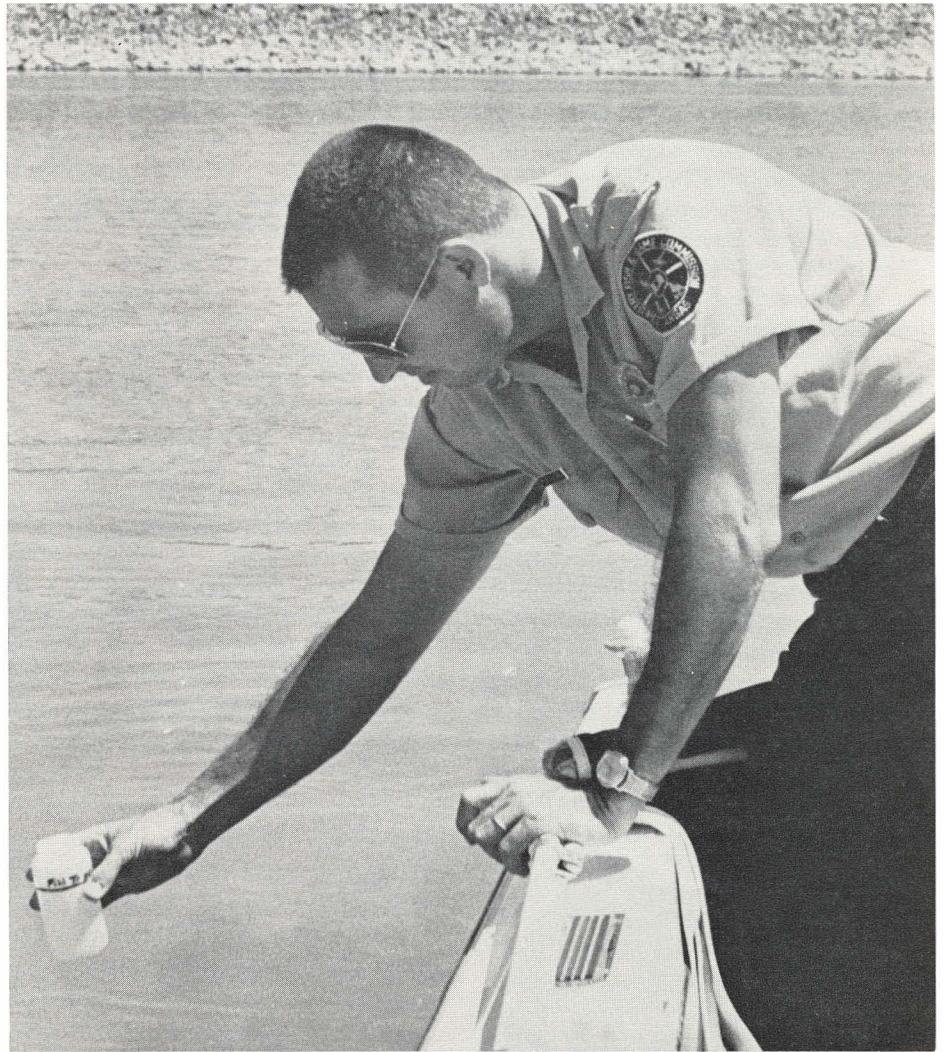
But there are obvious limits to the amounts and kinds of foreign matter that can be handled by the "digestive processes" of water—limits constantly being narrowed by our sophisticated standard of living.

During recent years the number of water users and the volume of water used for industrial, municipal and agricultural purposes has in-

creased enormously. According to figures compiled by the Water Resources Board, Kansas withdrew almost 400 billion gallons of water

from streams, lakes and wells during 1965 and projected figures predict a continued growth in water demands during the next several years.

While demands for water have increased significantly, discharge of wastes has grown in alarming proportions. Most of the water used for



**WATER QUALITY EXAMINED**—Frank Hendricks, Ellsworth, State Game Protector, takes water sample from Kanopolis Reservoir—one of many taken by game protectors in cooperation with State Department of Health.



# A Monumental Task

agricultural, industrial and municipal purposes, is discharged or eventually finds its way back into streams carrying with it all the waste products resulting from the use of modern conveniences. In actuality only a small portion of the water is consumed or removed by its use.

For many years the total flow in most of the state's major streams has included waste water that has been returned to streams by some upstream user. During periods of low natural flow, the entire flow of some streams may consist of water that has been used at least once or perhaps several times.

**An ever expanding demand for water combined with a high return of used water to the streams makes it imperative that waste waters be re-used, particularly since our supply of fresh water is limited.**

It has been estimated that the largest total dependable fresh water supply this country can ever hope to have is about 650 billion gallons per day. Presently, about 400 billion gallons of water are used daily and it is estimated that by the year 2000 we will need, as a nation, more than 1,000 billion gallons per day. To meet such needs we must preserve the quality of every gallon of water so it can be safely re-used several times over.

Population growth and distribution, industrial and general economic expansion and agricultural production have contributed to the water quality problem by drastically reducing distances between upstream waste discharges and downstream water users. Thus, even allowing for the stream's natural self-purifying ability, it is no longer possible to dump untreated wastes into watercourses without causing harmful pollution and endangering a multitude of other uses.

Water, one of our most valuable resources, is not only essential for

industrial, municipal and rural domestic needs but is also playing an increasingly important role in the outdoor recreational activities of the Sunflower State where a bulging population is flocking to the outdoors in pursuit of water-associated sports. Clean, safe water is necessary for swimming, boating, fishing, water skiing and other body contact recreation.

**Because of this multiple water use, it has become necessary to impose standards of quality for water in streams and lakes and to regulate and treat all waste discharges so that the capacity of streams to assimilate wastes will not be exceeded. To achieve this, an intensive water quality program has been initiated, not only in Kansas, but nationwide as well.**

Such a program is necessary not only to conserve the state's water resources but to protect the many existing and future beneficial uses of water.

The foremost objectives of water quality control are to protect the health and safety of the public and to maintain and conserve the quality of water for all legitimate uses. Admittedly, such controls, regardless of how they are imposed, protect certain water uses and restrict others. For instance, water used for industrial cooling may be objectionable if the heated water is of sufficient volume to increase the temperature of the stream when it is discharged. Such a heated stream loses quality necessary to support fish and other aquatic life.

In past years pollution control was largely a public health problem. The basic need to protect public health is more important than ever, but today it is recognized as equally necessary to protect our natural heritage of fish, aquatic life, and wildlife; to make possible water-based recreation; and

to satisfy the needs of our cities and national economy. Today, the major role of pollution control is to make possible the full use of our resources.

**In Kansas, water quality control began in 1907 with the passage of the Water and Sewage Law. Responsibility for water pollution control was placed and continues to be vested in the Kansas Department of Health.**

Through the years the department has undertaken a host of programs aimed at the prevention and abatement of water pollution from a wide variety of sources. Waste collection and treatment facilities have been required to control municipal, industrial and agricultural effluents and rigid standards have been set to prevent gross abuse of the state's water resources. The current level of control has been achieved by active pollution control programs tailored to specific needs of a host of operations and by the expenditure of tens of millions of dollars.

Even though most of the pollution sources are currently receiving a satisfactory degree of treatment, an alert and continuous pollution control program is essential to cope with new sources and types of pollution which are constantly developing with an expanding and developing economy.

To accomplish this, information is needed about the quality characteristics of streams, lakes and other sources of water supply. The primary quality characteristics of concern are classified as chemical, physical and biological.

**Chemical characteristics of primary concern are dissolved minerals, gases and oxygen. The amount of dissolved oxygen is especially important because it is this relatively small amount of oxygen that gives life to waters. If oxygen is absent, waters become incapable of**



supporting useful plant and animal life and serving human needs.

In addition to the chemical quality aspects, physical and biological quality characteristics are also of prime importance to potential water users. Physical characteristics include odor, taste, turbidity, color and temperature while the most important biological characteristics in water quality control are those relating to the various kinds of organisms found in water, their growth and their function or reducing or stabilizing wastes which are continually introduced into the water resources by nature and man.

To obtain this chemical, physical and biological information, a Water Quality Surveillance Program has been initiated in Kansas and is currently in operation on all major streams and lakes within the state.

This program, started in 1961 with the cooperation of the U. S. Geological Survey, has grown into an intricate, complex network of sampling stations, both intrastate and interstate in nature.

Currently the intrastate water quality network consists of 77 sampling stations of which seven are sampled daily, 64 monthly and six quarterly. In addition, 29 designated body contact recreation areas are monitored twice a month throughout the recreation season for bacteriological quality. At the larger reservoirs, three samples are taken, one each from the upper, lower and middle areas of the lake while at smaller reservoirs and lakes, such as Kanopolis, two samples are taken, one each from the upper and lower ends. The samples are then sent immediately to the Health Department's laboratory for examination.

In addition to the regular sampling network, intensive investigations of individual streams and river basins are being conducted to more thoroughly evaluate the quality characteristics of the entire basin's water resources. The water which flows into a lake reflects everything that happens on the land within the drainage basin or watershed. Correction of a pollution problem in a river, therefore, must consist of an integrated approach that will include corrective measures for all

sources within the basin. Such basin investigations commonly involve 50 to 100 sampling stations and generally take one or two years for completion.

In compliance with the Federal Water Quality Act of 1965, the Department of Health established an interstate water quality sampling network similar to the intrastate system. This interstate network consists of 36 stations established on all interstate streams as they enter and leave Kansas. These stations are maintained and sampled cooperatively with the border states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado and Nebraska.

"We have 10,000 miles of flowing streams where we feel we're obligated to maintain good quality water," said Mel Gray, Topeka, assistant director of the Health Department's Environmental Health Services.

Admittedly, the task of keeping such a continuous vigil on the state's water resources is a monumental, time-consuming job requiring efforts of many individuals. Even though the State Board of Health is principally responsible for pollution control activities, many parts of state government have an interest in the water

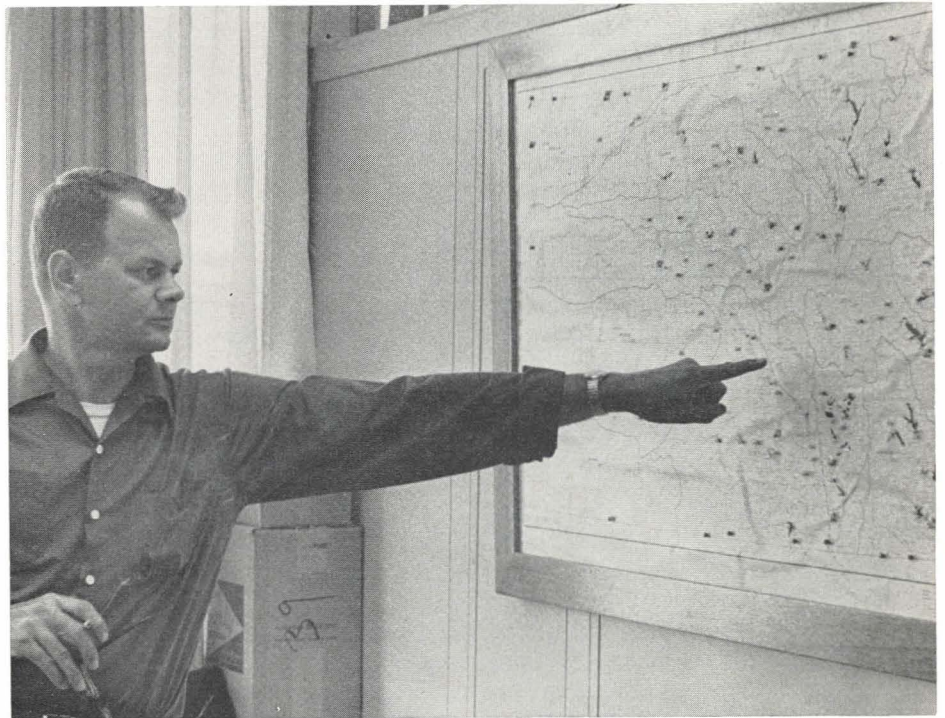
pollution problem and as a result are working closely with the Health Department in a cooperative effort.

Because the Health Department lacks available personnel to collect samples at many of the sampling stations and since the Kansas Fish and Game Commission is concerned about the destruction of recreational and wildlife values which accompanies water pollution, game protectors, who are assigned to reservoirs and other larger water areas, are conducting the sampling.

Although their efforts are not dramatic, their cooperation in combating the growth of water pollution in Kansas is a classic example of the combined efforts needed to keep the state's water resources clean and healthy for all its needs.

While much has been done to prevent the pollution of water in Kansas and even though a constant vigil is being maintained on the quality of water, every individual Kansan must assume his own share of the responsibility for preventing pollution.

Every man, woman and child has an obligation to cooperate in making our water supplies clean and safe—today and tomorrow.

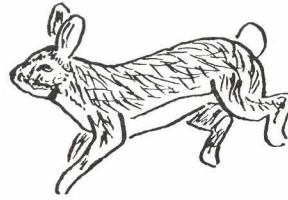
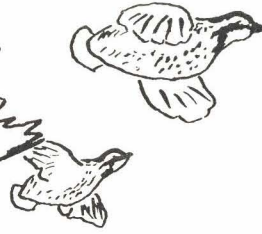


MONITORING SYSTEM—Mel Gray, Topeka, assistant director of the State Health Department's Environmental Health Services, examines vast network of sampling stations located across state. Complex system provides constant vigil on quality of water in Kansas.





By MARVIN SCHWILLING



The days shorten, leaves begin to color and glow, the fields turn brown. Wildlife that stirred with little activity during the long hot days—not long past—now are restless, figity and very active. These creatures of the habitat no longer seek shelter from the mid-day heat but now feed almost continuously on the abundant food of Fall. Songbirds have grown new feathers to patch up their ragged summertime moult. Rabbits seem to be everywhere and in the pink of condition. They frolic playfully in the cool of morning and evening.

Sandhill cranes, by the thousands, have been passing over the area daily now for several days, leisurely moving south in large lazy circles. Their never-ending trilling call notes can be heard even before they come in sight.

Sixty-three Canada geese have arrived at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area. As they circled wide over the area, before final touchdown, they received a loud rousing welcome from our resident flock. The air was calm and the loud greeting could be heard at the headquarters, a mile and a half distant. These first migrants as usual are small Canada geese and banding has shown us they come to central Kansas from the far north arctic nesting grounds near Baffin Island in the Canadian Northwest Territory.

These, the smallest of the Canada geese that occur in Kansas, are the first of at least seven subspecies to migrate through this area. If the fall migration is a normal one, some of each subspecies will visit here before Thanksgiving. Usually only a few small flocks of this far north nesting goose, *Branta canadensis baffinensis*, visits here. Some of the immature geese will weigh less than two-and-one-half pounds—considerably smaller than a mallard duck.

Later this month the Hutchins goose will move in, *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*, and will have a few larger short necked "bulldog geese," *Branta canadensis parvipes* with them. "Hutch" numbers some years reach 10,000 birds for a time, but as the winter worsens they will move further south.

The lesser Canadas will arrive later to add to the group, *Branta canadensis interior*, with some, *Branta canadensis subarcticus*, arriving about the same time.

The "honkers," *Branta canadensis moffitti*, and the giant Canadas, *Branta canadensis maximi*, will not arrive until just before Thanksgiving and will stay the winter. All but the "honkers" will move further south. Ironically the smallest Canada goose nests the furthest north and winters the furthest south. While the largest of these geese nests the furthest south and winters the furthest north.

Banding has shown that the big geese come from three main flocks. Two of these are recent man re-established flocks. The largest is a flock of "honkers" that Ducks Unlimited has re-introduced and developed on Waterhen Marsh and surrounding

area near Kinisto, Saskatchewan, Canada. The other is the Waubay flock of giant Canada geese that has been established by the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern South Dakota. The original flock of big geese comes to us from The Pas, along the Saskatchewan River deltas in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Experience has shown that the Canada goose responds well to management and it appears that nesting habitat near Kinisto is adequate for possibly ten times the number of geese now occupying it. Also winter habitat could support many more birds. Whether these flocks increase to capacity depends largely on the hunting harvest permitted on the nesting and wintering grounds.

A hunter brought a fulvous tree duck to the check station at the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Management Area recently. When he learned he had bagged a duck far out of its normal range he graciously gave it to us so that it might be preserved and placed in one of our state museums. This is a duck of the southern coastal marshes of Florida, Texas and Mexico. We know that they have remained throughout the summer at Cheyenne Bottoms three summers now. Could it be they are attempting to nest in this inland cattail marsh and establish themselves in central Kansas?

#### NOTICE TO READERS

**Kansas Fish and Game Magazine is distributed free to Kansas residents, upon written request. Complete name, address and zip code number should accompany any correspondence relative to the publication. Anyone moving to a new address must notify the Information-Education Division, Kansas Fish and Game Commission, Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas (67124) if they desire to continue receiving the magazine.**



# *Fish Race to Record*

The summer of 1968 could well be remembered as a time of "big" fish records in Kansas.

For a while, they came fast and furious.

Actually, only three records were involved, but five new records on one species—the Northern Pike—were set.

The three new records include:

A 27-pound, 8-ounce American Carp, caught on May 18 at Lake Miola near Paola, by Milford Whitney of Paola. The fish measured 37 inches in length and 24 inches in girth, and was taken on rod and reel with worms for bait. Whitney's whopper topped a 24-pound, 9-ounce specimen taken by Harvey W. Haas, Junction City, from Clark's Creek on June 18, 1963.

Floyd Stone, Belleville, pulled a new record walleye — weighing 10 pounds, 9 ounces from Lovewell Reservoir on June 1. Fishing with Dr. E. Raymond Galvin of Concordia, he took the prized fish on a Prescott Spinner and minnow, at the end of a 30-pound test line on rod and reel. His catch was one ounce larger than the previous record of 10-8 by Roy Laster, Hutchinson, taken from the Kanopolis Reservoir outlet on April 2, 1961.

The Northern Pike record, now a whopping 16-pounds, 10-ounces is presently held by Clyde A. Vernon of Oberlin. It was caught from Norton Reservoir, July 2, on rod, reel and Hellbender lure. The previous record was 16-9, by Wayne McCabe of Manhattan. McCabe's catch was the fourth record Northern from Council Grove this year.

No doubt, there are many state record fish swimming in Kansas waters, awaiting the lure or bait of some lucky angler to place them in the record books. Other official records include Largemouth Black Bass, 11 pounds, three ounces; Spotted (Kentucky) Bass, 3 pounds, 12½ ounces; Channel Catfish, 32 pounds; Flathead Catfish, 86 pounds, 3 ounces; Bullhead, 4 pounds, 3½ ounces; White Bass, 5 pounds, 4 ounces; Paddlefish, 26 pounds; Gar, 28 pounds; Bluegill, 2



**NORTON NORTHERN**—Clyde A. Vernon, Oberlin, displays his state record Northern Pike, weighing 16 pounds, 10 ounces and caught from Norton Reservoir.



**RECORD CARP**—Lake Miola, near Paola, yielded this record 27-pound, 8-ounce carp to Milford Whitney of Paola, on May 18. Fish was taken on rod and reel. (Bob Harrington photo.)



pounds, 5 ounces; Green Sunfish, 2 pounds, 2 ounces; Drum, 27 pounds; Sturgeon, 4 pounds; Buffalo, 29 pounds, 14 ounces; Black Crappie, 4 pounds, 10 ounces and White Crappie, 4 pounds, ¼ ounce.

To officially register a fish as a new state record, the angler should follow these steps:

- (1) Weigh the fish as soon as possible on scales legal for trade (grocery store or meat market) in the presence of at least two disinterested witnesses. Measure the fish in length and girth (around the middle).
- (2) Have a photo taken of the fish and fisherman. A clear, sharp photo for the purposes of identification is necessary.
- (3) Write the Fish and Game Commission (Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas 67124) for an official registration form, to be filled out and returned immediately. It's desirable that you preserve your fish by freezing or mounting until after certification of the record.

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Up to 99 percent of the Bald Eagle's diet consists of fish.

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An Australian relative of the common earthworm ranges in length from 4 to 11 feet.

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Female eels require from 8 to 12 years to reach adult spawning age.

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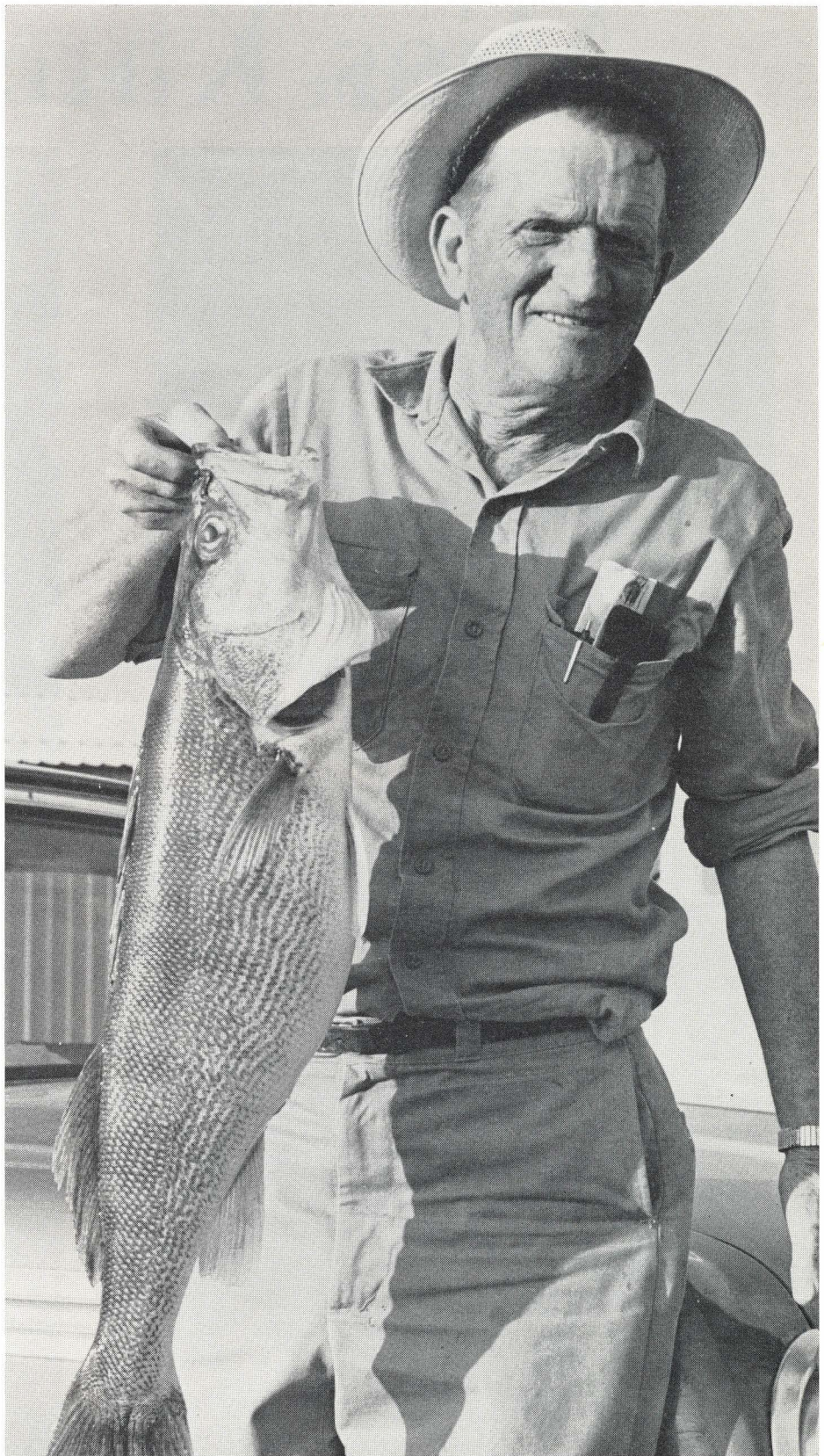
Fish with forked tails are the fastest swimmers.

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Sea lillies are really animals, but they look like the plant for which they are named.

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Hawks are equipped with eyes that have been called the most highly developed organs of vision in the world. They can see at least eight times as well as the most "hawk-eyed" human.



**ONE FOR THE RECORD**—Floyd Stone, Belleville contractor, is all happiness while displaying a 10-pound, 9-ounce walleye he pulled from Lovewell Reservoir for a new state record.



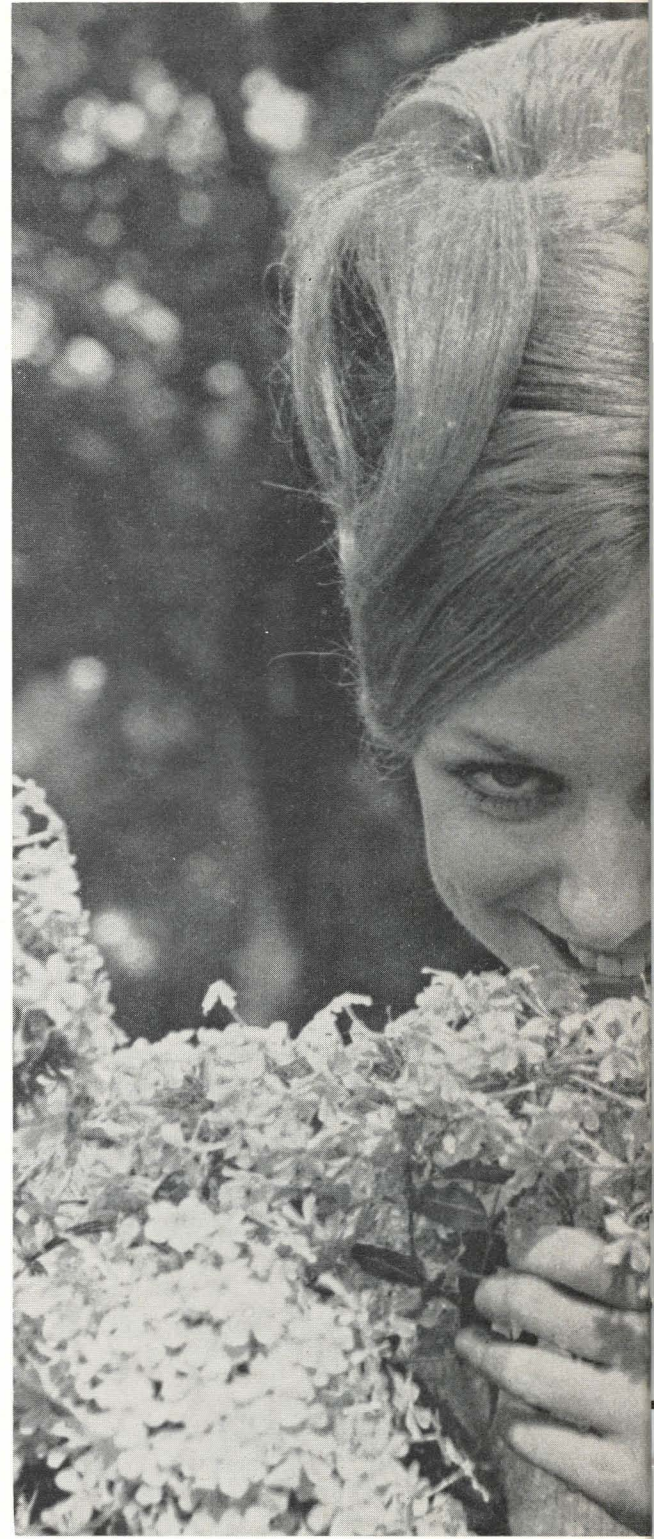
# Miss Kansas Visits



Charm and poise which brought her Miss Kansas title shines through for Jane even when she isn't posing or modeling. Here she chats with friends during photo-taking sessions on Commission grounds.



Mounted American Eagle in Fish and Game Commission museum seems to voice approval of visit by Miss Kansas following annual Miss Kansas pageant at Pratt.



PRETTY AS A PICTURE—Miss Kansas of 1969, pretty Jane B. Smith, while looking at flowers growing near the Fish and Game Commission grounds. (Photo by Thayne Smith.)



# s Fish and Game



of Parsons, provides a tantalizing smile for the photographer  
quarters at Pratt. (Fish and Game Commission photos by



Beauty of Miss Kansas graces Fish and Game headquarters building,  
following light rain. Pretty Jane is a sophomore at Pittsburg State  
College.



There's no doubt, from her winning charm and poise, that Miss Kansas is  
a real "swinger." Swing is on playground at Fish and Game headquarters.



# Rebirth of a Star

By THAYNE SMITH

There's a new star on the Kansas horizon. Its beams are just beginning to be seen by citizens of the state, and it may not gain great prominence for another decade. Slowly, surely, however, it is inching its way into the sky, and undoubtedly its brilliance will become more pronounced with each year.

No ordinary star this, because it has shined before, in the same place.

It was there when the pioneers first trekked across the rolling hills and plains of the Kansas Territory. It was even there at the turn of the century, but with increasing population it started to dwindle.

With booming cities replacing cowtowns, and row crops replacing sod, the star faded for several decades.

Then, suddenly, it started to rise from the dormant a few years ago, only a twinkle at first, then with renewed vigor.

In the last two years, its rebirth has been assured.

**It's a strange star, really, partially because of its unusual history, and it has no glamorous name. For the lack of something better, it's called the "hunting" star.**

I think you'll find its history interesting.

The "hunting" star has been around since great glaciers and mighty oceans deserted what is now Kansas, and left it with many forms of plant, animal and bird life.

Most prominent, of course, were the herds of big buffalo, which were to play so vital a role in the state's history and settlement, as the white man replaced Indians, and rails succeeded trails.

It's not a heralded fact, but the pioneers who crossed Kansas and first settled within her boundaries knew the "hunting" star for other reasons, too. There was more than buffalo on the plains and prairies and in the rolling hills.

In its early days, the state (then just a territory) abounded in such game as prairie chicken, quail, deer, antelope and wild turkey. Our ancestors who settled the land, and

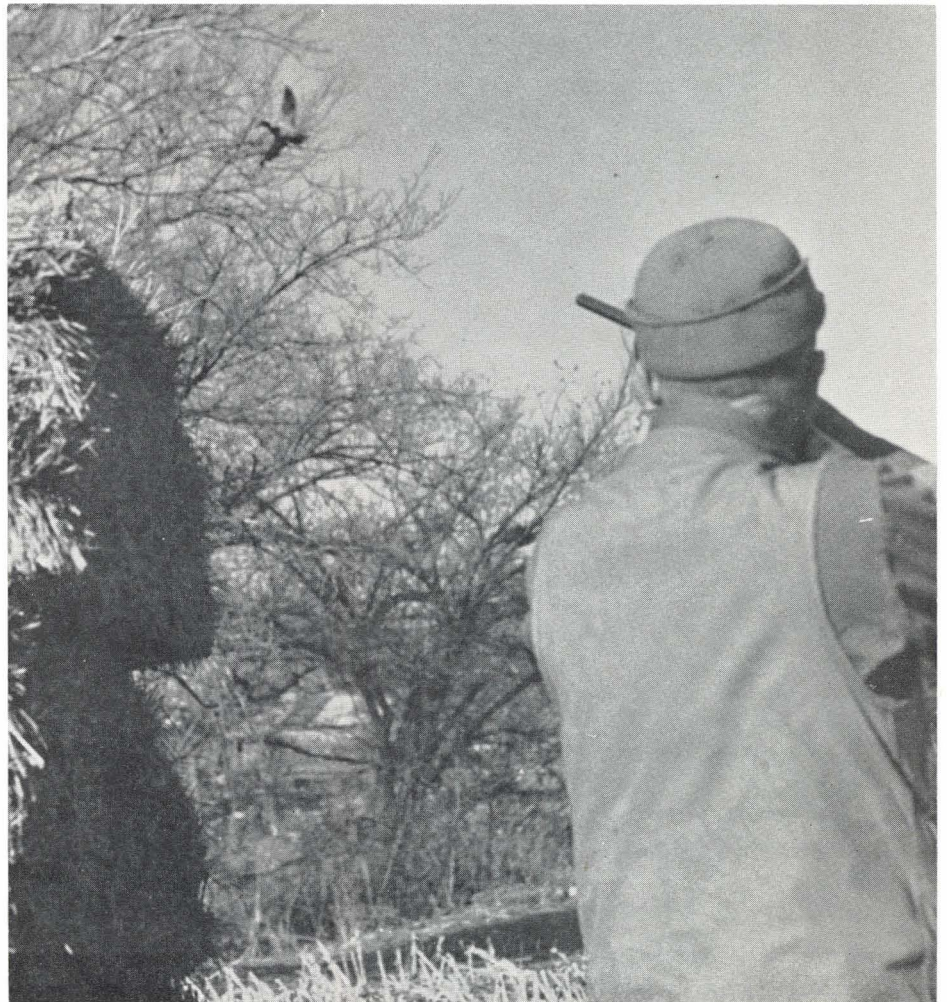
staked their claims on thousands of homesteads, found these birds and animals abundant, and, unfortunately, slaughtered them in great numbers, just as professional hunters did the buffalo.

They gave no thought to the fact that the demand was exceeding the supply, and that such vast numbers of

these species would not exist forever. For decades the slaughter continued, until a few wise men were awakened to the fact that wild turkeys were only seldom seen in the breaks and along the streams.

Without warning, the big herds of deer seemed to go the way of the buffalo, and shortly after the turn of the century, deer were termed "extinct" in Kansas.

**Antelope, it has been proven many times over, can not condone civilization. They must have wide**



**MOMENT OF DECISION**—Clelland Cole, St. John, prominent outdoor writer and sportsman, takes aim at a mallard drake flying over his blind during last fall's fine duck season. Kansas is considered a duck hunter's paradise.



open spaces in which to romp, and live and reproduce. As the state became more and more settled, and cultivated and grazed by domestic animals, the antelope became fewer and fewer.

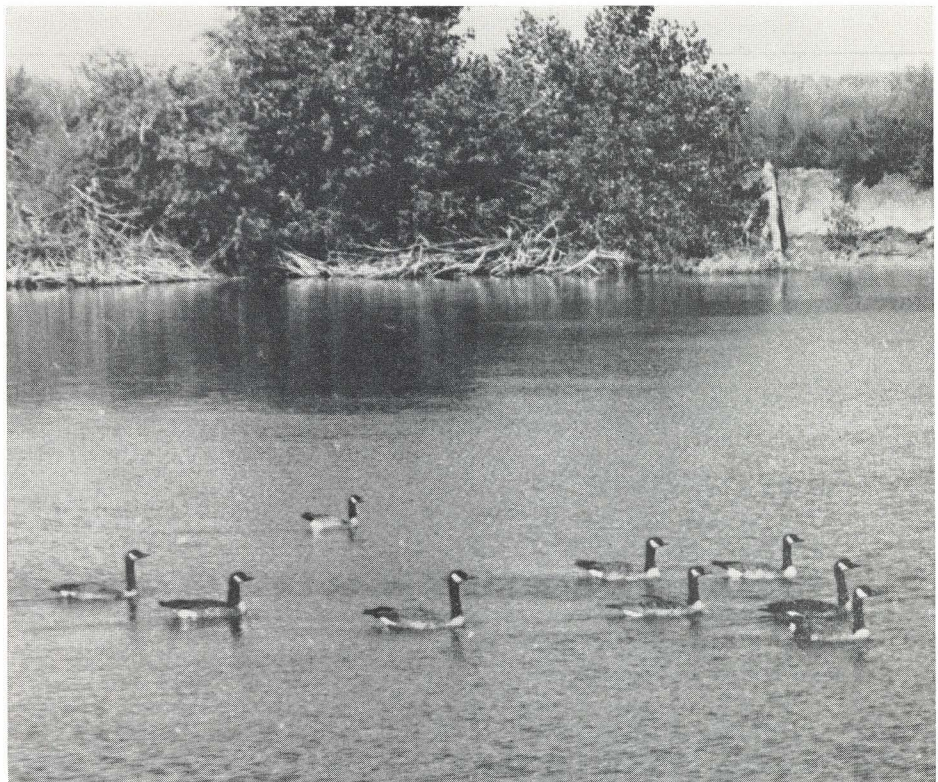
Civilization took its toll of prairie chicken, too. The tall prairie grass which is required for its well-being yielded to the early-day plows, and broods declined. Only a few isolated flocks of the lesser prairie chicken (the smallest species of the prairie chicken family) remained on the plains of western Kansas when the Dirty Thirties hit. The repeated dust storms nearly wiped them out, piling dirt high above their prairie-grass homes.

In the east, the greater prairie chicken, at home in the tall grasses of the famous Flint Hills, faced enemies equally as powerful. First, the plow turned many of the green hills into brown, row-crop patches. Secondly, giant herds of cattle chewed on the rich, delicate grasses and kept them from reaching heights which provided good cover and nesting areas for prairie chickens. Third, and most important, the practice of burning the sprawling pastures started, spurned by the mistaken belief that burning hurries spring growth of the grass by eliminating dead stems from the year before. For years, prairie chickens were virtually unseen in the state.

**Even the flighty Bobwhite quail, the smallest and most delicate of our hunted bird species, suffered. Woody hills and draws were cleared to make room for more crops. Until a few years ago, no one ever thought of leaving a few rows of grain standing to assist them in winter survival.**

Fortunately, unlike the buffalo, antelope, deer and wild turkey, the prairie chicken and quail did prevail to a degree.

At the same time, in those early days, Kansas was blessed—even in times of drouth—with some giant lagoons, a few running streams, and some excellent marshes which appealed to thousands of ducks, geese and other types of waterfowl which migrate from North to South and return each year.



**GLIDING GRACE**—Flock of wild Canada geese, favorite target each winter of many Kansas waterfowlers, glide across lake in Central Kansas.

Even here, our forefathers and those brave pioneers who slowly expanded civilization from east to west, took a heavy toll—leaving a mark that flashes as a scar on the land of the great outdoors. Market hunters killed and sold ducks and geese by the thousands, not only in winter as the giant flocks flew South, but in spring, just before the hatching seasons, as they winged back north. There were no limits, no regulations, and no restrictions of any kind on their taking.

Fortunately, they too prevailed to a degree.

With the end of World War I, the minds and brains of some wise men free to pursue subjects other than destruction—governmental units started taking a new look at wildlife numbers, and problems. Conservation of wildlife and resources, for the first time, became more than just a passing thought.

In Kansas, progress was slow, but it was progress. At first, laws were passed to eliminate the market and “meat” hunters, and to afford some degree of protection for the numbers of wildlife—especially ducks, geese,

prairie chickens, and quail—which remained.

Finally, governmental groups charged with conservation of wildlife came into being. The forerunner of our present Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission was formed. Soil Conservation and similar agencies were started, and charged with conserving natural resources. Many times, however, well-intended programs were mired in first one thing and then another—lack of funds, politics, absence of cooperation between governmental units, and many more.

Still, some progress was made.

Introduction of foreign and exotic species of wildlife was tried in many Kansas areas. Such things as “Mexican” quail, Hungarian partridge and Chinese Ringneck pheasants were turned loose in great numbers throughout the state. Of all, only the Ringneck was successful, and of course is found today in Kansas in thousands.

In those days, 20 years ago (and even in some minds today), it was believed that the only way to have large numbers of birds or animals





**MALLARDS GALORE** find Kansas home each year, and like these, often congregate on a small stream after ponds and lakes freeze over.

was to stock them—raise them in pens or on farms, then turn them to the wild.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. It has long since been proven, through years of biological and scientific research and experimentation, that wildlife cannot be stockpiled. Equally important, it has been demonstrated time and again that stocking of wildlife in a strange habitat is a waste of time and money.

Today, as a result of trial-and-error, modernistic approaches are being made in the establishments and re-establishments of many wildlife species in the Sunflower State.

Equally important, proven game management practices have been initiated throughout the state, through cooperation of many governmental agencies, farmers and ranchers, and private organizations.

Wisely, the Fish and Game Commission has been, for many years, a self-supporting, "fee" agency. It is supported solely by hunting and fishing license funds, and by federal aid programs derived from taxes on fishing tackle, sporting arms and ammunition.

The Commission—in cooperation with various government units such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, which have constructed more than 20

large reservoirs in Kansas, has leased thousands of acres of land for game management and recreation purposes.

Other lands have been set aside in the state, too, by other agencies as aids to wildlife. An example is the sprawling 107,000-acre Cimarron National Grassland of extreme Southwest Kansas. Purchased by the U. S. De-

partment of Agriculture after the dust storms of the 1930's, the land was highly subject to blowing. It has been reclaimed through the planting of various types of grasses and woody cover, and is now a haven for wildlife—wild turkey, deer, pheasant, both Bobwhite and Scaled quail, and many others.

With modern programs, and re-establishments of desirable habitat—some species of wildlife which were once abundant, then considered "extinct," are being returned.

The most successful in this category has been the deer. Through restocking, protection and management, and with an assist from modern farming methods, deer have made an astounding comeback in Kansas in recent years. The state had its second successful deer hunting season last winter, with 376 taken by 2318 licensed archers, and a total of 2139 killed by 5806 firearms hunters.

Officials of the Fish and Game Commission estimate that the state's total deer population today stands at more than 50,000, after being nil less than 20 years ago. In addition, the number is increasing by almost 30 percent last year, despite the hunter harvest. Orderly harvest, in fact, is



**KANSAS "NEWCOMER"**—Plentiful in pioneer days, and again becoming numerous under a vigorous Fish and Game Commission stocking and management program is the wild turkey in Kansas. These, in Barber County, are the Rio Grande species.



demand, to keep the number of deer under control and to keep them from becoming a menace to farms and crops.

In recent years, antelope have been successfully re-introduced to the state, also. Large herds now can be seen in Wallace and Sherman counties in the western part of the state, and in Barber, Edwards and Ellsworth counties in Central Kansas. Because of the lack of "wide-open" spaces, and fences which contain the animals, antelope are never expected to be as abundant in the future as they once were. Limited hunting seasons may be offered in future years, however.

**Wild turkey, too, have been re-introduced to the Kansas scene, and are showing remarkable reproduction rates in only a short time. State officials estimate that a limited hunting season may be offered within five to eight years.**

Small flocks of wild turkeys have been stocked at more than 15 areas in Kansas, and all have shown good reproduction. The wild-trapped birds for stocking were obtained by the Fish and Game Commission, in exchange for Kansas prairie chickens, from Texas and Oklahoma.

The Kansas hunting star has been made brighter by other wildlife species, too.

Last year, Kansas—as far as can be determined—became the first state in history to have an annual quail harvest exceeding four million birds. The count was based on modern survey methods of hunter questionnaires, taken following each hunting season.

In addition, 664,000 cock pheasants were harvested, despite less than normal pheasant populations and dry conditions in some areas of the major pheasant range.

It was a record prairie chicken year, also, with 71,000 birds taken, a 55 percent increase over 1965. It's significant to note, too, that Kansas is the only state boasting an extensive prairie chicken hunting season, and that its prairie chicken flocks have remained well within safe numbers for several years with good management and hunting practices.

In addition, there were excellent harvests of other species of game—rabbits, doves, squirrel, and others.



**HAPPY HUNTER**—Marvin Miller, St. Francis sportsman, leaves cut corn field near his home with cock pheasant in hand. Scene is duplicated each fall by thousands of hunters in western Kansas, where pheasant populations are among best in nation.

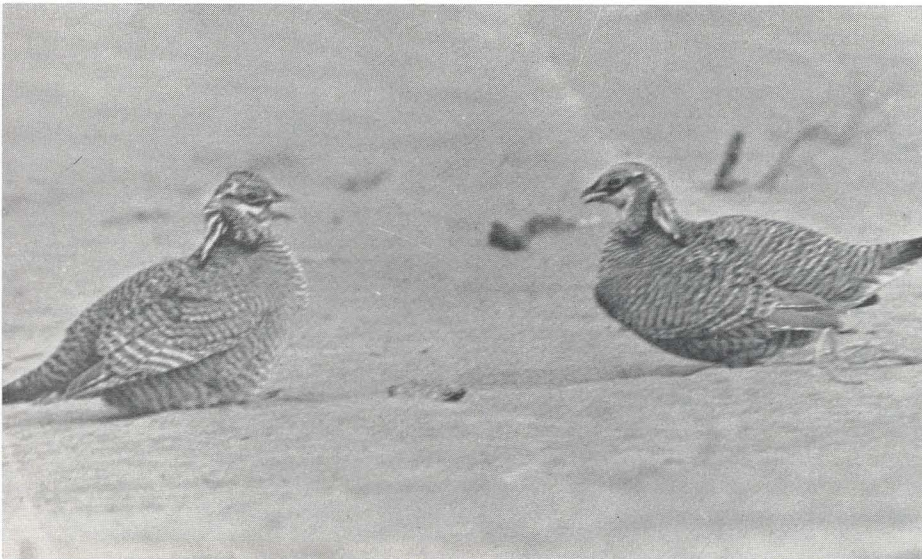




**ON "COMEBACK" TRAIL**—Another species of animal once prominent in Kansas, now being reestablished by the Fish and Game Commission, is the pronghorn Antelope. Several herds are now found in central and western Kansas.

In recent years, Kansas has become a major waterfowl hunting area, too, thanks to governmental and private programs which have conserved safe numbers of nesting ducks and geese through the years, and to the addition of thousands of acres of water in Kansas through man-made efforts.

All the big lakes, state lakes and ponds in the state attract ducks, geese and various other types of wildlife, and figure in their successful reproduction and livelihood.



**STRANGE RITUAL**—One of the most unusual courtship acts of all wildlife is carried out by prairie chickens, which abound in many areas of Kansas. Here, two cock lesser prairie chickens square off at a booming ground on the big Cimarron National Grassland in Southwest Kansas.

Under modern methods of game management, and hunting controls and regulations, there's no doubt that even the buffalo could be returned in vast, great numbers, were civilization willing.

That won't happen, of course, but it proves the point that man has learned with the times that the best way to conserve wildlife is to give Mother Nature a few assists.

The credit belongs to a lot of people—farmers who want the best for and from their soil; governmental agencies who are charged with saving resources such as minerals, water, soil and wildlife, and even sportsmen themselves.

This fall, more than 200,000 hunters will trek to the fields, woods and waterways of Kansas in pursuit of a pleasure that is as old as time. More than 15,000 of them will be out-of-staters who have heard of, or experienced previously, this "new-found" glory that the Sunflower State possesses.

As a result, they will pour more than ten million dollars into the state's economy, in return for the birds and animals they bag, proving that hunting and outdoor sports are big business.

They won't complain much, though, because they know that in hunting they are buying pleasure as well as a



**RARE BREED**—Rare prairie or swift fox, found only in limited numbers in a few prairie states and fully protected by law, sits beside den in western Kansas.

stake in tomorrow, and are helping to assure that there will be even better hunting in the future for their sons and grandsons.

It's likely, as they travel to their favorite field or blind, that their minds will be occupied by something more significant—like a bright star glimmering in a distant sky.

Just before the molting period, ducks and geese fly to bodies of water where they will be safe from land enemies. The reason is the fact that they molt their primary feathers all at one time and, for a short period, cannot fly.

Contrary to common belief, the blue jay dines chiefly on vegetable matter. What animal food that was found in stomach samples consisted mostly of insects.

The pileated woodpecker can locate wood-boring larvae inside a tree by the sound they make.

Pigeons are the only birds that can drink by suction.



# AM Award to Moore

George C. Moore, Pratt, director of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, was recently named one of the 1968 winners of the American Motors Conservation Award.

The awards are presented annually to 10 professional and 10 non-professional conservationists for dedicated efforts in the field of renewable natural resources which would not otherwise gain widespread public recognition.

Winners received bronze sculptured medallions, and professionals also received honorariums of \$500 each.

**Moore was selected by an awards committee "for his dynamic leadership during his six years as director of the commission."**

He has instituted sound wildlife management and fisheries programs in Kansas which have resulted in good to excellent deer, pheasant and quail hunting in many areas of the state, and improved fishing with several new species added to lakes and streams.

In addition, wild turkey flocks and antelope herds are being established and open seasons appear likely within a few years.

While carrying out all of the important management programs, Moore has managed to build a surplus of almost \$5 million as working capital for future needs through sound administrative practices.

In announcing the selection of 1968 winners, American Motors Corporation Chairman of the Board Roy D. Chapin, Jr., said:

**"A nation's prosperity can only be based on its natural wealth—on its food-producing top soil, on its ample supplies of unpolluted water, and on its soil-building, water-storing forests and rangelands.**

"Without these kinds of wealths in abundance, together with our mineral assets, America could not have been brought to her present level of prosperity.

Moore was born and raised on a farm in Alabama and attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), where he received



**AWARD WINNER**—George Moore, Pratt, director of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, has been named one of 20 winners of the coveted American Motors Conservation Awards for 1968. He's pictured with an earlier award—Conservationist of the Year for Kansas—awarded him recently by the Kansas Wildlife Federation and the Sears, Roebuck Foundation.

a B. S. Degree in Biology Science and Agriculture. He received a scholarship and obtained a Master's Degree in Fish and Game Management in 1940. He also attended Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama.

After completing his graduate work, he was on the research staff of Auburn University; later Chief Biologist for the Alabama Department of Conservation. Moore also worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the 13 southeastern states, with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

He was chief of the Fish and Game Division of the Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Commission for approximately three and one-half years, and for five years prior to his arrival in Kansas in October, 1961, was chief of the Game Division of the Georgia Fish and Game Commission.

He held a commission in the United States Navy during World War 2 and was in charge of pest and rodent control in the central Pacific area.



# Lovely, Lonely Lovewell

By THAYNE SMITH

A rainbow of colors from a Summer sunrise danced and skipped on the wake of the big, fast boat as we left the dock and cove at the Lovewell Lake Marina.

A slight breeze chilled the morning air, and a lazy bunch of thunderheads on the eastern horizon played hopscotch with the rising sun.

There were three of us, and we were most eager to round the bend, skirt up the lake quickly and try our luck for walleye at a spot called Blosser Point, named in honor of a man who had constructed a cabin there several years ago.

Our eagerness, really, had been rooted the previous day, late in the evening, when my companion—Doug Boughner of Pratt—answered a ringing telephone in our motel room at nearby Mankato.

“What’s the state record for walleye?” the man at the other end of the line wanted to know. It was Tom Lovewell, operator of the Lovewell Marina. Doug directed the question to me, and I told him it was 10 pounds, nine ounces. Records for state fish are kept and confirmed by my office; therefore, I’m familiar with most of them.

“We’ve got one out here which I think will beat it,” Tom said. “How do I go about weighing and measuring it?”

I told him to bring it to Mankato—a 15-mile drive, and we’d find a state-inspected scales to weigh the fish, and that I would measure it. If a new record, I could confirm it and take photographs on the spot.

In a short time, Lovewell, along with Floyd Stone, Belleville, the lucky angler who caught the big walleye, were pounding on our door. We hustled the fish to the nearby R. K. Shopper supermarket for the final test.

Needless to say, there were a lot of smiles when the big fish pushed the scales to 10 pounds, 9 ounces, an ounce over the old record of 10-8,

held since 1961 by Roy Laster of Hutchinson. Laster’s fish came from the outlet at Kanopolis Reservoir.

The fish weighed and measured, and properly photographed, we visited with Stone for some time about his prowess as an angler, and his luck on Lovewell.

“Far as I’m concerned,” he said, “this is the finest fishing spot in Kansas, and one of the prettiest and best lakes in the Midwest.”

Dr. E. Raymond Galvin, Concordia, Stone’s fishing companion when he caught the big walleye, a man who has fished throughout the continent, agreed. “We’ve taken a lot of fine fish from Lovewell in years past,” he

said, “and this year has been excellent.”

A few days earlier, Mrs. Stone hauled a nine-pound walleye from the same spot Stone took the new record. “I couldn’t let her get ahead of me,” he laughed.

“Yes,” chided Dr. Galvin, “but you would have never landed him if I hadn’t been along to net him for you, and then you wanted to clean him before I talked you into weighing him for a record.” Stone laughed, and nodded, then invited Boughner and myself to come to Blosser’s Cove the next morning to see and fish where “we take the big fish.” We accepted the invitation



**PIONEER MONUMENT**—Tom Lovewell, Jr., operator of the Lovewell marina and concession, looks at monument on lake shore which was erected in memory of his great-grandfather. Entire area around lake is rich in history.



and prevailed on Lovewell to provide a boat for us.

Stone had informed us that the big walleye "are along the ledges, where the depth suddenly drops from about eight feet to 22 feet." You need a depth-finder, he advised, to find the exact spots.

Arriving at the spot, and finding Stone and two companions there ahead of us and fishing, we knew he was right. Back and forth, using a sonar-type, battery-powered depth gauge, Stone maneuvered his boat. We had no way to follow, because he moved quickly and along the rocky edge below.

A couple of hours of trolling in the area proved fruitless for us, but paid off for Stone and his two companions, a nephew, Darrel Stone of Salina, and Jerry Kier. The younger Stone caught a six-pound walleye while we watched, and Kier boated another of about three pounds.

Time beckoned that we return home, despite our strong desires to stay and try to catch one of the big, silvery fishing fish.

We weren't going home empty-handed, however.

Our luck had been good the previous day. In early morning, just as the sun broke on the horizon, we were dropping jigs and small spinners among dead trees and branches in a clear cove on the northwest corner of the lake. We saw only one other boat during a two-hour stint — and its occupant had scored well. He held up two large black bass for us to admire. We did well, too, fishing for crappie.

Using a small beetle-type jig, Boughner landed a hefty one-pounder almost at the start. I followed with one just a little smaller, then connected on a larger one. Lovewell, then Boughner, then myself scored on several in the one-half to one-pound category.

We had chosen this particular time to visit Lovewell for two reasons. The first was because it was Summer and the lake was normal, clear and in all its scenic glory. It is virtually surrounded with endless rolling hills, many of them tree-covered, and bright, green meadows. Coves are

## Second in a Series On Kansas Reservoirs

filled with stately, picturesque dead trees, which provide excellent fishing for walleye, black bass, channel catfish, crappie and white bass. Walleye are often taken, too, along Lovewell dam, and at times of high water release, from the stilling basin below.

This was also one of those times when water was being received at Lovewell via a canal from the Republican River, and releases for that purpose were being made from the large Harlan County Reservoir in Nebraska.

Constructed by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lovewell was com-

pleted in 1957, and was designed primarily as a flood control and irrigation reservoir.

It is located on White Rock Creek, about 14 miles northeast of Mankato, Kansas, in an area which has no large cities. For this reason, Lovewell is not among the "big" and "popular" lakes of Kansas.

Boughner probably described it best when he said it was "lovely and "lonely." However, it wasn't exactly lonely that day at the inlet, where the inflow from the river was dumping through big gates into



"JUST RIGHT FOR THE PAN"—Doug Boughner, Pratt, gets ready to clean stringer of nice white bass and crappie taken from Lovewell cove on jigs.



**the lake, filling it before release for irrigation purposes downstream.**

When this time comes, fishing at the inlet is good—and the word spreads fast. Anglers flock in from miles around, and they were there in force.

Wisely, we visited the area by boat, instead of fishing from the bank. The bank was lined with people, and most of them were catching white bass. Occasionally a walleye or black bass would be taken.

We tried our luck with jigs and spinners in fast water just outside the main shoot of the inlet. Bouncing a jig on the bottom proved the best method, and in an hour's time, we had a good string of white bass in the half-pound to one-pound class. Not big fish by any means, but fine for catching on ultra-light tackle, and a delight in the frying pan.

Fishing isn't confined, either, to the areas mentioned. Gary Heskett, Mankato, game protector for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, pointed out that Lovewell at times is an excellent channel catfish lake. Other coves, especially on the lake's upper end, and some shallow areas provide good catches.

**Lovewell has 38 miles of scenic shoreline, and boasts 2986 surface acres of water at conservation pool level.**

In addition, its appeal doesn't stop with the fishermen. It has one of the finest cabin areas of any Kansas lake, with several units in the multi-thousand-dollar bracket, attesting to its attractiveness and scenic beauty.

There is always activity at the fine Cedar Point area, on the northeast corner of the lake, where the Kansas Park Authority has carried out extensive camping, picnicking, boating and other recreation development since 1965.

The area includes a modern shower-latrines building, several of the famous "toadstool" picnic shelters which are famous in Kansas State Parks, good interior roads, picnic facilities and prime camping spots. The park also has a good water supply, boat-launching ramps, modern toilets, and Lovewell's marina. The marina provides boat rentals, sales and service, bait and fishing supplies and equipment, and

a clean, modern restaurant. The \$5 annual or \$1 daily state park vehicle permit is needed to visit the area.

A native of the area, Lovewell can provide you, too, with some of the excellent history which engulfs the entire area.

**The Lake was named for both the small city of Lovewell, located just a few miles east of the dam, and Thomas Lovewell, the marina operator's great-grandfather, who founded the city and was one of the first settlers in the area.**

The elder Lovewell, in fact, was one of the most colorful figures in Kansas pioneer history—a government scout, Indian fighter, pioneer farmer, gold-seeker, and a man of many other trades. A monument to his honor stands near the concession area.

On a hill at the south side of the lake are graves of several members of pioneer families killed in Indian raids, and nearby is a marker and monument to their honor.

Lovewell also offers some of the finest public hunting land in Kansas. On the upper end of the lake, the Kansas Fish and Game Commission has almost 5000 acres of land under game management, which it owns or leases. The area is excellent for quail, pheasants, ducks, some geese, deer, rabbits and squirrels.

Fish and Game experts classify Lovewell—as a whole—one of the finest all-around areas in the Midwest, and certainly one of the best in Kansas.

About the only drawback to Lovewell is the fact that some of the roads leading to its scenic shores are narrow, rough and hard on camping and recreation vehicles, boats and trailers. Sportsmen in the area reported that they will be improved in time.

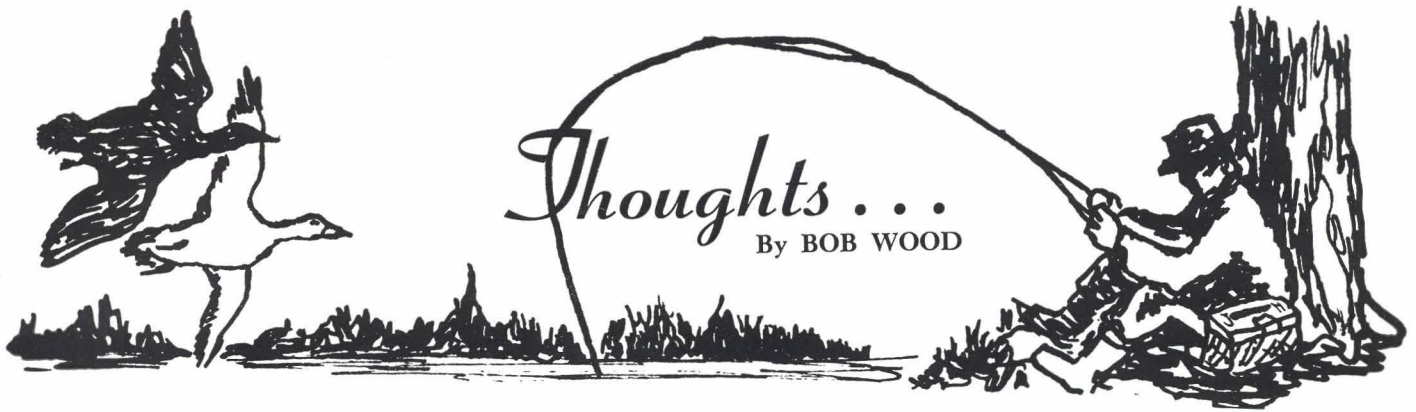
There's no doubt, either, that Lovewell will attract more and more attention with the years, too.

It should. It has about everything that the sportsman could ask, including a good amount of peace and quiet.



**HAPPY ANGLER**—Neil Fuller, Concordia, hefts 6¾ pound walleye he caught from Lovewell Inlet on 1/16 ounce jig while fishing for white bass, and smile tells his pleasure.





Man, according to man, is most highly developed of all animals. His brain, supposedly even more advanced than that of an ant, is capable of solving practically all problems encountered.

Man can use his brain to learn through a self-developed "error-cycle." A cycle begins with man's unequaled ability to err. Fortunately, he can reason workable solutions to most of his errors then apply those solutions to prevent reoccurrence of similar errors. He learns again by making a new error.

At the turn of the century, the southwest was open to settlement, inviting tillers of the soil to tap its fertility. Man accepted this invitation, bringing family and machinery to work his "stead." In fields that once were lush prairies, plows buried prairie grasses exposing their roots

to drying winds. Then came the 1930's and their drouth. Without protection, light fertile soils became airborne. Great clouds of dust moved across dry fields to ultimately choke man. Unfortunately, innocent bystanders like prairie chickens and quail suffered also. Pheasants, striving to become established in a new land, felt the clogging effects of dust filled air as well. Birds found their nesting grounds buried or turned under. Through death and mobility, both man and wildlife declined.

Man apparently learned a little during those years. Improved cropping practices began to protect the land. And trees! Windbreaks were planted to stem prevailing southwesterlies. Trees broke the wind's onslaught, reducing soil movement. Man once again was able to derive a livelihood from the soil. Correspondingly, wildlife took full advantage of windbreaks for protection from wind and weather. Pheasants, quail and more recently deer, found improved homes in which to dwell. Prairie chickens never returned in great numbers as grasslands now were crop-fields.

But alas, that began thirty-odd years ago. A new generation is now living on and tilling the land. A generation caught up in a spiraling rise in cost-of-living and all the while receiving a lower than equitable income. Farming operations have become bigger through necessity. Gone are the days when a family could make a living on a 40, 80 or even a quarter. The economics of staying alive is an irresistible force requiring a never-ending demand for more land. In the end, windbreaks fall to make more acres available for tillage.

But, must all trees be replaced by whirling-swirling irrigators? What price progress? Is it improvement of our lot? Investment against income and a loss of a covey of quail—is it always worth the cost? Is the lesson of the thirties to be learned anew? Could it be another "error-cycle" is to begin? ? ?



A Kansas hedgerow dies





MORNING PEACE—Sun dances on ripples of water in Marina cove at Lovell, while it plays through large thunderheads. Lake is considered one of the most beautiful in Kansas. See Lovell story on page 20. (Fish and Game Commission photo by Thayne Smith.)

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