
KANSAS FISH AND GAME



VOL. XVI

JULY, 1958

No. 1



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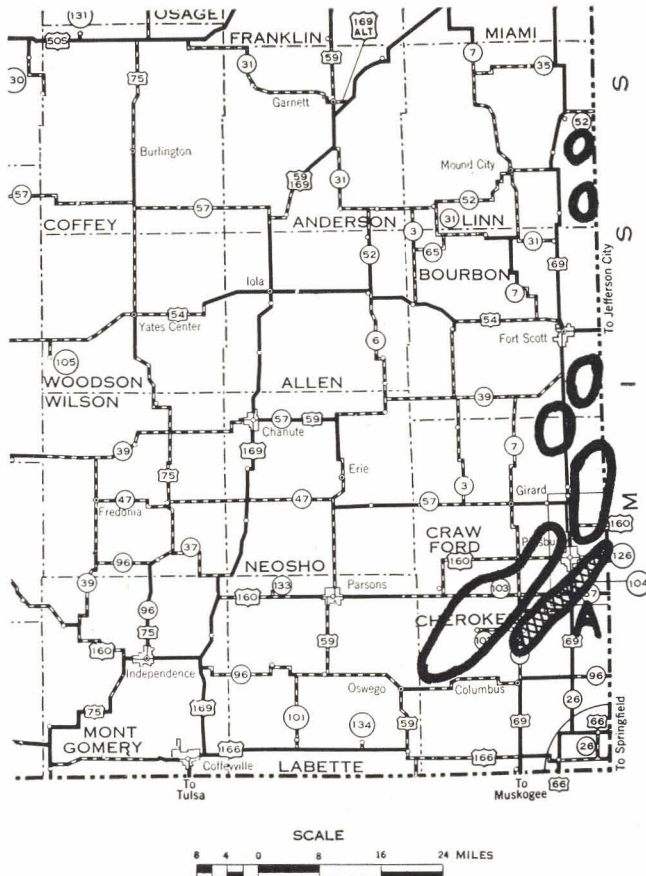
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Let's Fish the Strip Lakes!

By **CHARLES BURNER**
Fisheries Biologist



I am planning a fishing trip to the strip pits. How can I find out where to fish? What pits are stocked? What fish can I fish for? How many strip pits are there? Where are the acid pits located? How can I tell when I find an acid pit?

These are some of the questions most often asked by fishermen who fish the pits. Here are some answers to these and other questions which come up frequently when any discussion of the strip pits in southeastern Kansas gets underway.

The fishing in the pits this spring has been good, but was a little slower in getting started than it was a year ago. The fish have been taking advantage of all the insects and worms washed into the pits by recent heavy rains. This points to a very promising fishing season as soon as conditions level off again. The fish that have been eating so heavily are gaining in size and weight and as soon as the rains stop washing in land insects and other food, the fish will be getting hungry again and then a worm or plug will really do the job.

How can I find the pits? The strip pits are located in Linn county east of Pleasanton and east of Prescott, and there are several pits in Bourbon county south of Fort Scott in the Garland vicinity, but the majority of the pits are located in Crawford and Cherokee counties. The strip pits in Crawford county stretch in a wide band from the Bourbon county line north of Arcadia on down through Mulberry, east of Arma, north and west of Pittsburg, and on down through Cherokee and into Cherokee county where they pass through West Mineral and on southwest to just north of Hallowell. To make this drive from one end of the southeast Kansas strip-pits to the other you would have to drive a little over 100 miles.

One of the questions most often asked about pits is how many pits and how much water is there alto-

Heavy black lines encircle general locations of southeast Kansas strip-pits. Cross-hatched area with the letter "A" adjacent shows area where the majority of pits are acid or have borderline conditions for fish growth.

AREAS OF COAL STRIP LAKES IN SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS



Light- and dark-shaded areas indicate strip mined areas in southeast Kansas. **Solid black markings** in the shaded areas indicate the location of strip pit lakes which contain fish populations suitable for angling.

gether. According to a survey of strip land just completed, there is an estimated 36,000 acres of coal-stripped land in the four southeastern counties. Water covers a little more than ten percent of this area, or about 3,900 acres. The average size of the strip pits is about 1.3 acres. On this basis, there are 2,955 pits which are measurable in size.

How can a fisherman unfamiliar with this area find the good fishing pits? This should be fairly easy to do. Most any restaurant, motel or filling station near any of the towns mentioned above will gladly give information about nearby strip pits. Once you get into these areas on a summer week-end, the number of parked cars will give a pretty good index of the quality of fishing. On the way home from a recent Sunday afternoon drive, my daughter counted 21 cars in one three-mile stretch cutting through the center of some strip pits. Most of these fishermen were fishing from the bank but several of them had taken boats. The most popular way to fish the pits in the spring is with a fly rod. The fly and plug fishermen usually walk around the larger pits working along the shore. The fly fisherman often starts off across the dumps working the smaller pits and fishing a large area in a short while. This is great sport. It isn't unusual to catch thirty or more bluegills and green sunfish in this way on a short fly-fishing outing.

Crappie is a popular fish in the pits where they have been restocked from time to time. Minnows are the most popular crappie bait.

The over-all favorite bait for fishing in the strip pits is the universal favorite—the earthworm. This is always a good bait no matter where you go. Plastic earthworms have been responsible for some real nice bass catches recently as well as bluegills.

The fisherman who likes to go plugging will have a big time floating or paddling down the center of the long pits working both banks as he goes. On some of the wider pits, boaters plug for fish on one shore of the pit while going one direction and plug the other side coming back. The catfish fisherman who likes to bait his line and fish after dark waiting for the catfish to bite has been doing quite well recently.

What pits are stocked? We are managing all of the state-owned pits that are suitable for fish. The state owns more than ten percent of the strip lands in southeast Kansas. We are concentrating on the larger pits that are more easily accessible and are fished more heavily and passing over the small, shallow, relatively inaccessible, or acid pits.

Almost every pit that is suitable for fish has been stocked whether on private land, coal company owned land, or state land. Of course no sportsman need be reminded that all due respect should be given to the

owner of privately owned strip land the same as any privately owned land elsewhere in the state. In order to make a larger amount of fishing water available to the public, the Fish and Game Commission has entered into a co-operative agreement with several coal companies. The Fish and Game Department has checked these pits and is applying management practices for improved fishing. All the state has asked of the coal companies in return is that the pits included under this program be left open to the public for fishing for a reasonable length of time. In Linn county more than half of the strip pits in the county are open for public fishing through the courtesy of the Peabody Coal Company, formerly the Hume-Sinclair Coal Company.

Over half of the strip lakes in Kansas are located in Crawford County, which has 1,756 acres of water contained in 1,522 pits. The state owns just under 4,000 acres of strip lands in Crawford and Cherokee counties. In these two counties the Fish and Game Department has developed 140 acres of water on this land for public fishing. In Crawford county, the Mackie-Clemens Coal Company and Apex-Compton Coal Company have made their pits available for development by the Fish and Game Department for public fishing. In Cherokee County the Pittsburg-Midway Coal Company is also very much interested in public fishing in the pits. They have recently deeded an 84-acre tract of strip land to the Fish and Game Department on which there are several nice strip lakes.

Northeast of Pittsburg, the Fish and Game Department is developing for public fishing almost 200 acres total area of strip lakes on land owned by the Mackie-Clemens Coal Company.

Since there are some acid pits in which fish life can not exist and others that are not quite so acid where fish do not grow well, fishermen often ask questions about their location and how one can tell an acid pit from a good pit. The simplest way of avoiding these acid pits is by placing a ruler on a map of southeast Kansas. Draw a line through Weir and Pittsburg. These acid or borderline pits are located for the most part on this line and southeast of it. Although there are several good fishing pits in this area, there is a large percentage of these pits that have water too acid for fish life or which are borderline in the amount of acidity so that although fish can live in the water they do not do as well. Some of these acid pits have extremely clear, almost emerald green water. This is a good indication of acid water, but it is not a fool-proof way of identifying these pits. Several pits which harbor a well-established fish population also have this appearance. This is especially true of some pits

for the first few years after they fill with water. If the fisherman comes across a pit of this type and cannot see fish moving about in the water, then his best bet is to move on to another pit.

The fisherman who has not yet tried fishing in the strip pits will find a new and enchanting experience in exploring the strip pits, and he will be well rewarded for his efforts.



Completed only a few months before, Unit "G" lake of the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Refuge gets its first long drink of water. This scene was photographed in March when rains and snows had swelled the "River of Swans" to bank-full. The two other lakes of the refuge also received a filling at the same time. A note for fishermen: The refuge lakes are providing some good fishing with bass and catfish running to three pounds in size.

Bullfrog Season Opens

July 1 marks the opening of the bullfrog season with frogs becoming legal prey on that date. The legal season for the taking of bullfrogs extends from July 1 to September 30, both dates inclusive. The legal method of taking bullfrogs is restricted to the use of hand dip-nets, hook and line, and by hand. Any and all other methods of catching bullfrogs are unlawful. Eight are permitted as a daily creel limit and any person taking or attempting to take bullfrogs must have the proper fishing license in possession.

Here is a good recipe for cooking frog legs as found in an issue of the *Fisherman Magazine*:

"Frog legs can be disjointed or fried intact with the back. After washing, season to taste with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Then dip in egg batter and roll vigorously in bread and cracker crumbs. Fry for two or three minutes in deep, hot fat about 390 degrees Fahrenheit. If you want additional seasoning or flavor, tartar sauce gets the nod."

Buy Your Licenses Early

Licenses and quail stamps that you will need with the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, are now available at the office of your county clerk and at many sporting goods, live bait, and hardware dealers. The licenses you buy now will be good until June 30, 1959. You are urged to buy your licenses early and we suggest that you buy whatever licenses you intend to utilize during the forthcoming year on one trip to the issuing agent.

Types of licenses available, which were renewable on July 1, are the separate hunting and fishing, combination hunting and fishing, trapping, and the quail stamp. There has been no change in license fees over last year. The cost of the separate hunting and fishing license is \$2, the combination hunting and fishing license \$4, trapping license \$1.50, and the quail stamp 50¢.

Change in Fishing Regulations

The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has revised the regulations governing the size limit and creel limit for the taking of certain fish in Kansas. The Commission's action at the recommendation of department biologists and technicians has removed the size limit on walleye pike and has also removed the daily creel limit on bullhead catfish. The new regulations went into effect July 1. Prior to this date the size limit on walleyes was fifteen inches and the daily creel limit for bullhead catfish was fifteen fish.

Listed below are the revised regulations.

SIZE LIMIT		
No size limit on any species of fish.		
Species	CREEL LIMIT	Daily Creel Limit
Black Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky or spotted)	10	10
Channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish	10	10
<i>Note:</i> The daily creel limit of any combination of the above species shall not exceed 10 fish in all.		
Walleye, sauger	5	5
Crappie	Not to exceed 30 lbs.	Not to exceed 30 lbs.
White bass, bullhead catfish, all other species	No limit	No limit
Daily creel limit shall mean fish taken from midnight to midnight.		
Special creel limits may be established at certain state lakes. Regulations posted in the state parks will advise.		
There is no closed season on any species of fish.		

Walleyes have been stocked in all Federal Reservoirs in the state of Kansas.

Squirrel season in Kansas opens September 1.

Waterfowl Nesting at Cheyenne Bottoms

By **DAVE COLEMAN**

Waterfowl Biologist

Most persons who are familiar with the name "Cheyenne Bottoms" know that the area so named is a large waterfowl refuge and public shooting grounds in central Kansas. Few people, however, realize that this Refuge also serves as a nesting area for hundreds of birds each spring and summer. From the duckhunter's viewpoint, the most important of these nesting birds are the waterfowl. During the past year it has been my privilege to be associated with the Cheyenne Bottoms project, and in the following paragraphs and photos some of my observations regarding nesting birds are recorded.

Cheyenne Bottoms probably has been used as a waterfowl nesting area for hundreds of years, at those times when it was not entirely dry. History tells us that the Bottoms was a favorite hunting spot for Indian tribes before the White Man's arrival. No doubt a great part of the Bottoms' attraction for these first hunters was related to a large waterfowl population. Long-time residents of the vicinity tell of ducks nesting there in abundance as long as thirty to forty years ago. In August of 1951, Dr. Otto Tiemeier of Kansas State College estimated that there were 3,000 young ducks on the Bottoms.

The number of ducks which nest at the Refuge in the present day is not large compared to the populations which use similar areas in the Dakotas and the Canadian provinces. Due to its geographical location, Kansas can never be expected to be as attractive to ducks as those more northern regions. Nevertheless, the total number of ducks produced yearly in Kansas is not insignificant and it adds to the harvestable crop in this state as well as several others. Probably in an average year something like 200 to 400 pairs of ducks can be expected to nest at Cheyenne Bottoms, although this number is usually supplemented by non-nesting birds. These nesting pairs may produce fewer than 100 young if conditions are extremely unfavorable; when nesting conditions are optimum they may produce more than 2,000 ducklings. Some of the fac-



Pair of Canada geese at nest, Cheyenne Bottoms

tors which influence the success of the nesting season are: Air temperature, humidity, flooding, predation, burning, mowing, and grazing. The Fish and Game Department is attempting to develop and manage the Refuge so that more waterfowl will nest there in future years. To accomplish this we do such things as building nesting islands, planting duck foods, and manipulating the water levels.

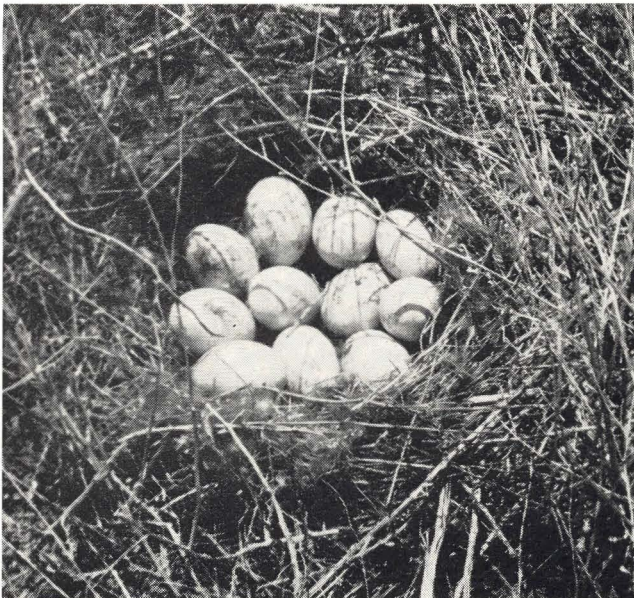
From my observations during the spring of 1957 and this spring, it appears that the nesting season for ducks at Cheyenne Bottoms begins in the middle to latter part of April. It extends through much of the summer, lasting until about mid-August. Most of the late nesters are birds which were unsuccessful in earlier nesting attempts. Like pheasants and quail, most ducks raise only one brood a year, but may nest two or more times to accomplish this.

Now, getting down to cases, let's discuss the particular kinds of ducks which nest at the Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge. During the summer of 1957 the following species were found nesting or seen with downy young in descending order of abundance: Blue-winged teal, pintail, mallard, ruddy, and redhead. A report of shovellers (or spoonbills as many hunters know them) nesting on a near-by farm was not verified, but seems quite possible. A cinnamon teal was seen during the summer, but it is not known whether or not he was one of a nesting pair.

The blue-winged teal, or bluewing, arrives at the Refuge in the early to middle part of April. Probably most of these early migrants are birds which will move on farther north to nest. The bluewing is not an early nester, and few nests can be expected before the first of June. Various types of nesting cover are used, but the nest ordinarily is concealed reasonably well. Some of the preferred vegetation on the Refuge appears to be foxtail barley and saltgrass. At other times these birds nest in annual weeds such as fireweed or lamb's-quarters. The nest is normally built in a shallow depression about the size of an average man's cupped

hands, and is lined with dead grass or weeds. As incubation progresses, down from the hen's breast is added to the lining. In the later stages of incubation this down is sufficient to form a blanket over the eggs when the hen leaves the nest. Incubation takes about three weeks and is performed only by the hen. The drake loafs on a chosen spot near the nesting hen until incubation gets underway. After this period of attendance he deserts the hen and joins other males to begin a summer molt. The hen will molt after her young have hatched and are a few weeks old. By mid-August the bluewing drakes have completed their molt and grown new flight feathers, in many cases, and are flocking up for their southward migration. The females and young follow them later in the summer and fall, and the majority of these birds eventually go south of the United States to spend the winter.

Some pintails spend the winter at the Refuge, but most of those that nest there probably have wintered farther south. These birds are early migrants, showing up at the Bottoms by the latter part of February. They are also early nesters, beginning this activity as early as mid-April. The nesting sites chosen by pintails are similar to those preferred by bluewings, but may be at a considerable distance—perhaps a half-mile or more—from water, whereas the bluewing is seldom found nesting more than 100 yards from the water. The clutch size is also similar to that of a bluewing, with clutches of six to nine eggs being common. Pintail hens add down to the lining of their nests and cover the eggs with a blanket of down when leaving the nest during the last several days of incubation.



Mallard nest of 11 eggs on a roadway dike, Cheyenne Bottoms.



This nest containing nine eggs is that of a pintail duck. Pool No. 5 at the Cheyenne Bottoms was the nesting site.

The drake stays in the vicinity of the nesting hen until the time for his summer molt approaches. Pintails start their southward migration early in the fall, and usually provide good early shooting for Kansas hunters.

Mallards are hardy ducks and often go no farther south to winter than the northern United States. Several thousand of these birds spent the past winter at Cheyenne Bottoms. About the last of February or first of March they begin their northward migration. Some mallards nest at Cheyenne Bottoms, however, so this specie can be seen at nearly any season. These birds nest in a variety of sites and at varying distances from water. At the Bottoms, their nests are sometimes well concealed in green vegetation, at other times easily visible in a sparse stand of dead weeds. The clutch size averages eight to ten eggs, and they are usually grayish buff to light greenish buff in color. The nest is larger than that of a bluewing but is similarly built and lined. The drakes leave the hens after incubation gets underway and hide in heavy growths of emergent aquatic vegetation during their summer molt. Mallards are comparatively late fall migrants, usually not moving in any numbers until at least November.

Redheads and ruddys differ chiefly from the ducks discussed previously, as far as nesting is concerned, in their selection of a nesting site. While bluewings, pintails, and mallards are land nesters, the ruddys and redheads build their nests on the water. At the Bottoms they seem to prefer the dense stands of river bullrush for a nesting site. Within this heavy vege-

tation they build a floating nest which is anchored to growing plants. It usually is very well concealed. These birds usually arrive at the Refuge on their northward migration during the early to middle part of April, but their main nesting season probably is June. As many as 15 or 20 eggs may be found in the basket-like nest of either of these ducks, but 10 to 12 is more common.

The redhead drake does not help with the raising of the young, but goes his separate way during the latter part of the summer. These ducks are fairly early migrants in the fall, and can be expected at Cheyenne Bottoms during the forepart of October.

The little ruddy, or butterball as many hunters know him, is unique among the ducks in several ways. He assists the hen in raising the brood, he carries his tail erect most of the time, he has a bright blue bill during the summer (which complements his chestnut-colored back, white cheeks, and black crown), and has different plumages for summer and winter. It is said that these ducks may raise two broods per year. Ruddys show up at the Bottoms in the fall at about the same time as the redheads, or slightly later.

Much useful information can be gained by banding young ducks on the area where they were produced. Returns of these bands help to determine migration patterns, wintering areas, hunting pressures, normal life span of the species, and other interesting facts. Last summer over 100 young birds were banded at the Refuge, and it is hoped that this number can be increased next summer.

In addition to the ducks which have nested at Cheyenne Bottoms so far this year, one pair of Canada geese have nested and now have two goslings. These birds are in the Department's 93-acre goose pen. The Department hopes to build up a substantial flock of nesting geese in years to come.

The presence of these nesting waterfowl, plus many other species of nesting birds, makes Cheyenne Bottoms an interesting place to work in the spring and summer.

On Our Cover

The sparkling waters of Woodson County State Lake are framed by the woods of the eastern shore in our cover picture for this issue.

Rather than giving a lengthy dissertation on this beautiful lake and park under this heading, we suggest you refer to the *State Lakes of Kansas* article elsewhere in this magazine. (Photo by Valyer.)

Squirrel season in Kansas opens September first.



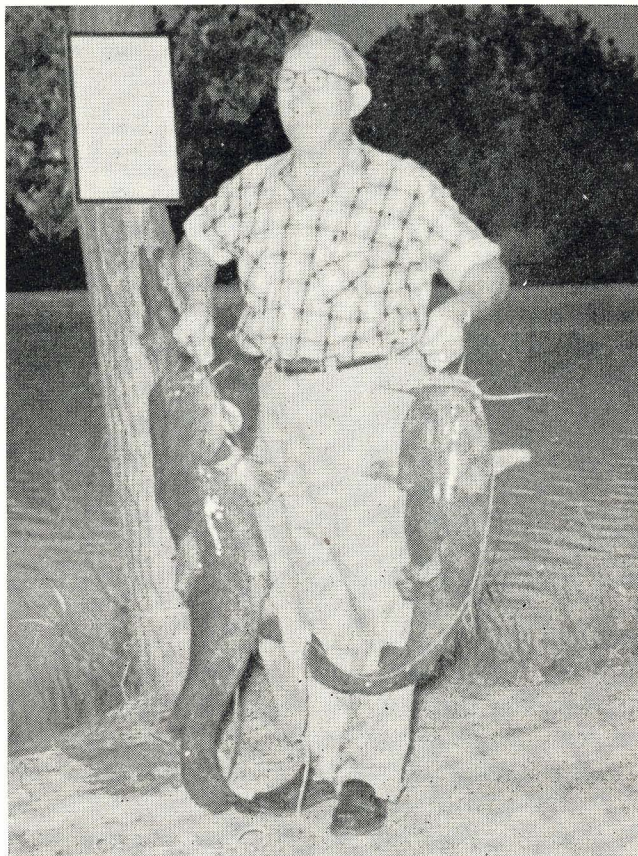
This strange duck made its appearance on the Marais des Cygnes Waterfowl Refuge in January of this year, flying in the company of a flock of mallards. Commission personnel noted the stranger and proceeded to capture it in an attempt to identify the species. Biologist Marvin Schwilling, refuge manager, who took the picture, reported it was apparently a cross between Muscovie and Pekin, both domestic strains. Mike Baugh of Pleasanton is holding the "tame duck gone wild."



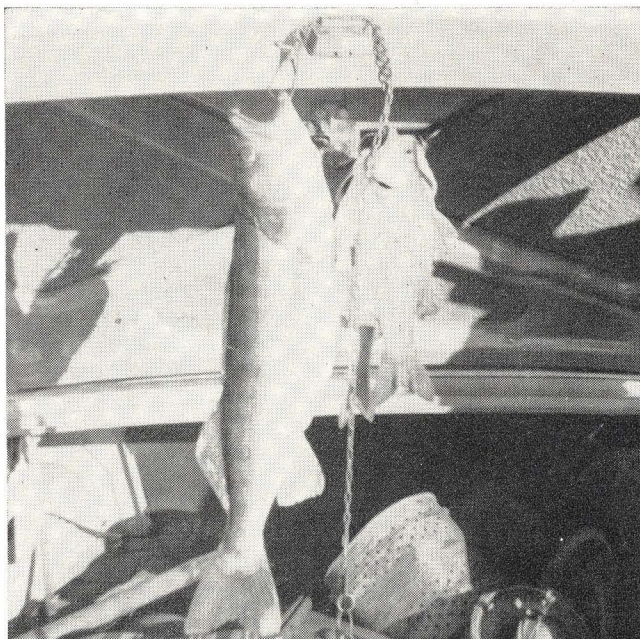
Ottawa County State Lake yielded these fine channel catfish. Tom Perry of Wichita holds a stringer of five weighing from 1½ to 2½ pounds. Jack D. Wilson, also from Wichita, displays a channel weighing 11½ pounds. All fish were taken on prepared blood bait.



Marine Sgt. Richard Crabtree of Le Roy caught this 10½-pound beauty while home on leave during the month of April. Shad bait turned the trick at Woodson County State Lake.



E. H. Hahn of Wichita is known for his fishing ability when it comes to big flatheads. As proof, here are two whoppers he took one fine day in May from Ottawa County State Lake. The largest tipped the scales at 32 pounds and the other at 20 pounds. The fish were taken at night on chicken entrails.



Large walleye are beginning to make their appearance on the stringers of fishermen who visit the federal reservoirs in Kansas. This 5½-pounder was taken at Kanopolis reservoir last November by E. E. Allen, Salina, Kansas. The smaller fish next to the walleye is a white bass.

The American black bear is a "black bear" even when its color is brown or even tan. The so-called "cinnamon" bear is only a color variety of the black bear.

During mating seasons cottontail rabbits often engage in what appears to be hopping contests. A pair faces each other. One rabbit leaps straight up in the air and the other dashes underneath. The routine may be repeated several times.

Game wardens have a lot of questions directed at them. The other day a voice on the phone said, "Are you the game warden?" After being assured he was, the voice replied, "Thank goodness, I have the right person at last. Would you please give me some suggestions for a child's birthday party?"—Parsons Sun.

A Coturnix quail raised and released in Oklahoma was recaptured seven months later in eastern Canada. Taken in a live-trap, on the Miller Game Farm at Ayr, Ontario, the bird was released again to continue its world travels.

Squirrel season in Kansas opens September 1.

FOX SQUIRREL*Sciurus niger***Kansas
Wildlife**By **MARVIN D. SCHWILLING**

So common are fox squirrels in Kansas that everyone who has spent time in the out-of-doors has in some way become acquainted with them. You come across them nearly everywhere, in your own back yard in city or town or fishing along some stream, river or at a lake. You often see squirrels while hiking or driving through wooded areas and, most certainly, they are known to the many squirrel hunters who spend enjoyable hours and days hunting them in the cool and color of fall.

Probably only one animal is more widely known to Kansans than the fox squirrel. That of course would be the nation's number one game animal, the ever-present cottontail rabbit which is found in a much greater variety of habitat.

This particular squirrel belongs to the group that we consider tree squirrels. Trees and timber are their preferred haunts. Kansas has an abundance of trees in the east and progressively fewer trees as we move west, until we find only a few trees in the extreme west. We could expect this squirrel to be much more abundant in the east than in the west, which indeed it is. In fact it is very rare in some of the western counties. Unfortunately it has never been officially recorded by our museum of natural history as occurring in a few western counties, including Greeley, Stanton, Grant, Morton and Stevens counties. Surely fox squirrels do exist in these counties, although only in scattered, somewhat isolated, colonies. If you should know of such a colony in any of these counties,

knowledge of the location would be appreciated by the museum or myself. I suspect that Greeley county has the fewest fox squirrels of any Kansas county but probably it, too, has the fewest trees.

Fox squirrels are true rodents and are the largest member of the tree squirrel family. They also vary in color more than any other squirrel. In a hunter's bag of eight, or even in fifty specimens, probably no two will be colored exactly alike. Sometimes this squirrel has a beautiful gray coat, and looks like a large gray squirrel with a brown back and head. Or it may be dark gray above and black on the legs and under-surface, and even occasionally the animal may be pure black. This pelage variation has been the cause for many hunters to believe that the gray squirrel and the fox squirrel commonly interbreed and the resulting hybrid is this color variation, however, this is not the case.

Young squirrels are born earlier in the spring than many people realize. The height of the breeding season is in December and January. The gestation period of the female is 44 or 45 days, thus the first litter of young are born in late January or February. An adult female two years old or older usually produces two litters of young per year. The second litter usually is born in July. Females under two years old usually produce but a single litter per year and her first young are born when she is about eleven months old. The number of young per litter varies from one to four with the average being about three. The young nurse

eight to ten weeks and weigh about a half pound at weaning time. A family of young squirrels playing among the limbs of their den tree is a comical and pleasing sight. They are quick, frisky and very playful and seem to play tag or hide and seek with one another. The slightest sound foreign to them will send them scurrying back into the safety of their mother's den, normally a natural tree cavity or old, abandoned and enlarged woodpecker digging.

Many of the leaf nests, that are most abundant in the fall, are constructed by industrious young squirrels during their first summer of life. Old squirrels, though, often have an inside den for bad weather and one or more leaf nests used during better weather. The fox squirrel is not known to migrate in mass numbers as the gray squirrel has been reported to do.

Food of the fox squirrel is much varied, probably more so than any other squirrel. They have successfully adapted themselves to odd foods for squirrels

in their more western range of Kansas. In the east where there is an abundance of nut producing trees, such as the pecan, black walnut, hickories and many oaks, nuts are the preferred or most often eaten food of the fox squirrel. This nut producing area in the east is the only place we find the gray squirrel in Kansas. Apparently they must have nuts in their diet. Since nut producing trees are almost nonexistent in western Kansas, what do the fox squirrels eat there? From field observations and stomach examinations a great variety of vegetable matter and agricultural grains, as well as many weed seeds can be listed. The buds and leaves of most trees, particularly cottonwood and elm, probably due to their relative abundance, and the bark of the elm tree limbs are eaten. Many of the Chinese elm trees at the Meade County State Park have been severely damaged by fox squirrels. Some of the trees have had nearly half of their smaller limbs completely stripped of bark. Some such damage can be found in most western Kansas towns. Also at the Meade County State Park, squirrels have been observed away from the trees and timber, actually out on short-grass hillsides where they apparently searched out, picked and carried back to the timber, the fruit of the wild pumpkin that grew on the hillsides. Now, the timber has many of these wild pumpkin vines growing under the trees along the edge, where squirrels dropped and buried seeds. Cockle-burs and sunflower seeds as well as a host of other weed seeds are also stored and eaten. In central Kansas it is not uncommon to find squirrels living along hedge rows. Here you find where they have fed extensively on "hedge balls," the fruit and seed of the Osage Orange tree. So we find that all fox squirrels do not feed on nuts. Where there are no nuts available for a food supply they have been able to adapt and subsist on other foods.

Much could be written about the methods and pleasures derived from squirrel hunting. Some hunters prefer to use only the .22-caliber rifle while others prefer shotguns of various gauges and chokes. This is always a subject of discussion among squirrel hunters, but, we also have fishermen who fish only with artificial lures and often consider the bait fisherman of less skill. Possibly the bait fisherman feels he can relax more and take his fish with less exertion while observing more of the out-of-doors and wildlife about him. Thus all practices have a certain advantage to a particular individual and each may hunt or fish as they so wish as long as they abide by the "common sense" regulations set forth by their Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. These are only a few of the almost unlimited advantages of living in a land of freedom.



An angling freak is this carp taken from Cedar Bluff Reservoir in January of this year. Close inspection will reveal that its tail had been snapped off, probably when the fish was small since the wound had healed over completely. State Game Protector Billy King landed this oddity while fishing with worms. He reports that, despite its deformity, the carp put up a good fight.



View of the concession area at Woodson County State Lake.

THE STATE LAKES OF KANSAS . . . fourth of a series

Woodson County State Lake

By **GEORGE VALYER**

Twenty-three channel catfish weighing a total of 144 pounds make this a picture of complete satisfaction. All were caught on one day, April 3, 1958, at Woodson County State Lake. From left to right are Bob Rohr, Don Rohr, Rollie Sloan, Kenneth Strawder, Roger Ranes, Jess Rohr and Don Corbin, all from Le Roy, Kansas. Another member of the party, Bud Volland, took the photo.



Like to fish for bass? Big channels? Crappie that sometimes hit the scales for two and three pounds? Well, you're in luck if you happen to be at Woodson County State Lake at the right time. One of the prettiest of the state lakes in Kansas, it is also a consistent producer of some of the finest fishing at various times throughout the year.

As all fishermen know, any lake has times when fishing is good and other times when results are nearly nil. This is a natural condition which can not be predicted. But, day in and day out, I'd just as soon take my fishing chances at Woodson County State Lake as any other lake I can think of in the Sunflower State.

This lake is known to many sportsmen of the area as Lake Fegan. The origin of this name lies in the fact that the owner of a considerable portion of the land purchased by the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission for construction of this lake was one Ben Fegan. In case you are interested in some vital statistics, the lake covers 179 acres which lies in a park of 445 acres. The eastern shore is almost completely wooded and rises sharply from the lake's edge. The western shore is mostly gentle, grass-covered hills. The camper and picnicker have a wide choice of types of locations to pitch their tent or spread their lunch.

During the summer heat, most prefer the sylvan eastern portion of the park because of its cool shade and pure spring water.

A swimming area has been designated on the eastern side of the lake and many persons enjoy a dip in



Fish-rearing pond below the dam at Woodson County State Lake.

the water at that location. Swimming is not permitted at any other place in the lake.

By now, you should be ready to visit this splendid area so let's get into the car and start out. Perhaps the best way to reach our destination is to turn off U. S. 54 where it junctions with K-105 and go south to Toronto. There, you get on a county road and go five miles east to the park entrance. Let's stop at the superintendent's house and meet congenial Mr. and Mrs. Mat Sprigg. Mat will be happy to advise us of the fishing conditions and the best place to camp. After getting our camping permit, we hurry to the wooded campsite and pitch our tent. Let's not waste any time since the fish are waiting. On our way to the concession area, let's stop at the spring to fill our jug; a fellow can get mighty thirsty out in a boat even if there is water all around.

We find the concession area neat as a pin and equipped with a cafe, baithouse and covered boat dock. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fey and their two sons are ready to serve us with a good boat, all kinds of bait and plenty of encouragement, so away we go to try our luck.

We'll be back a little later to sample some of Hazel Fey's sandwiches and homemade pie.

Woodson County State Lake was constructed in 1933 and was immediately a favorite with fishermen. After a period of years of high productivity, the fish population slowly grew out of balance and in 1949,

the lake was drained and rehabilitated. Fishing has been generally good since the lake was reopened on January 1, 1953. Except for periods of heavy rains, the water is clear and good habitat for bass and crappie. Channel catfish also do well in this water and some large ones have been caught. Some record crap-



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fey, operators of the cafe, bait house and boat dock.

pie probably inhabit Woodson County State Lake since at least one weighing an unofficial 4½ pounds was hauled out last year. Only one other crappie of that size is known to have been caught in Kansas. It was taken from a strip pit near Pittsburg in 1954 and won first place in the Field and Stream fishing contest of that year for its classification. Perhaps another winner is lurking somewhere in the watery depth of Lake Fegan.

The Feys will be glad to show you pictures of some of the large fish that have been caught at their favorite lake. In fact, when you enter the cafe, the pictures on the wall will attest to the fact that fish grow large in this body of water.

Since channel catfish seldom have suitable spawning places in lakes, the Fish and Game Commission maintains a rearing pond for this species just below the dam. Young channel fingerlings are placed in this pond and raised to a size where they will not be easy prey for the large game-fish in the lake. Then, they are placed in the lake to provide more hours of fun for the catfish fisherman.

On a summer Saturday or Sunday, you will probably find people from all over eastern Kansas enjoying the fine facilities at this recreation spot. On occasion, visitors from other states come to enjoy the excellent camping and fishing. You, too, are invited to join with the many others who find relaxation and enjoyment at Woodson County State Lake.



Mr. and Mrs. Mat Sprigg occupy the superintendent's cottage at Woodson County State Lake.



A spring on the wooded hillside is piped to these barrels near the roadside. Although the flow is not large, the water is pure and cool.

Former Commissioner Dies

James R. Peck of Independence, former member of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, died at his home May 19.

Mr. Peck was appointed to the Commission in 1947 and served until 1951. He was born in Avoca, Oklahoma, in 1884. After living in Rogers, Arkansas, for several years, he moved to Neodesha in 1904. He was prominent in civic affairs and in his church, the Neodesha Christian Church. In 1941, he moved to Independence where he operated a car and implement business. He retired in 1948.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia; a daughter, Mrs. Harold Alford of Independence; two sisters; and three granddaughters.

The fastest animal native to North America is the pronghorn antelope. Its top speed allows it to outrun any of its enemies.

Motor boats may be used on the State Lakes of Kansas for fishing purposes only.

Squirrel season in Kansas opens September 1.

Know Your Friend the Game Protector



Ernest Craig, 46, a veteran of World War II, entered the Fish and Game Commission's Game Protector Service in 1955. He was born in Garnett, however, moved to Erie at an early age. Ernie attended the Erie schools and has lived in that vicinity all of his life. His two years of military service with the U. S. Army include overseas duty in Europe.

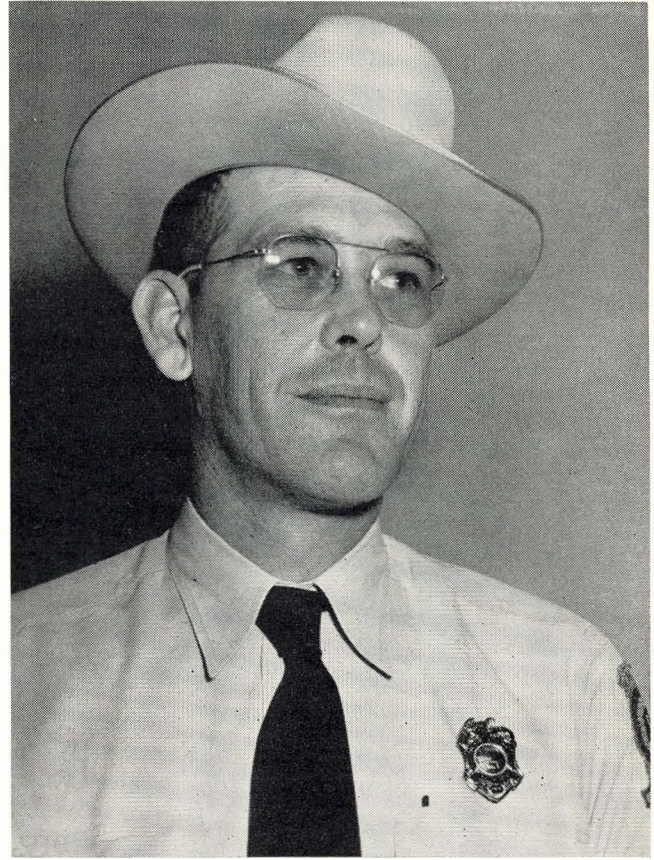
Previous to his employment as a state game protector, he served as sheriff of Neosho County for four years and undersheriff for three years. He is now assigned the game protector district comprising Neosho and Allen Counties, with headquarters at Erie.

His family includes his wife, Anita, daughter, Mrs. Louise Stroup, and son, John.

Craig's hobbies have always been hunting and fishing.

The polar bear is a powerful swimmer and has been seen swimming in the Arctic seas miles from land.

A garter snake can swallow a frog because it can unhinge its jaws to allow the passage of large creatures.



Kenneth Knitig, 34, is another World War II veteran on the staff of game protectors for the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. His military service with the U. S. Army, 31st Dixie Division, includes duty in the South Pacific, the Philippines and at Guam.

Kenny was born at Felden, Kansas, and attended the Decatur County schools. He became employed as a state game protector in 1946 and will soon complete twelve years of service with this department.

He is the game protector for Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Greeley Counties and lives at Goodland.

Kenny and his wife Marylee have four children, three boys and one girl.

His hobbies are guns and ammunition.

Although it sometimes eats fruit, the bulk of the diet of the red-bellied woodpecker is composed of injurious forest insects.

Generally, the ears of mule deer are 25 percent larger than those of whitetail deer.

Squirrel season in Kansas opens September first.

ARRESTS—FEBRUARY, 1958

<i>Name and address</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Date of offense</i>	<i>Fine</i>
R. E. McGoyne; Eldorado	No hunting license	1-27-58	\$10.00
Gary Cobwin; Salina	No hunting license	2-11-58	5.00
Ernest King; Wellington	No hunting license	2-15-58	5.00
Willard Webster; Wellington	No hunting license	2-26-58	5.00
Alfred Aramburu; Wichita	No hunting license	2- 3-58	5.00
Darrell Dee Cox; Douglas County	No hunting license	2-19-58	5.00
C. Delos Tucker; Topeka	No hunting license	2-19-58	5.00
James Sigle; Wichita	No fishing license	2-14-58	5.00
Albert E. Lukken; Wichita	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	2-17-58	10.00
Mareo H. Zamboni; Wichita	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	1-14-58	10.00
Robert C. Norton; Fort Riley	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	1-14-58	10.00
Claude Humble; Wichita	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	1-14-58	10.00
Richard D. Stack; Wichita	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	1-14-58	10.00
Frank Smith; Brookville	Hunt, pursue, shoot and kill wild game bird after sunset	2-14-58	25.00
Carol Manuel; Brookville	Hunt, pursue, shoot and kill wild game bird after sunset	2-14-58	25.00
Leonard F. Dix; Stockton	Hunt, pursue, shoot and kill wild game bird after sunset	2-15-58	10.00
Ernest Wehausen; Hinsdale, Ill.	Hunt, pursue, shoot and kill wild game bird after sunset	2-15-58	25.50
Fred Wright; Ottawa	Hunt, pursue, shoot and kill wild game bird after sunset	2- 7-58	10.00
Oliver Hurd; Great Bend	Hunting and killing pheasants during closed season	2- 5-58	50.00
Gus Schmidt; Gorham	Spearing fish through ice	2-17-58	20.00
Neel Holler; Gorham	Spearing fish through ice	2-18-58	10.00

ARRESTS—MARCH, 1958

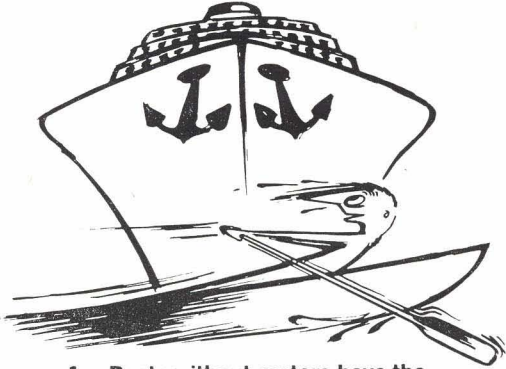
<i>Name and address</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Date of offense</i>	<i>Fine</i>
Jack Delbert Hackworth; Independence	No fishing license	3- 6-58	\$5.00
Henry Osterhout; Scammon	No fishing license	3-14-58	10.00
Seth Osborn; Abilene	No fishing license	3-21-58	5.00
Ray Hopkins; Salina	No hunting license	3-13-58	5.00 (remitted)
Loraine Cleaver; Colony	Killing and possessing wildfowl in closed season	3-27-58	25.00
Leon Craig; Beattie	Killing and possessing wildfowl in closed season	3-29-58	10.00
Rodney Craig; Beattie	Killing and possessing wildfowl in closed season	3-29-58	10.00
Ronnie Decker; Great Bend	Disorderly conduct in state park	4- 1-58	15.00
Bill Ward; Fredonia	Killing and possessing game birds during closed season	3-26-58	10.00
Frank Baker; Fredonia	Killing and possessing game birds during closed season	3-26-58	10.00
Eugene Normandin; Damar	Killing cottontail rabbits in excess of daily bag limit	2- 8-58	15.00
Ronald Simoneau; Damar	Shooting from motor car and hunting game animals during closed season	3-15-58	20.00

ARRESTS—APRIL, 1958

<i>Name and address</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Date of offense</i>	<i>Fine</i>
Jerry Turner; Hartford	No fishing license	4- 2-58	\$5.00
James Emley; Hartford	No fishing license	4- 2-58	5.00
Claude O. Boman; Larned	No fishing license	4- 4-58	5.00
Conner G. Gibson; Galena	No fishing license	4- 3-58	10.00
Delbert V. Murphy; Altoona	No fishing license	4- 5-58	5.00
Tiee E. Martin; Salina	No fishing license	4- 5-58	5.00
C. Kenneth Robinson; Humbolt	No fishing license	4-12-58	10.00
Ernest Kilpatrick; Arkansas City	No fishing license	4-13-58	10.00
Paul Guess, Jr.; Independence	No fishing license	4-12-58	10.00
Andrew Davis; Chetopa	No fishing license	4-11-58	10.00
C. D. Murray; Colby	No fishing license	4-14-58	10.00
S. Lee Cunningham; WaKeeney	No fishing license	4-12-58	5.00
Paul E. Miller; El Dorado	No fishing license	4-15-58	10.00
C. J. Collier; Wichita	No fishing license	4-15-58	10.00
Ronald G. Reed; Leon	No fishing license	4-21-58	10.00
Grant W. Dunn; Leon	No fishing license	4-21-58	10.00
Charles Brown; Melvern	No fishing license	4-23-58	10.00
J. V. Williams; Quenemo	No fishing license	4-23-58	10.00
Everett Jarman; Chetopa	No fishing license	4-22-58	5.00
Ronald Pettz; Deerfield	No fishing license	4-23-58	10.00
Robert L. Stephens; Baxter Springs	No fishing license	4-16-58	10.00
Robert L. Smith; Topeka	No fishing license	4-21-58	5.00
Carl S. Johnson; Topeka	No fishing license	4-21-58	5.00
Charles E. Vernon; Hays	No fishing license	4-21-58	5.00

<i>Name and address</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Date of offense</i>	<i>Fine</i>
John W. Coursen; Wathena	No fishing license	4-20-58	\$15.00
Richard L. Satterfield; Wichita	No fishing license	4-26-58	10.00
Jesse McCloud; Pittsburg	No fishing license	4-25-58	10.00
Jack Worley; Wichita	No fishing license	4-26-58	10.00
Joe L. Leikam; Hays	No fishing license	4-24-58	10.00
Jack Pipin; Chetopa	No fishing license	4-25-58	10.00
Jackie Dean Parrish; Topeka	No fishing license	4-19-58	5.00
Robert R. Frederickson; Topeka	No fishing license	4-19-58	5.00
Herbert Lyman; Burlington	No fishing license	4-22-58	5.00
Kenneth E. Donelson; Strong City	No fishing license	4-15-58	5.00
Jesse Martinez; Parsons	No fishing license	4-24-58	10.00
Donald L. Loffer; Coffeyville	No fishing license	4-29-58	5.00
Rheadorpus Fuentes; Parsons	No fishing license	4-24-58	10.00
Harvey L. Hobbs; Kansas City	No fishing license	4-20-58	5.00
James C. Kirtley; Wichita	No fishing license	4-26-58	10.00
Lloyd M. Swindell; Latham	No fishing license	4-28-58	15.00
Ermen Lee Archie; Kansas City	No fishing license	4-26-58	5.00
Jerald V. McMurtrey; Salina	No fishing license	4-22-58	5.00
Raymond L. Bruce; Salina	No fishing license	4-19-58	5.00
Fred L. Divain; Salina	No fishing license	4-19-58	5.00
Edgar S. Noe; Girard	No fishing license	4-26-58	10.00
Albert Arveson; Chapman	No fishing license	4-24-58	5.00
Evert Johnson; Lawrence	No fishing license	4-23-58	5.00
Guy W. Sanders; Galena	No fishing license	4-28-58	5.00
Richard W. Shoemaker; Galena	No fishing license	4-28-58	5.00
Ted Haines; Lawrence	No fishing license	4-26-58	17.50
James Wilson; Topeka	No fishing license	4-19-58	5.00
Thomas H. Vance; Cherryvale	No fishing license	4-24-58	5.00
Robert Beward; Radley	No fishing license	4-27-58	5.00
Thomas H. Shaw; Parsons	No fishing license	4-28-58	5.00
Donald R. Zeigler; Wann, Okla.	No fishing license	4-22-58	10.00
Elmer Curnette; Mount Rose, Colo.	No fishing license	4-22-58	5.00
Charles Cook; Kansas City, Mo.	No fishing license	4-10-58	10.00
John K. Brewster; Meade	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-30-58	10.00
Fred Dickerson; Meade	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-30-58	10.00
John Wilson; Kansas City	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-26-58	12.50
Johnny Moffett; Kansas City	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-21-58	5.00
Zenebra W. Baker; Kansas City	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-22-58	5.00
H. W. Jackson; Kansas City	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-12-58	10.00
Sammie L. Davis; Kansas City	Fishing with illegal number of rods and lines	4-12-58	10.00
Roy B. Cooper; Chetopa	Operating fish trap	4-27-58	100.00
Burl J. Gregory; Kansas City	Operating illegal number of trotlines	4-20-58	15.00
Glen Camper; Chetopa	Operating fish trap; exceeding creel limit; no fishing license	4-14-58	150.00
John W. Camper; Mason City, Iowa	Operating fish trap; no fishing license	4-14-58	125.00
William Douglas Griffing; Wichita	Operating trotline in mouth of stream	4-26-58	10.00
Norvel Ray Wisel; Great Bend	Snagging fish; no fishing license	4-17-58	20.00
Gary Larkin; Great Bend	Snagging fish	4-17-58	15.00
Ralph Rapp; Pratt	Snagging fish	4-21-58	10.00
C. T. Freidline; Wichita	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	10-19-57	10.00
Russell W. French; Sublette	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	10-15-57	10.00
William E. Vering; Salina	Hunting waterfowl with shotgun capable of holding more than three shells at one time, magazine and chamber combined	11-24-57	none
Carlie Trower; Emporia	Hunting game from moving auto	10-29-57	5.00
Robert Holverson; Emporia	Hunting game from moving auto	10-29-57	5.00
John Ballance; Wichita	Killing game animals in closed season; no hunting license	3-20-58	15.00
Harvard M. Kramer; Melvern	Issuing antedated fishing license	4-23-58	5.00
H. M. Osterhout; Topeka	No hunting license	11-20-57	10.00
Bob Billings; Dodge City	No hunting license	4- 8-58	5.00
Howard P. Frank; Paola	No hunting license	4-22-58	10.00
Hershall Allen; Pratt	No hunting license	4-19-58	2.00
George Gibson; St. Joseph, Mo.	No hunting license	12-28-57	5.00
Leonard Ray; Lawrence	No hunting license	11-16-57	5.00
Marvin Moore; Muncie	No hunting license	11-10-57	5.00
Don Hale; Edwardsville	No hunting license	11-10-57	5.00
Ralph Graves; Topeka	Trespassing	12- 5-57	10.00
Max Field; Topeka	Trespassing	12- 5-57	10.00
Claude Warburton; Topeka	Trespassing	10-26-57	10.00
Paul J. Richstatter; Wichita	Trespassing	11-19-57	10.00
Gale Riggs; Wichita	Trespassing	11-22-57	10.00
Lyle and Albert Phillips; Parsons	Trespassing	11-26-57	10.00
Gean H. Voss; Derby	Misconduct on state property	4-26-58	50.00 (.05 remitted)
Jack J. Shrope; Geuda Springs	Misconduct on state property	4- 1-58	5.00 (remitted)
James Anderson; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00
Pat Yoeman; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00
Gary Rhoades; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00
Lowell M. Walters; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00
G. J. Yoeman, Jr.; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00
Walter L. Earley; Parsons	Misconduct on state property	4-27-58	10.00

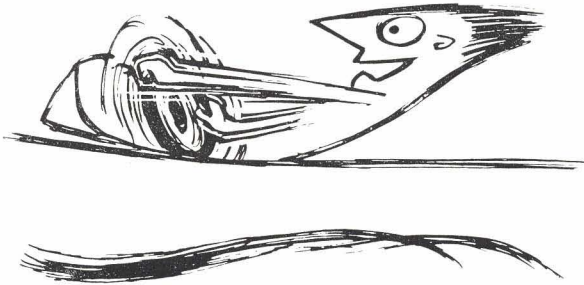
Rules of the Road



1. Boats without motors have the right of way over boats with motors.



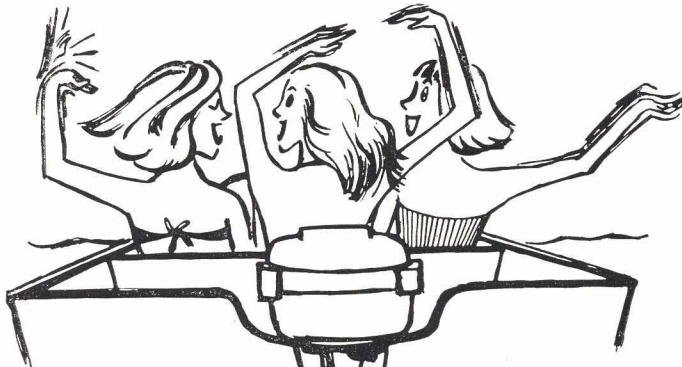
2. Keep right in channels.



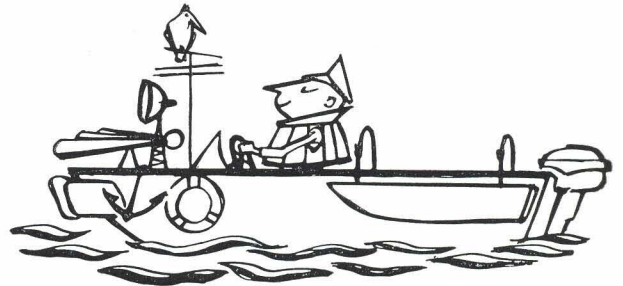
3. When you meet another boat head on, swing to the right.



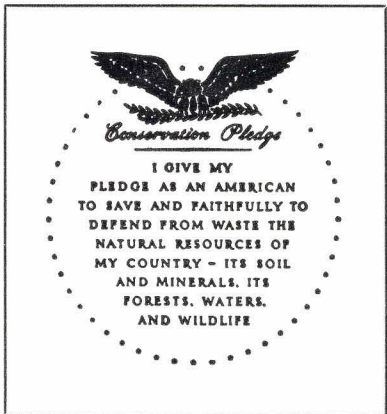
4. When two boats are approaching each other at an angle the boat on the right has the right of way.



5. A boat being overtaken always has the right of way.



6. Do everything possible to avoid a collision in an emergency.



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