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# KANSAS

## *Wildlife & Parks Magazine*

**2022 Fishing  
Forecast** *Pg. 15*

**Discover  
Tuttle Creek  
State Park** *Pg. 40*

*Pg. 36*  
**Spring Cover Crops  
for Pheasant**







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*Wildlife & Parks Magazine*



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**Megan Mayhew**, Digital Content Manager

**Annie Swisher**, Circulation

**FRONT COVER** Fishing season is about to heat up. Reference the 2022 Fishing Forecast on page 15. Jon Blumb photo.

**INSIDE COVER** A muskrat enjoys a freshly-plucked meal. Bob Gress photo.

**Editorial Creed:** To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

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# COMMON GROUND

with Brad Loveless



from the secretary

## Hunter Education is Evolving

**I**n 2023, we will celebrate 50 years of hunter education in Kansas. Yesterday, I sat down with my son and grandson to inspect the deer rifle that we were going to use in the morning, and the instruction that my son and I received in Kansas Hunter Education was also repeated:

- 1) Which way should the gun always be pointed?
- 2) What do you ask the person who hands you the gun?
- 3) Did you check to ensure that the safety was on and the magazine empty?

While the instruction I received has served me well, that which is offered today has changed from when I took the course more than 35 years ago. It has changed for the better. We know that in both biology and in the classroom, evolution is needed to adapt to challenges and opportunities to compete more successfully.

Over the years, class duration has increased from four to a minimum of 10 hours of instruction. In 2004, we added an internet-assisted option for a portion of the course and an expedited option for non-residents. In 2005, the legislature set a minimum age of 11 for certification.

In 2007, we began providing resident and non-resident hunters the apprentice license option. This was a “try it before you buy it” concept as part of our effort to increase hunter recruitment and it allowed up to two years of deferral of certification when hunting under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter 18 years or older. This past fall, in partnership with the National Rifle Association, we began offering students 16 years or older a fully online course, as we saw increasing numbers of residents were choosing these courses from other states over our Kansas options.

In Kansas, one part of our proud Hunter Education tradition is that all courses have always been free of charge. This is due to the dedication of more than 1,200 active volunteer instructors and to the federal excise tax collected on hunting equipment that is sent to Kansas, leveraged by those donated hours. Many of those fabulous volunteers have been serving



Lyndzee Rhine, KDWP outdoor skills and recruitment coordinator, instructs eager participants at the 2021 Women's Hunter Education course held at Webster State Park last fall.

over three decades, and some more than four!

In early January, our Education Section convened a focus group of stakeholders interested in Kansas Hunter Education, including veteran instructors. Mike Miller, assistant secretary, lead the discussion with a list of thoughtful questions. The group was so enthused and engaged, it seemed more like Mike was trying to hold on to a bucking bronc than guiding a horse on a trail ride. He, our other staff, and I answered some questions but happily took notes while the participants expertly commented on a broad array of issues. Those included pros and cons of our Kansas Hunter Education curriculum, critical aspects of recruitment and retention, Hunter Education in the schools and enhanced training communication and verification techniques. Opportunities for additional dialog on hunter education plus recruitment, retention and reactivation will follow soon for anyone interested. We are excited to receive even more ideas and suggestions to improve the program that so many Kansans are invested in. We can't help but be optimistic for the future of this program with such passionate thoughtful partners. And rest assured, we'll continue to evaluate and evolve! 🐾

*Brad Loveless*



# IN THE MAIL

## Job Well Done

I have loved this state since I got here in 1966, coming here after serving in Vietnam. I have gotten the magazine for many years and must say that for the last few years, we have loved the changes that your staff members have made. We like the new look. KDWP has done and continues to do an incredible job! The magazine is anxiously awaited every two months by not only me but my sons-in-laws and grandkids, too!

All the best,  
*Bob Dilla*

Mr. Dilla,

**First and foremost, a heartfelt “thank you” to your for your service to our country; I can only imagine what a transition that was at the time.**

**I sincerely appreciate your long-time support of our publication, and for your kind words.**

**Often, we can be our own worst critics – only focusing on the areas in which we fall short. So, your kudos won’t soon be forgotten!**

**Wishing you and your family well.**

*Nadia Reimer, executive editor*

in the mail

# LATEST NEWS

## KDWP Expands Research Footprint in Emporia



A second Emporia location will provide the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) with additional storage, laboratory and office space, affording Emporia Research and Survey staff the ability to scale future research efforts. KDWP purchased the former Dynamic Discs building at 3601 W. Sixth Ave. earlier this fall. The agency’s location at 1830 Merchant St. will remain its full-service office for public services such as fishing and hunting licenses, boat registrations, and park permits.

Currently, 14 full-time employees with specialties related to fisheries, furbearers, migratory birds, wildlife disease and upland game animals operate out of the agency’s approximately 4,250-square-foot Merchant Street location.

In addition to larger employee working quarters, the newly-acquired office space will benefit KDWP research programs – such as increasing federal grant opportunities related to invasive species – allow staff to house large equipment, and create room for a dedicated laboratory space.

“Our laboratory is currently housed in our compound across the interstate from King Lake,” Jeff Koch, KDWP assis-

tant director of Fisheries research, explained. “It’s a salvaged maintenance shop from the 1970s, so we’re really looking forward to having a modern lab facility that will meet current and future needs of our biologists.”

The new facility won’t just meet the needs of the state agency. KDWP staff will welcome faculty and staff from nearby Emporia State University (ESU) to frequent the new lab facility, added Koch.

“The partnership between KDWP and ESU has always been a very positive one, which we look forward to continuing,” said Koch. “Our expansion, combined with ESU’s new Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach Center (PAROC), will create a top-notch learning and research environment for many years to come.”

KDWP and ESU entered into a cooperative agreement in the 1980s – when KDWP’s building at 1830 Merchant Street began operating – and fortunately for both parties, that partnership has only grown stronger with time.

“We deeply appreciate our partnership with KDWP,” said Brent Thomas, dean of ESU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “Our partnership with KDWP has helped our faculty provide students with a diverse array of research opportunities, internships and hands-on applied learning. In addition, many new and exciting collaborations are forming now that we have opened the PAROC facility and hired Dr. Rachel Bowes as our new endowed professor of aquatic sciences.”

KDWP’s Emporia Research and Survey office at 1830 Merchant Street is open from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on weekdays. The front desk can be reached at (620) 342-0658.

To learn more about ESU’s PAROC center, visit <https://www.emporia.edu/about-emporia-state-university/campus-organizations-and-attractions/prophet-aquatic-research-outreach-center/>.

latest news



## BIRD BRAIN Your Spring Birding Guide *with Mike Rader*

from the kdwp staff

Bird migration has kicked into gear. Waterfowl have been moving north since late winter, but many species peak during early spring. Shorebirds are on the move, with the earlier-migrating species passing through in a protracted migration. Songbirds are arriving to breed or pass through on their way to more northerly destinations. All this bird movement spurs experienced and novice birders into action, ready to get out in the field to see what nature has to offer.

Whether you are new to birding or looking to hit the field after a break this winter, you might have some questions about where to begin. Let me help.

### What do I wear?

Wear what is comfortable for you and practical for the type of birding you plan on doing.

If you plan to bird from a vehicle, you do not need any specialized clothing or footwear.

If you plan on walking in the elements, wear closed-toed footwear that won't hurt your feet. I recommend shoes that don't allow insect/snake bites or punctures from sandburs and thorns to get through.

If you plan to walk around in vegetation, I recommend long pants instead of shorts. Lightweight shirts are good for warmer days, and the long sleeves will help protect you from insects and sunburn.

I also wear a ball cap to help shade my eyes and keep my face and head protected from sunburn.

Sunscreen and insect repellent should be in your birding tool kit – there aren't many things that can ruin a birding trip as quickly as mosquitoes, ticks, or a bad sunburn!

### What binoculars do I need?

Binoculars are a personal choice. There are dozens of brands out there that range in price from under \$100 to \$3,000 and up.

I recommend getting the best binoculars that you can afford. Cheaper, poor optics are frustrating as a birder and are

easily damaged. Many sporting goods stores sell optics, so go and try some out! See how they fit in your hands, how they feel and adjust to your eyes and face; Consider how durable they are, if they have a good armor coating and a good warranty prior to purchasing.

### What field guides should I use?

There are lots of quality field guides on the market, as well as bird identification apps for smartphones. There are guides that use exclusively bird drawings/paintings, while others use photographs or a combination of the two.

Gift shops at many nature centers have a wide variety of field guides, and the internet is full of options, as well.

I personally use the National Geographic Society guide, Sibley's guide, Kaufman series guides, Peterson guides and many others. Use what you think gives you the best options for your style of learning.

### Where do I go?

Kansas has many fine locations for birding, including lakes and reservoirs, marshes, parks, woodlands, and prairies. Depending on your style of birding, you could even be successful birding in your own backyard!

The recent formation of the Kansas Birding Trail will be an easy way to familiarize yourself with quality locations across the state with public access, decent roads and nice lists of birds reported. The Kansas Birding Trail – debuting this spring – will be advertised on ksoutdoors.com once ready, so keep checking back for details.

Lastly, don't forget to sign up for the **Kansas Birding Big Year**. Details for the competition are posted on [ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2022-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year](https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Diversity/2022-Kansas-Birding-Big-Year). It's a fun and easy way to compare your birding skills to your peers, and learn what kinds of species are out there!

Have a safe and exciting spring in the field.

## WHAT AM I? ID Challenge

Using only the image and clues below, see if you can figure out this month's mystery species!



### Clues:

1. Most people look for me in the spring.
2. I typically eat at dawn and dusk.
3. I can lay between 5,000 and 60,000 eggs.

>>> See answer on Page 11.





## Explore Your Element with Tanna Fanshier



## FISHIN' The Cold Bite with Mike Miller



Edgar Castillo, avid upland game hunter, was featured in the first video of KDWP's "Explore Your Element" series.

American author, essayist, and nature writer Barry Lopez once stated, "diversity is not a characteristic of life; it is a condition necessary for life... like air and water."

At the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), we know this to be true. A key indicator of a healthy ecosystem is diversity, and KDWP is tasked with maintaining healthy ecological systems - including our diverse fish and wildlife populations - to the benefit of the diverse Kansans we serve. Occasionally, we are fortunate to hear stories from our constituency about the different ways they enjoy our Kansas outdoors; from the lands and waters that serve as their home away from home to the traditions they pass on, or the new adventures they experience for the first time. It is in these stories that many of our staff find their purpose: serving the outdoors in a way that serves Kansans - all Kansans.

As a testament to the diversity in experiences, backgrounds, and opportunities, KDWP has recently launched a new media campaign entitled

"Explore Your Element" highlighting the diverse ways Kansans get outdoors. These authentic stories told by real Kansans highlight the interconnectedness of our wild spaces and the people that enjoy them. We are proud to showcase the unique perspectives of each participant and listen as they tell us what the Kansas outdoors means to them.

Join us in celebrating diversity in the outdoors! Check out and share these new videos by visiting on our YouTube channel at Kansas Wildlife and Parks, searching "Explore Your Element," and getting inspired to explore *YOUR* element in the Kansas outdoors today!



Early spring, and by that I mean late February and March, can be the toughest time of the year to catch small-water fish. Anglers are champing at the bit to get out, so on the first warm, sunny day, we're on the water. However, even though the air temperature is in the mid-sixties to low seventies, the water temperature is probably still in the high thirties. Cold-blooded, sluggish fish are also in limbo between winter haunts and spring spawning areas.

I used to think that I had to fish deep when the water temperature was cold, and that is sometimes the case in early winter. However, after ice-out, the sun starts warming the shallows first, and water where brush or other structure reaches the surface warms even faster. Fish seek warm water and so does their food. Start fishing shallow, close to woody cover if possible, in the feeder creeks and north-shore coves (the theory being the sun angle warms the north shores first).

Fish slowly. Cold fish won't chase a bait. From the shore, use a float with either with a small colorful jig or a minnow set several feet deep. From a boat, fish vertically, dropping your bait near or just above cover and move it very subtly.

Just like in early fall, early spring is often boom or bust. The best days are usually after a two or three degree water-temperature warm up. But don't get discouraged. Remember, the Henry David Thoreau quote, "Many men fish all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after." Enjoy the warm sun, replenish vitamin D, soak in the sights and sounds and just appreciate being outdoors again. If you catch a fish, consider it a bonus.

from the kdwp staff



# LET'S EAT

## Better with Butter

with Dustin Teasley

from the kdwp staff

Successful springtime crappie fishing eludes me. I target them almost every spring but can't seem to find that one trick or secret spot that is a go-to year after year. But sometimes I get lucky enough to hook plenty for a meal or two.

One evening last spring, my daughter, Anastin, wanted to go fishing. When your teenage daughter asks to go fishing, you drop everything and take her fishing.

For a couple of hours, we hammered small crappie that measured 6- to 8-inches long with an occasional 10-incher that made the stringer. We began a competition to see who could catch the most fish, and I kept a close eye on her to make sure she didn't cheat. At one point, I looked over to see her pole doubled over and assumed she had buried her jig deep into the log she had been fishing around.

"Nope, it's a fish, Dad," she corrected me.

I grabbed the net, thinking maybe she caught a large-mouth. As I got there, the fish flashed its side, revealing itself to be a large crappie. After nearly falling in trying to net it, the landed fish measured 15 inches! To prove my point about crappie eluding me, it was the biggest crappie I had ever seen. I couldn't believe how much more meat there was on a 15-incher versus the 12-inchers I was used to.

We ended the day bringing home a few crappie to clean, still amazed at the amount of meat the 15-inch fish produced.

My daughter is at that age where if she just thinks she doesn't like a certain type of food, she will refuse to eat it. Unfortunately, fish is one of those foods right now. Luckily my wife and I love fish – especially crappie – so, we got to enjoy her catch.



Anastin Teasley shows off her 15-inch crappie caught last spring.

Generally, we lightly bread our crappie fillets and fry them in oil. But the fillets from Anastin's crappie got special treatment. I broke out the cast iron and began melting a stick of butter.

Warning: This recipe might upset your cardiologist.

## Buttered Crappie & Rice

■ Prep: 15 minutes ■ Cook: 15 minutes ■ Makes: 4 servings



1 cup white rice	1 Tbsp olive oil	1 tsp paprika
4 large crappie fillet	2 tsp garlic powder	(smoked preferred)
1 stick salted butter	1 tsp black pepper	Pinch table salt

- Cook the rice and set aside, keeping hot.
- In a skillet slightly larger than the fish, combine the olive oil, stick of butter, garlic powder and pinch of salt over medium heat.
- Pat dry the fillets with a paper towel, and season both sides of the fish with black pepper, paprika and table salt.
- Once the heat begins forming bubbles around the skillet's edge, place the fish in the skillet. Using a spoon, repeatedly lap hot butter atop the fillets until the fillet is lightly browned on the bottom.
- Turn the fillets and cook for approximately 2 more minutes. Time will vary depending on fillet thickness.
- Insert two forks back-to-back into the fillets at 1 minute and gently pull. If the meat pulls tight, let it cook until it separates easily. If it separates easily, it's done.
- Create a bed of rice on a plate and lay a fillet on top. Drizzle with butter leftover from the skillet, and serve with your favorite vegetable.





## Law Matters

### Become a Kansas Game Warden

*with Colonel Gregory Kyser*



An early fall morning and a line of cars are parked with the drivers patiently waiting to get moving. No – it's not opening day at the marsh, or even a traffic backup on your everyday commute. This line hosts the next hopeful group of candidates eager to start their Kansas Game Warden testing – and the next line could include you.

After the initial sign-in, the group of candidates must complete a timed mile run in 10 minutes or less. Successfully passing the run allows the applicant to continue the testing process. Throughout the day, multiple tests will focus on identification of Kansas species, general knowledge related to outdoor biology, wildlife law enforcement and Kansas boating safety. These tests, including a memory test, are all part of the process to becoming a Kansas Game Warden.

While a degree is still preferred, we recognize that many of our candidates have the outdoor knowledge to serve as a game warden despite having not received a bachelor's degree. As we screen future applicants, a bachelor's degree will no longer be required.

Those who move forward from initial testing are invited to an initial interview. As with any law enforcement position, an extensive background investigation takes place, followed by a final interview. Those who successfully navigate the process are rewarded with a great career protecting the natural resources of Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is in search of our next wave of recruits. I encourage those who have the perseverance and drive to be a Kansas Game Warden to watch for testing opportunities as they become available throughout the year. Check [ksoutdoors.com/KDWP-Info/Jobs](http://ksoutdoors.com/KDWP-Info/Jobs) and [admin.ks.gov/services/state-employment-center](http://admin.ks.gov/services/state-employment-center) to find the opportunity that best suits you.

For any questions regarding the hiring process, contact Laverne Taylor at [laverne.taylor@ks.gov](mailto:laverne.taylor@ks.gov).

I look forward to seeing you patiently waiting in line for the next Kansas Game Warden testing opportunity!



## BOAT KANSAS

### Traits of a Responsible Captain

*with Chelsea Hofmeier*

So, you bought a boat and are excited to start taking it out for adventures. Congrats!

Owning a boat is an exciting but big responsibility, and just like a car, often you're not the only person riding in it. You, as the boat captain, are responsible for keeping everyone in and around your boat safe. Here's how.

The first step to being a responsible captain is to know your own boat. Know how it handles in different situations, such as weight that is on board and changing water conditions. Know what safety equipment is required to be on board depending on the kind of boat that you have and be sure to maintain that equipment so that it works properly in emergency situations.

You have a responsibility to your passengers by making sure they know the rules and protocol for being on board and staying safe. Make sure everyone knows where their life jackets are, or better yet, insist that everyone wear them. Anyone under 13 is required by law to wear a correctly fitting life jacket, no exceptions. Boating with a fun group can sometimes be distracting but be sure to keep a proper lookout while under way to avoid any collisions. Maintaining a safe speed will also lower the risk of any accidents.

Have a healthy respect for the ever-changing weather conditions and have a plan in place if it becomes unsafe. Check the weather forecast ahead of time but have a way to keep an eye on it during your outing as well, whether it be your phone or by detecting visual and physical changes in the atmosphere.

Be familiar with the body of water you are on and let someone who is not going to be joining you know your travel plans so that they can alert someone if you do not return when expected.

Respect the water and fellow boaters. Help take care of the environment by not dumping any trash or waste into the water. Educate yourself about aquatic nuisance species and how to prevent spreading them to other bodies of water. Be familiar with the navigation rules and give other boaters space, both on the water and at the boat ramp.

Last but certainly not least, a responsible captain is a sober captain. As the operator of the boat, you are expected to get everyone on board, including yourself, to and from your destination safely, and this can only happen if you are not influenced by drugs or alcohol. Every year, alcohol use is one of the leading contributing factors of boating accidents and deaths, so don't become a statistic, and leave the alcohol on shore.

Do your part in being a responsible boat captain and help keep our Kansas waters safe!

from the kdwp staff





# BULLSEYE

with Kent Barret

## 7 x 57 Mauser

The shooting and hunting worlds changed forever when the 7x57 Mauser was developed.

The 7mm Mauser was one of the first cartridges designed to use smokeless powder. This round had impressive ballistics compared to the other cartridges at the time. The cartridge was developed hand in hand with the revolutionary Mauser bolt action rifle designed to fire it.

The round, created for the Spanish Army, utilized a 173-grain full metal jacketed bullet traveling at 2,300 fps with about 2,000 foot pounds of energy. This load was extremely accurate at what was considered then to be long range (700 yards with open sights), had a relatively flat trajectory (high ballistic coefficient), offered excellent penetration (high sectional density) and did it all with a minimum amount of recoil in lightweight rifles.

In 1899, prominent British rifle maker John Rigby held the importing license for Mauser rifles and actions. He began chambering some in 7x57, and renamed the round to .275 Rigby. Rigby also updated the performance of the round by incorporating a 140 grain spitzer shaped bullet for the heavy 173 grain round nose and the caliber was able to excel.

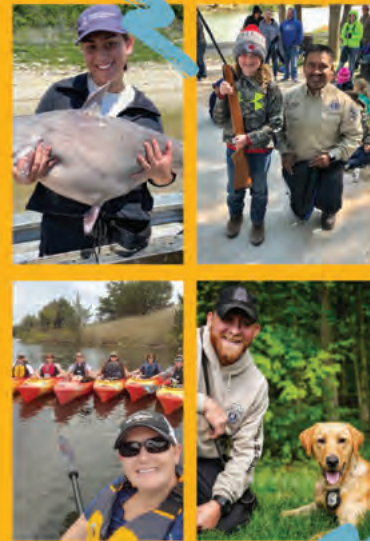
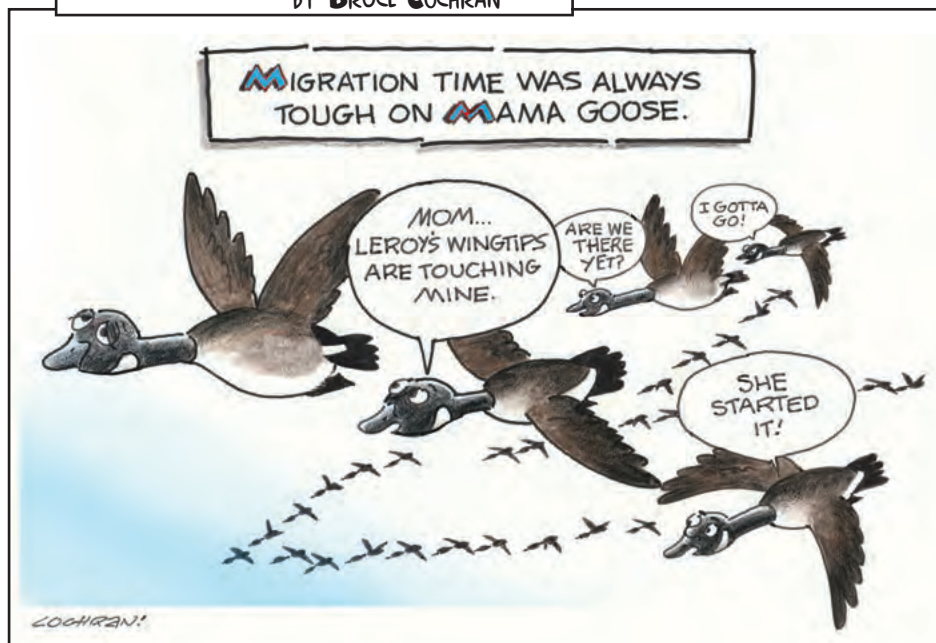
The effectiveness of the round was soon discovered by hunters.

Walter Dalrymple Maitland Bell, better known as W.D.M. "Karamojo" Bell and James Edward "Jim" Corbett were two of the more famous international users of the 7x57. Bell hunted elephants in Africa with a Rigby-Mauser 98 while Corbett tracked down infamous man-eating tigers and leopards in India with a Rigby-Mauser.

American hunter and writer Jack O'Connor used a custom-built CZ VZ24 rifle for many of his hunts across the world and almost exclusively for his desert sheep hunts. This rifle was later claimed by his wife Eleanor. After trying it, she liked it so much, Jack had the stock fitted to her and she used it for the rest of her life.

The 7x57 is not as popular with shooters today because it uses a standard long action where the newer 7mm-08 is based on the short action .308 cartridge. But for a handloader, the longer 7x57 case allows for a greater powder charge and increased performance. Using a bullet in the heavier range allows the 7x57 to be extremely effective on big game animals up to and including elk. After 127 years of service, the 7x57 is certainly worthy of being considered a classic cartridge.

## WAY outside BY BRUCE COCHRAN



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talented team!

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of openings at  
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opportunity employer.





## Brain Abscesses in Deer

with Shane Hesting

Every year, we receive reports of deer — mainly mature bucks — that are not behaving normally. Many times the cause of the sickness (morbidity) is falsely attributed to CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) when in actuality, brain abscesses are the more likely culprit.

Sometimes other diseases such as rabies, plant toxins, hemorrhagic disease virus, and even CWD will produce symptoms that mimic brain abscess symptoms. Thus, neurologic animals should be approached with caution. The best action to take is to contact KDWP if suspect you've discovered a diseased animal.

### Causes

Brain abscesses happen when bacteria, primarily *Trueperella pyogenes*, enters a wound or crack in the antler pedicle (base of an antler). The bacteria can also enter delicate tissue after an antler has shed, or via the optic nerve canal, if a deer gets an eye orbit infection.

### Behavior

A deer with a brain abscess can behave in different ways. The most common behavior is "circling." This is when the deer repetitively walks in a circular pattern — a very common symptom. Secondary symptoms may include: walking into vehicles, not running away from approaching people, lying on the ground and unable to move, wading out into water, and random, irregular wandering. Many deer with brain abscesses exhibit all or some of these symptoms, while some only exhibit one or two.

### Hosts

Brain abscesses can happen to both male and female deer, but are most common in males. *Trueperella pyogenes* and other bacteria can easily enter through antler bases when loosened or broken from rubbing on trees, sparring with other bucks, or collisions with vehicles and trains.

### Affect on Population

As visible as deer with brain abscesses are to the public, brain abscesses do not significantly affect deer numbers. The annual occurrence and detection of deer brain abscesses attests to the fact Kansas has a robust population of mature, male white-tailed deer on the landscape. Populations with many mature male deer will always have some bucks succumb to brain abscesses.

*When an organism is born, it becomes part of the beautifully complex, collective thing we call life. And, at some point, all life forms will experience disease. "Disease" is simply defined as "a departure from health." From trauma to tissue to viral and bacterial infections that kill cells and destroy vessels, to parasites that attack organs and tissues, the causes for departures from health are virtually endless. So, when we come across a diseased organism in the field, sometimes it's simplest just to refer to it as "ADR: Ain't Doing Right."*







Wyatt Hadley's morel mushroom was found on Kansas public lands.

When I go mushroom hunting, I'm happy if I find enough to fill my sauté pan. That typically equates to a dozen or so Post-it Note-size morels. It's not everyday you can feed your family with the picking of a single mushroom.

Wyatt Hadley, in the spring of 2021, found one of these special giants in an often-disregarded area – a subdivision in Olathe. Weighing in at a whopping 1 lb. 15 oz. (880g), this mammoth of a mushroom was, at first, not recognized by Wyatt to be a morel.

"I thought it was a kid's nerf ball. I got closer and then the shock set in," said Hadley. With 17 years of experienced mushroom hunting, scanning for potential hotspots has become second-

## Massive Morel Mushroom Discovered

by Lyndzee Rhine

nature to him. "I saw a big dead elm from the road and decided to stop. The mushroom was just off a walking trail within city limits along the creek."

This morel, by which Wyatt's wife was "remarkably unimpressed" because she did not realize the significance of the find, is one of the largest recorded in Kansas from public lands. Our friends at Clinton State Park provided the official measurements. With a circumference of 18.5 in (47 cm) and a height of 7.5 in (19 cm), it was decided that this specimen should be submitted for the Guinness Book of World Records.

Hadley's morel was found well into the season. The sheer mass was enough to topple the spongy cap, causing the mushroom to fold in on itself, decreasing the colossal height significantly. The mushroom was past its prime so it was no longer good to eat but it was a find Wyatt, and his family will not soon forget.

Public land is often not seen as a viable place to forage; a myth that I have busted time and time again. In fact, some of my best hauls have come from our state parks. With the dawning of a new mushroom season, I challenge you to explore a different kind of hunting – that of the mushroom variety. Whether you've been at it for years or want to try something new, morel foraging on our public lands may yield some big results. Who knows, maybe you'll find the next state record.

Note: It is advised that edible plants and fungi found within city limits not be consumed due to possible chemical contamination.

## FROM KDWP PARTNERS

### Call of the Wild(scape)

### Kansas Wildscape is Building Momentum

with Marc Murrell

The Kansas Wildscape Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary last year and 2021 proved to be successful.

I was appointed as executive director on March 8 after retiring from a 32-year career with KDWP. Prior to my appointment, I entered Wildscape's name into the drawing for one of seven KDWP Commissioner's Big Game Permits. To my surprise, Wildscape's name was drawn from more than 200 applicants at the January 2021 KDWP Commission Meeting! We held an auction for the deer permit and the first bid was \$20,000. The next one was \$26,000. The previous record sale was \$23,000 – I was flabbergasted! A bidding war between two individuals ensued and Wildscape's permit sold for a record-setting \$41,000! Wildscape kept 15 percent for adminis-

trative use and roughly \$35,000 was earmarked for mutually-agreed upon projects between KDWP and Wildscape.

The first project was the Great Kansas Fishing Derby held in April, May and June. David Breth, KDWP fisheries education coordinator, coordinated the tagging of 500 fish in 35 publicly-accessible water bodies around Kansas. Prizes up to \$250 were offered for the returned tag numbers and the event seemed to create a great deal of interest. Wildscape sponsored the grand prize, which consisted of a random drawing among all those who caught a tagged fish for a lifetime Kansas fishing license (\$502.50 value).

Wildscape also partnered with KDWP Colonel Greg Kyser and Major David Simonetti on law enforcement's "Wall of Shame" traveling trailer. Designed with

actual items seized from illegal activities, the trailer will tour the state at various public events and showcase the problems posed by illegal activity.

Pass It On and R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) are also focal points for Wildscape moving forward. We worked with Tanna Fanshier, KDWP's R3 coordinator, to sponsor a lifetime hunting license that was raffled by West Franklin High School to help form their first trap shooting team. Between the lifetime hunting license, prizes from local businesses and a chili feed, they were able to raise nearly \$14,000!

We've also worked with KDWP's Lyndzee Rhine, outdoors skills and recruitment coordinator, and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation. Wildscape agreed to a

sponsorship (\$2,500) of the final shoot-off at the BorderWars Tournament held President's Day weekend in Overland Park. Wildscape also matched up to \$5,000 for the Kansas National Archery in the Schools Tournament for kids' scholarships the next weekend at the Hutchinson Fairgrounds.

Other R3 efforts with Tanna included Wildscape sponsoring five women with a scholarship for \$250 to attend the spring Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Workshop. Wildscape will have similar scholarships for the annual fall BOW, too. Wildscape will also sponsor the "She Goes Outdoors" boxes that KDWP is involved

with and donate money and/or gear to outfit KDWP's box this coming fall.

Wildscape is looking forward to more successful partnerships with KDWP in 2022. To help accomplish that, there were two fundraisers held in 2021. The Kansas Outdoor Classic at Milford Reservoir's Acorn Lodge and the 30th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign were big hits for Wildscape. With wonderful support from many individuals and businesses, we raised more than \$30,000. Grants from generous donors like the Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation and Wildscape is once again set to have another great year creating and promoting outdoor opportunities for all.

**Wildscape's OK Kids Program is accepting applications for grants from \$100-\$500 through mid-April. Most OK Kids events take place in state parks, but recreation centers and other similar venues have joined the program, as well. To see if you qualify, or to create an OK Kids event, visit [www.kansaswildscape.org/Programs/Outdoor-Kansas-for-Kids-O.K.-Kids](http://www.kansaswildscape.org/Programs/Outdoor-Kansas-for-Kids-O.K.-Kids).**



from kdwp partners



KANSAS  
NATIVE PLANT  
SOCIETY

The vibrant pink blooms of Rose Verbena, *Glandularia canadensis*, can be seen on dry roadsides and rocky hillsides in early spring. Rose Verbena is a member of the Vervain or Verbena family, and is also known by the common name Rose Vervain. It is an herbaceous low growing forb that dies back to the ground surface each winter. Blooms appear in late March through spring, and plants sometimes bloom for a second time in the fall.

The flowers are small and numerous, with five petals each, and they form a colorful pink pastel ring around the outer edge of flowering disks (as opposed to flowering spikes). Unopened flowers in the center of the disk are dark purple. The variation in color from pink to dark purple make for a very attractive plant. Other Verbena family plants that may be familiar are Dakota Verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*), Woolly Verbena (*Verbena stricta*) and Frog Fruit, also called Frog Fruit, (Phyla species), a water's edge plant that also blooms with lighter color pink flowers around the outer edge of a disk or cone shape.

Rose Verbena prefers to grow on dry rocky soils in open areas away from taller plants that compete for sunlight. Leaves, often covered by fine hairs, appear on opposite sides of stems, and vary in shape from oval to triangular with deeply incised lobes and toothed margins. Leaf size decreases toward the ends of branching stems. Some of the stems grow upward and support blooms, other stems sprawl laterally across the ground surface. The stems will produce new roots where they meet soil. If undisturbed, the plants will drop seeds in place and grow new plants, increasing the size of the blooming mass over time. Rose Verbena is native to the eastern third of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and ranges east to the Mississippi River.

While Rose Verbena does not offer much value as a forage plant for wildlife or livestock, early blooms provide nectar and pollen for early emerging bees, skippers and butterflies. The plant

## Rose Verbena *Glandularia canadensis*

with Krista Dahlinger



Michael Haddock Photo

has not been used historically as source of fiber or as a dye.

Rose Verbena makes an excellent garden plant for dry rocky soils. Collect dry seed heads in the fall when the plant has turned brown and scatter on a lightly scratched soil surface or wait until spring to sow seeds. Each plant lives about three years.

[www.KansasNativePlantSociety.org](http://www.KansasNativePlantSociety.org)





# A Kansas Pro

BY BRENT FRAZEE  
FREELANCE WRITER

## YOU'RE FROM WHERE?

Brent Chapman was asked that question a lot when he first hit bass fishing's pro ranks.

Most of the top pros talk with a southern drawl and are from places like Alabama, Florida or Texas.

Kansas? Not exactly a hotbed for professional bass fishing. That makes Chapman's story all the more fascinating. He not only is competing at bass fishing's top level, but he is also one of the sport's brightest stars. And all because of his roots in Kansas.

"Early in my career, other anglers would ask me where I was from and they were amazed," said Chapman, 49, who grew up on Lake Quivira and now lives in Lenexa. "They would say, 'I didn't know Kansas even has bass.'"

"But I feel lucky I grew up here. A lot of what I know about bass fishing I learned in Kansas."

### Reliving his past

On an unseasonably warm winter day, Chapman revisited the place where it all began. He stood at the bow of a bass boat and launched a long cast to a rocky bank on Lake Quivira. He made a few cranks

of his reel, then was greeted with a jolting strike. His graphite rod bowed sharply, and the bass shot to the surface and made a half-hearted jump.

Seconds later, Chapman had the 3-pound bass in the boat and admired it for a moment before plunking it back into the water. "Forty-two degree water temperature and that fish still wanted to jump," Chapman said. "Unbelievable." Just like old times.

Chapman fished some of the same places he had almost 35 years ago when he was learning what bass fishing was all about.

At the time, he was a bass-crazy teenager who couldn't get enough of the green fish that many other Kansans overlooked.

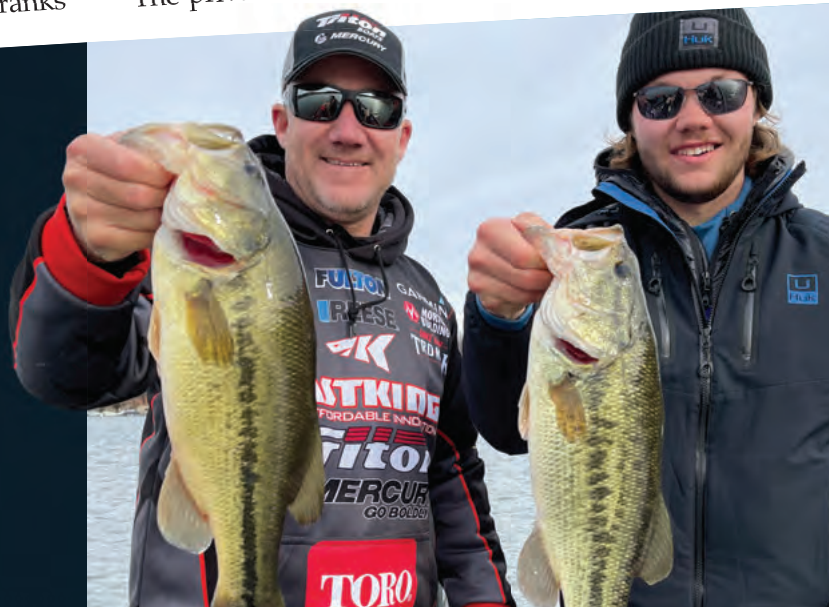
"We moved to Lake Quivira when I was a freshman in high school, and that was huge for me," said Chapman, dressed in his bright-colored tournament jersey. "I would read about different techniques in Bassmaster Magazine or newspapers or listen to seminars at sports shows, and I would go to the lake and try them out."

"Quivira was like my testing area."

The private lake, located in a Kansas City suburb,

**Early in my career, other anglers would ask me where I was from and they were amazed. They would say, 'I didn't know Kansas even has bass.'**

**I feel lucky I grew up here. A lot of what I know about bass fishing I learned in Kansas."**







had a good population of bass and just about every one of the fish got to know Chapman well.

He fished constantly, perfecting his casting, presentation and fish-finding skills.

"I approached it like the practice kids put in for high-school sports," Chapman said. "I was out there almost every day at least for an hour or two."

### A childhood dream

Actually, Chapman became intrigued with bass fishing long before he and his family moved to Lake Quivira.

His father, Ron, loved to fish, and it rubbed off on his son.

"I remember one time when Brent and a friend went out fishing and he asked me if I would clean the fish they caught," Ron said. "I said sure, figuring they would catch maybe a half dozen. Well, they came back with over 100, a lot of them little panfish."

"We had a talk about catch and release that day, but I kept my word and cleaned them."

It was mostly bank fishing at the time, but a couple of memorable moments ignited Brent's passion for the bass fishing.

"When I was 7 or 8, dad and I went to my great-grandma's farm on the Spring River (near Carthage, Mo.) and we fished a pool of water below the mill," Chapman said. "I threw a live nightcrawler out there and I caught

my first big bass.

"I was so proud of that fish that I hauled it up to my great-grandma's farm and put it in the stock tank."

Then there was the time he and his dad fished from the bank for crappies at Shawnee Mission Park Lake. A bass boat came by, and the young boy struck up a conversation with the angler.

"Catch anything?" Chapman yelled.

With that, the angler pulled two big bass out of his live well.

"Do you want one of them?" the angler hollered.

Without waiting for an answer, he instructed, "Cast your line out here and I'll hook one of these fish on."

Chapman got to fight the bass, then unhooked it and ran down the bank to where his dad was fishing.

"I told a fish story and said that I had caught it," Chapman said with a laugh. "I eventually fessed up, but ironically, I went back to the same exact spot where I ran into that angler, and I caught one almost the same size on my own."

"I know it wasn't the same fish. I just got lucky."

### Early success

By the time Chapman was 14, he got his first taste of tournament fishing.

He begged his dad to sign him up for the Shawnee Mission Bassmasters, a local bass club, and that's where he got started.

## Chapman's Top Five

Looking for a place to catch bass in Kansas? Take some directions from Brent Chapman, a Sunflower State pro.

### 1 Wilson Reservoir

"Definitely my favorite. It's a beautiful place, and every time I've been there, I've been thoroughly impressed with the fishing for both smallmouth and large-mouth."

### 2 Bone Creek Lake

"It has standing timber and aquatic vegetation that we don't see that often in Kansas."

### 3 La Cygne Lake

"It's always been known for its big fish. I think it has gone down a bit, but it still has some good fish."

### 4 Melvern Reservoir

"It has a good small-mouth fishery."

### 5 Hillsdale Reservoir

"I won my first Mr. Bass tournament there years ago, so I have good memories of Hillsdale. It was down for a while, but I think it is coming back."





Chapman was by far the youngest member of the club, but he quickly proved that he belonged. In only his second year, he won the club's Mr. Bass championship tournament.

"It was an awesome experience," Chapman said. "The guys I fished with were great. They might not realize this, but the time they spent teaching me things really helped me get to the point I'm at today."

From there, Chapman fished various regional tournaments until he got a chance to fish in a Bassmaster Invitational tournament on Lake of the Ozarks.

"I had a sponsorship with Ranger (bass boats) at the time and they called and asked if I wanted to enter," Chapman said. "I jumped at the chance. This was my first chance to fish against some of the top anglers like the Hibbons and the Brauers.

"I remember I was in second place after day 2 (of a three-day tournament) and I was excited. I dropped down in the final standings, but that showed me I could compete at that level.

That was just the start of an illustrious career. Chapman began fishing the B.A.S.S. national circuit and it wasn't long before he became one of the tour's stars. He won four major tournaments and finished second in five others, he took the presti-

gious Elite Series Angler of the Year honors in 2012 and he qualified for 14 Bassmaster Classics.

He moved to Major League Fishing's Bass Pro Tour in 2019 along with many of bass fishing's top anglers, lured by a new format, lucrative paybacks and a strong conservation ethic.

He has never regretted the move. He continues to be competitive at bass fishing's highest level, and he credits his Kansas background as playing a part in his success.

"Kansas has some good bass lakes, but you have to work catch them," he said. "You have to figure out ways to get them to hit, and that helped me.

"I've always prided myself in being a grinder. I'm one of those guys who just puts his head down and stays with it and figures out a way to catch a limit."

### Team Chapman

Pro bass fishing isn't as easy as it looks. It's not just showing up at a lake, going fishing for a few days and calling it good.

There are long hours on the road, vying for sponsors, promotion work, keeping up with social media, and much more.

That's why Chapman considers himself fortunate to have a supportive family that has become his team.

"I owe my career to my par-

ents," he said. "They've never questioned what I wanted to do. They've been there for me from the start."

He also credits his wife, Bobbi, who has become his business manager. She's the glue that holds it together, managing schedules, helping with sponsorships, assisting with driving and even co-starring with Brent in videos.

Then there are the Chapmans' children, Mason and Makayla. For a while, the entire family went on the road with Brent, staying in their fifth-wheel trailer.

Bobbi home-schooled the children and they got to travel to parts of the country they had never seen before.

Now it's on to the next chapter. Mason, 17, is a bass addict like his dad was at that age, and he has done well in high-school and junior tournaments. He already has caught and released the bass of a lifetime—a largemouth that weighed 12 pounds, 8 ounces.

This fall, he will start his freshman year at Drury University in Springfield, Mo., where he received a scholarship to be on the fishing team. Meanwhile, the family continues to enjoy life in Kansas.

"When we've been on the road for weeks at a time, it's always great to be back," Chapman said. 🐮





# 2022 FISHING FORECAST

## KANSAS

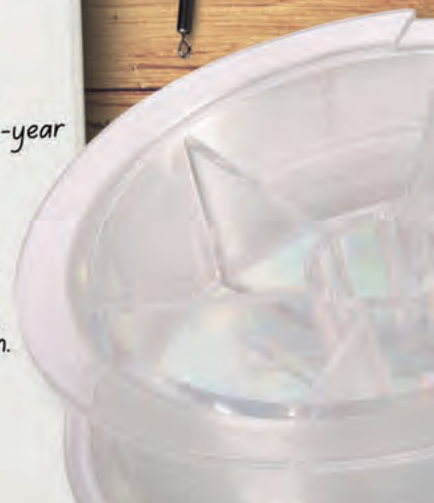
### WILDLIFE & PARKS

The information is formulated from data collected by fisheries management biologists through their annual lake monitoring activities (which include test netting and electroshocking). Not every lake is sampled each year, so a three-year average has been included. Some lesser-rated waters are not included in the tables.

The data is separated into three categories – reservoirs (those larger than 1,200 acres), lakes (waters from 10 to 1,200 acres), and ponds (waters smaller than 10 acres) – because sampling on small water bodies may not be comparable with that on larger areas.

Tables have been created for popular species and include a Density Rating, Preferred Rating, Lunker Rating, Biggest Fish, Biologist's Rating, and Three-year Average.

Species reports are bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, spotted bass, walleye, white bass, white crappie, black crappie, wiper, sauger, saugeye, smallmouth bass, striped bass, redear sunfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish.





## DENSITY RATING

The **Density Rating** is the number of fish that were high-quality size or larger sampled per unit of sampling effort. High-quality size, listed in parentheses at the top of the Density Rating column, is the length of fish considered acceptable to most anglers and is different for each species. The higher the Density Rating, the more high-quality sized or larger fish per surface acre in the lake. Theoretically, a lake with a Density Rating of 30 has twice as many high-quality sized fish per acre as a lake with a Density Rating of 15.

## PREFERRED RATING

The **Preferred Rating** identifies how many above-average-sized fish a water contains. For example, a lake may have a good density of crappie, but few fish over 10 inches. The Preferred Rating tells which lake to go to for a chance to catch bigger fish.

## BIGGEST FISH

The **Biggest Fish** column lists the weight of the largest fish caught during sampling. A heavy fish listed here can give the lunker anglers confidence that truly big fish are present.

## GRAPHS

The graphs featured show the Density, Preferred, and Lunker ratings of the top 10 waterbodies for select species. The data is based on the biologists' catch per hour of electrofishing or catch per net-night.

## LUNKER RATING

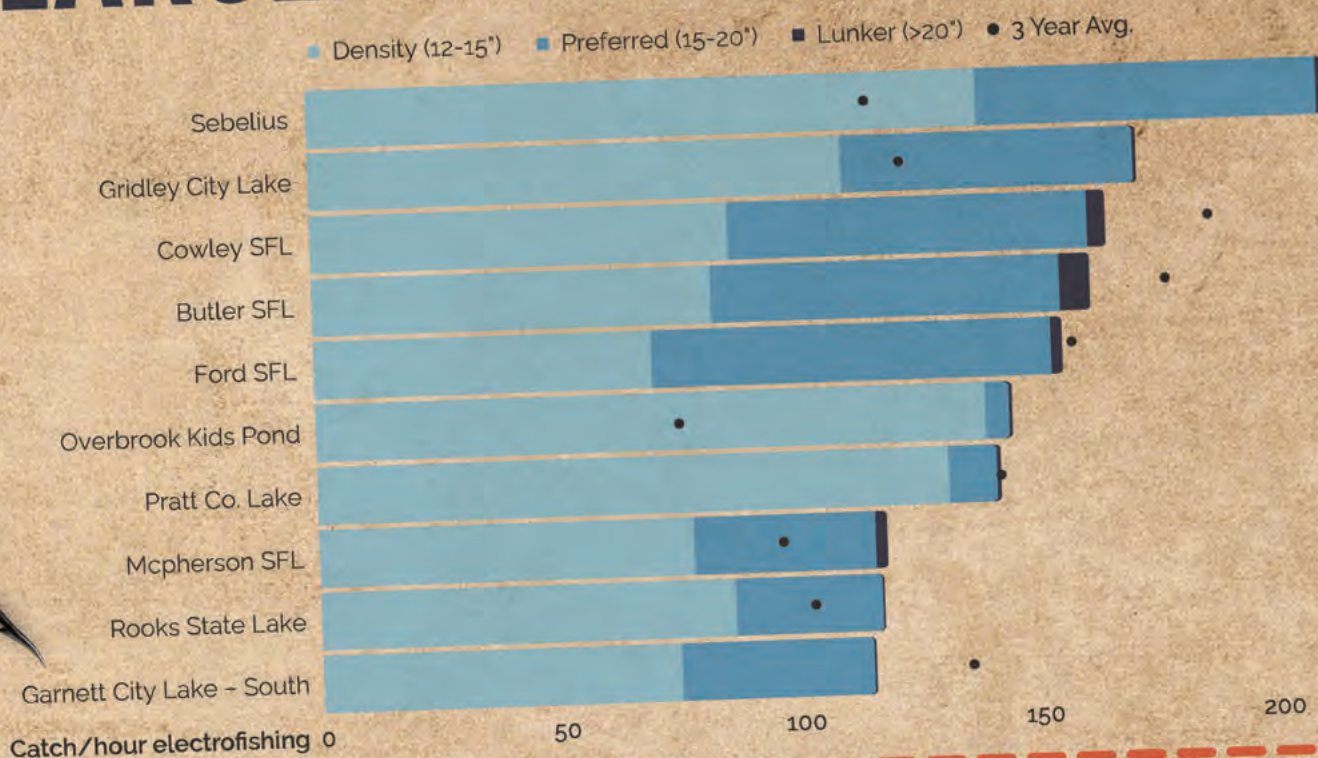
The **Lunker Rating** is similar to the Density Rating, but it tells you the relative density of lunker-sized fish in the lake. A lunker is a certain length of fish considered a trophy by most anglers. It also differs with each species and is listed in parentheses at the top of the Lunker Rating column. For example, most anglers consider a channel catfish longer than 28 inches a lunker. Many lakes may have a Lunker Rating of 0, but this does not mean there are no big fish in that lake. It just means that no lunker fish were caught during sampling, and they may be less abundant than in lakes with positive Lunker Ratings.

You can use the Density Rating and Lunker Rating together. If you want numbers, go with the highest Density Rating. If you want only big fish, go with the Lunker Rating. Somewhere in the middle might be a better choice. A lake with a respectable rating in all three categories will provide the best overall fishing opportunities.

## BIOLOGIST'S RATING

The **Biologist's Rating** adds a human touch to the forecast. Each district fisheries biologist reviews the data from annual sampling of their assigned lakes. This review considers environmental conditions that may have affected the sampling. They also consider previous years' data. A rating of P (poor), F (fair), G (good), or E (excellent) will be in the last column. Sometimes the Density Rating may not agree with the Biologist's Rating. This will happen occasionally and means the Density Rating may not accurately reflect the biologist's opinion of the fishery.

# LARGEMOUTH BASS





# LARGEMOUTH BASS

## RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>12")	PREFERRED RATING (>15")	LUNKER RATING (>20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Sebelius	211.18	71.76	1.18	5.04	116.08	Good
Webster	57.65	25.88	0.00	3.75	57.45	Good
Lacygne	56.15	45.45	3.74	7.71	49.31	Excellent
Kirwin	55.88	38.24	0.00	3.12	50.39	Good
Wilson	47.01	31.99	0.73	5.47	56.92	Good
Big Hill	35.78	19.12	0.00	4.59	38.19	Good
Kanopolis	17.03	2.14	0.53	4.85	11.66	Fair
Cedar Bluff	14.99	5.22	0.13	5.83	7.44	Good
Glen Elder	12.52	6.45	0.00	4.92	10.60	Good
El Dorado	9.41	4.71	0.59	3.47	7.94	Fair
Milford	7.52	2.94	0.00	3.69	6.26	Fair
Wolf Creek	6.25	4.55	0.00	3.94	10.29	Fair
Lovewell	2.94	2.35	0.00	4.56	2.65	Fair
Fall River	0.98	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.98	Poor
Hillsdale	0.88	0.63	0.00	2.24	2.10	Poor

## LAKES

Gridley City Lake	171.88	60.94	0.00	3.15	122.85	Good
Cowley SFL	164.71	77.65	3.53	4.66	186.67	Good
Butler SFL	161.37	78.43	5.88	6.40	177.25	Good
Ford SFL	155.34	84.53	1.96	6.70	157.33	Good
Pratt Co. Lake	142.01	10.92	0.00	3.42	142.01	Good
McPherson SFL	117.52	39.37	1.68	5.60	96.32	Good
Rooks State Lake	116.67	30.39	0.00	3.51	102.81	Good
Garnett City Lake-South	114.58	39.58	0.00	3.62	135.20	Good
Lyon SFL	104.90	34.31	0.00	3.03	111.11	Good
Montgomery SFL	102.61	49.02	2.61	5.61	83.32	Good
Altamont-Idle Hour Lk-CL W	102.04	78.51	16.52	7.09	82.60	Good
Garnett City Lake-North	98.99	38.35	0.00	4.48	107.32	Good
Great Bend-Stone Park Lake	98.32	8.17	0.00	4.83	81.99	Good
Yates Center City Lake-New	97.32	20.54	1.79	5.53	84.11	Good
Wilson SFL	92.65	31.62	1.47	4.79	112.84	Good
Plainville Township Lake	90.59	22.35	0.00	4.65	75.33	Good
Logan City Lake	90.20	29.41	0.00	3.60	56.19	Good
Jewell SFL	90.00	51.18	3.53	6.13	88.24	Good
Sabetha-Pony Creek Lake	88.24	52.10	0.84	4.37	105.33	Good
Barber SFL-Lower	85.78	19.31	0.00	2.13	50.25	Fair
Jetmore City Lake	84.65	7.54	0.00	3.31	73.97	Fair
Washington SFL	84.31	31.50	0.00	6.18	57.53	Good
Brown SFL	81.93	68.89	7.48	7.59	76.88	Good
Melvern River Pond	80.39	43.14	0.00	4.43	39.54	Good
Douglas Co.-Lonestar Lake	77.45	32.35	0.00	4.17	60.13	Good
Douglas SFL	76.47	10.78	0.00	2.34	66.49	Good
Olathe-Cedar Lake	71.57	48.04	1.96	5.56	52.59	Good
Pleasanton West Lake	70.59	39.22	3.92	5.16	70.59	Good
Atwood-Lake Atwood-Main	67.47	31.05	0.00	4.24	47.41	Good
Osage City Lake	67.06	23.53	0.00	4.68	67.06	Good
Paola City Lake-Lake Miola	65.69	30.39	1.96	5.07	42.20	Good
Moline Old City Lake-South	64.71	23.53	0.00	2.49	60.78	Good
Great Bend-Vets Park Lake	63.79	16.18	1.47	5.52	39.64	Good
Edna City Lake	61.76	0.00	0.00	1.22	61.76	Good
Leavenworth SFL	61.10	2.35	0.00	3.38	59.69	Fair
Meade SFL	61.00	55.45	1.96	6.94	81.21	Poor
Winfield City Lake	60.00	32.35	0.59	6.04	34.56	Fair
Altamont-Idle Hour Lk-CL E	58.82	37.25	1.96	5.63	65.69	Good
Pottawatomie Co. Lake	58.17	3.03	0.00	2.54	79.76	Good
Lenexa Lake-Lenexa	57.50	13.10	1.96	5.74	82.32	Good
Shawnee SFL	54.30	19.12	3.76	5.81	59.60	Good
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	53.91	26.30	0.00	4.34	42.07	Good
Pottawatomie SFL #1	52.86	11.73	0.00	2.65	49.43	Good
Pleasanton East Lake	48.24	18.82	0.00	3.47	48.24	Good
Neosho SFL	48.04	20.59	0.98	5.45	47.55	Good
Scott SFL	47.83	27.51	0.00	3.42	44.76	Good
Coldwater Lake	46.47	29.71	0.00	2.92	45.97	Poor
Bourbon SFL	42.48	17.65	0.65	4.62	39.05	Good
Marion Co. Lake	42.16	3.92	0.00	2.82	42.16	Good
Osage SFL	40.44	5.88	0.74	4.65	27.53	Fair
Kiowa SFL	38.89	2.78	0.00	2.49	47.42	Poor
Belleville-Rocky Pond	38.82	29.41	0.00	4.78	25.89	Fair
Gardner City Lake	38.24	14.71	0.98	5.18	63.88	Good
Sheridan SFL	37.84	7.08	0.00	1.94	31.32	Poor
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	36.27	21.57	0.00	4.29	37.58	Good
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	36.03	10.29	0.00	3.38	32.23	Fair
Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake	33.70	14.00	2.05	5.96	34.81	Fair
Holton-Prairie Lake	32.35	13.24	1.47	5.14	39.60	Fair
Ellis City Lake	31.25	8.49	0.00	5.12	33.71	Fair
Anthony City Lake	30.98	16.86	0.39	4.91	30.20	Fair
Spring Hill City Lake	30.44	10.37	0.00	4.51	30.44	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #2	30.24	3.77	0.00	3.04	45.37	Fair
Shawnee Co.-Lake Shawnee	29.41	7.19	1.31	6.84	45.10	Fair

# LARGEMOUTH BASS

## LAKES

Graham Co.-Antelope Lake	28.39	17.43	0.00	3.27	35.21	Fair
Chase SFL	27.45	3.92	0.00	2.49	41.18	Fair
Carbondale City Lake-East	25.49	5.88	0.00	2.58	34.97	Fair
Clark SFL	24.94	10.00	2.47	7.50	24.94	Fair
Middle Creek SFL	24.51	13.73	0.00	3.96	24.28	Fair
Eureka City Lake	24.51	3.92	1.96	5.07	21.57	Good
Goodman SFL	23.20	5.72	0.00	2.23	27.22	Poor
Olathe-Lake Olathe	22.17	5.83	0.00	2.68	35.28	Fair
Wellington-Hargis Creek Lk	22.06	17.65	0.00	3.93	22.06	Poor
Woodson SFL	21.72	7.03	0.00	4.49	12.58	Fair
Kdot W. Borrow Pit (Wichita)	21.49	9.73	1.47	5.40	21.78	Fair
Kingman SFL	21.27	16.74	0.00	4.44	23.87	Fair
Lebo City Lake	20.83	9.38	0.00	4.82	18.76	Fair
Miami SFL	19.44	12.58	0.98	5.68	33.47	Fair
Ottawa SFL	18.63	4.90	0.00	4.63	25.18	Fair
Madison City Lake	18.38	12.50	0.00	3.32	17.57	Fair
Horsethief	18.33	5.73	0.00	4.45	16.94	Fair
Nebo SFL	18.29	13.85	0.00	5.41	22.91	Fair
Geary SFL	16.67	9.80	0.00	3.78	9.80	Fair
Wichita-Chisholm North Lake	15.29	10.59	0.00	4.97	12.43	Fair
Centralia City Lake	14.65	6.81	0.93	5.22	11.00	Fair
Harvey Co. Lake-West	13.45	10.08	0.00	4.34	14.96	Fair
Crawford SFL	13.45	6.72	0.84	4.89	19.79	Fair
Sedgwick Co.-Lake Afton	9.31	5.39	0.98	5.55	11.34	Poor
Council Grove City Lake	7.84	3.92	1.96	6.06	6.54	Fair
Wichita-K-96 Lake (Cruiser Lk)	3.92	1.96	0.00	3.29	3.92	Poor
Harvey Co. Lake-East	3.53	2.35	0.00	3.55	4.41	Poor
Jeffrey Ec-Aux. Makeup Lake	2.61	2.61	0.00	3.15	5.63	Fair
Moline New City Lake-North	1.96	1.96	0.00	2.82	2.43	Poor
Olpe City Lake	1.68	0.00	0.00	1.15	2.07	Poor

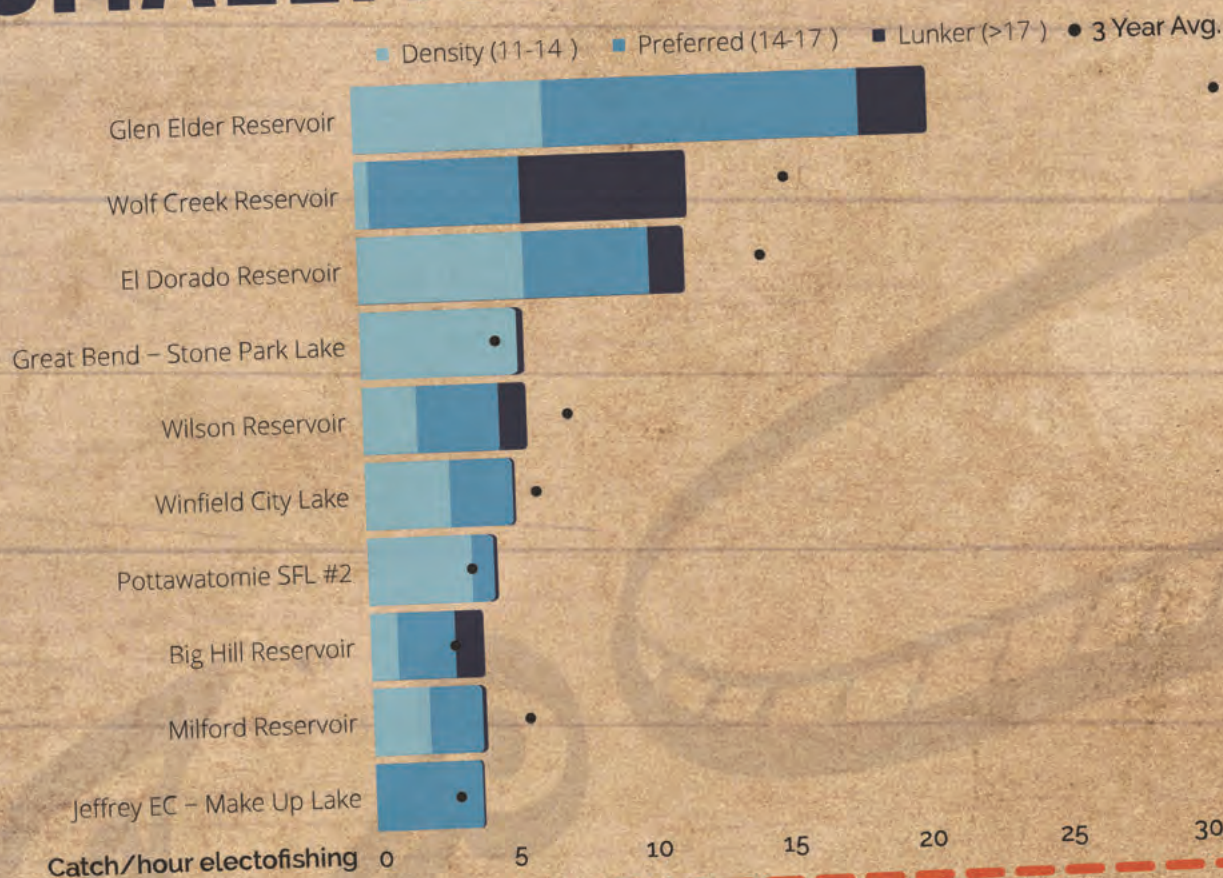
## PONDS

Overbrook Kids Pond	144.44	5.56	0.00	1.61	76.07	Good
Holyrood City Lake	103.89	62.95	5.13	5.72	79.20	Good
Severy City Lake	78.43	13.97	0.00	3.74	70.02	Good
Salina-Lakewood Lake	58.06	50.22	0.00	4.80	116.96	Good
Overbrook City Lake	55.26	10.53	0.00	4.77	34.98	Good
Sterling City Lake	46.90	19.28	0.00	4.27	55.43	Good
Black Kettle SFL	34.97	11.66	0.00	3.91	41.07	Fair
Emporia-Peter Pan Park	13.04	13.04	0.00	2.64	19.66	Fair
Fall River Res. Sp Kids Pond	12.50	12.50	0.00	2.41	11.25	Good
Nemaha Wildlife Area Pond	11.95	11.95	1.85	5.56	11.95	Fair
Walnut Creek-Toronto Res	11.76	8.24	0.00	3.90	11.76	Fair
Glen Elder State Park Pond	8.82	8.82	0.00	2.83	8.82	Poor
KDOT-E. Borrow Pit (Wichita)	7.84	3.92	3.92	6.06	19.27	Poor





# SMALLMOUTH BASS



## SMALLMOUTH BASS

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (≥11")	PREFERRED RATING (≥14")	LUNKER RATING (≥17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Glen Elder	20.68	13.85	2.47	3.34	31.20	Good
Wolf Creek	11.93	11.36	6.25	4.81	15.56	Good
El Dorado	11.76	5.88	1.18	2.72	14.41	Fair
Wilson	5.63	3.84	0.77	4.06	7.29	Good
Big Hill	3.92	2.94	0.98	2.97	3.05	Fair
Milford	3.92	1.96	0.00	1.58	5.64	Fair
Cedar Bluff	0.10	0.00	0.00	2.24	0.40	Good

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (≥11")	PREFERRED RATING (≥14")	LUNKER RATING (≥17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Great Bend-Stone Park Lake	5.69	0.00	0.00	1.15	4.74	Fair
Winfield City Lake	5.29	2.35	0.00	2.71	6.03	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #2	4.41	0.74	0.00	1.26	3.47	Fair
Jeffrey Ec-Make Up Lake	3.85	3.85	0.00	2.19	2.90	Fair
Jeffrey Ec-Aux. Makeup Lake	1.88	0.63	0.00	1.65	2.35	Fair
Gridley City Lake	1.56	1.56	0.00	1.18	1.56	Poor
Geary SFL	0.98	0.98	0.00	1.57	0.98	Poor
Melvorn River Pond	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.98	Poor
Shawnee Co.-Lake Shawnee	0.65	0.65	0.00	2.16	0.65	Poor
Jewell SFL	0.59	0.59	0.59	4.25	0.59	Poor
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.98	Poor

### PONDS

	DENSITY RATING (≥11")	PREFERRED RATING (≥14")	LUNKER RATING (≥17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Overbrook City Lake	2.63	2.63	0.00	1.73	2.63	Poor

## SPOTTED BASS

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (≥11")	PREFERRED RATING (≥14")	LUNKER RATING (≥17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Cedar Bluff	6.87	3.01	0.00	3.65	4.51	Excellent
Sebelius	4.12	3.53	0.00	2.40	3.73	Good
Wilson	3.07	0.26	0.00	1.16	1.38	Fair
El Dorado	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	2.35	Poor

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (≥11")	PREFERRED RATING (≥14")	LUNKER RATING (≥17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Bourbon SFL	21.57	1.31	0.65	4.22	19.93	Excellent
Wilson SFL	17.65	6.62	0.00	2.10	23.73	Good
Crawford SFL	14.29	5.04	0.00	1.58	11.39	Good
Chase SFL	4.90	0.00	0.00	1.21	4.90	Good
Council Grove City Lake	4.90	1.96	0.00	1.65	3.59	Fair
Marion Co. Lake	4.90	1.96	0.00	1.30	4.90	Fair
Winfield City Lake	4.12	1.18	0.00	2.11	2.30	Fair
Eureka City Lake	2.94	1.96	0.00	1.34	3.27	Fair
Lyon SFL	1.96	0.98	0.00	1.74	1.96	Poor
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	0.98	0.98	0.00	1.74	1.11	Fair

## STRIPED BASS

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (≥20")	PREFERRED RATING (≥30")	LUNKER RATING (≥35")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥20")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Wilson Reservoir	0.70	0.37	0.00	13.28	0.81	Excellent

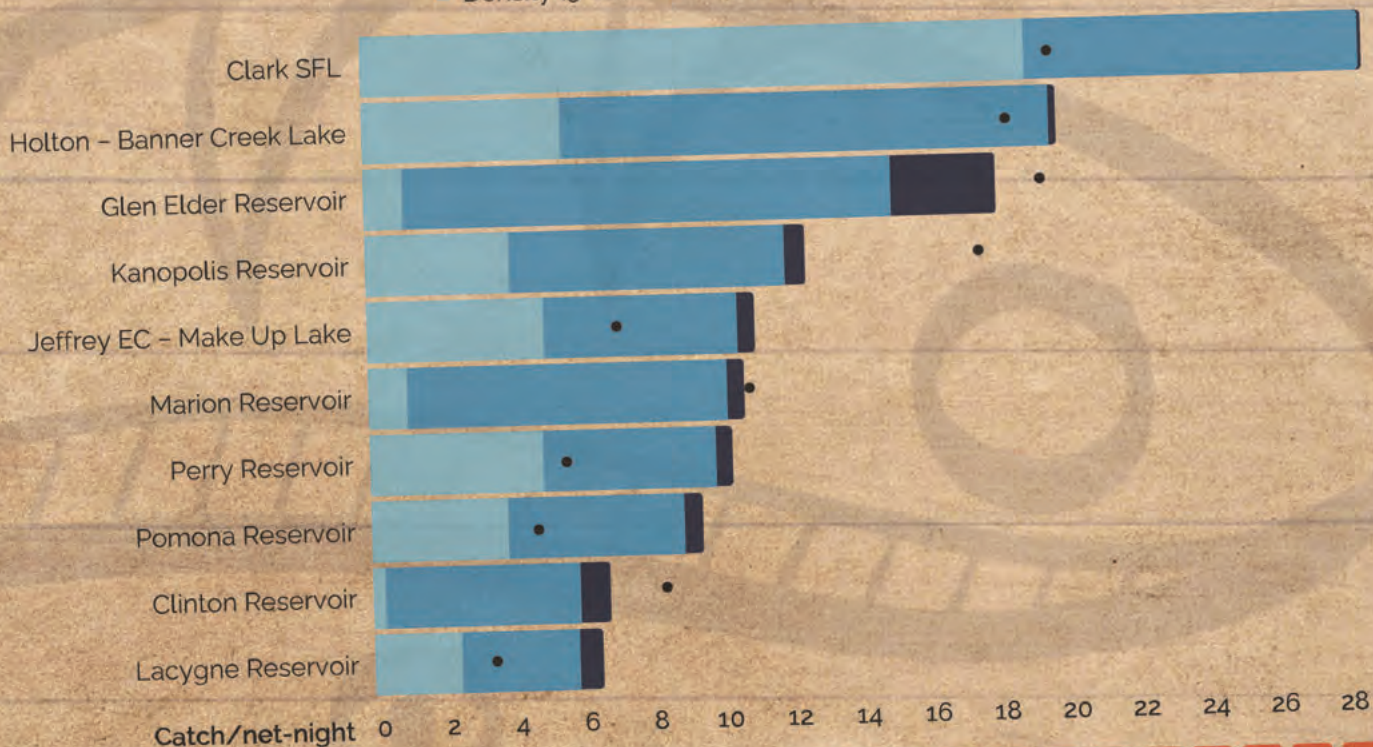
### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (≥20")	PREFERRED RATING (≥30")	LUNKER RATING (≥35")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥20")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Great Bend-Stone Park Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.00	Poor



# WHITE BASS

■ Density (9-12") ■ Preferred (1-15") ■ Lunker (>15") ● 3 Year Avg.



fishing forecast

## WHITE BASS

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>9")	PREFERRED RATING (>12")	LUNKER RATING (>15")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>9")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Glen Elder	18.03	16.86	2.93	3.49	19.30	Excellent
Kanopolis	12.45	8.35	0.50	2.78	17.55	Good
Marion	10.73	9.53	0.40	1.78	10.91	Good
Perry	10.25	5.25	0.20	1.83	5.59	Good
Pomona	9.42	5.50	0.42	1.88	4.85	Good
Clinton	6.75	6.38	0.81	2.28	8.38	Good
Lacygne	6.57	4.00	0.64	2.88	3.54	Good
Cedar Bluff	6.33	4.63	2.00	1.99	6.03	Good
El Dorado	5.47	1.53	0.47	2.02	3.67	Good
Melvorn	5.47	4.00	0.87	2.25	5.28	Good
Millford	5.40	4.60	0.30	1.91	4.98	Fair
Fall River	3.25	1.92	0.50	2.71	2.58	Fair
Webster	3.17	2.92	0.08	1.94	5.86	Good
Kirwin	2.92	2.42	0.50	2.40	2.32	Good
John Redmond	2.50	2.33	0.56	2.82	7.03	Fair
Big Hill	2.30	1.70	0.20	1.34	3.20	Fair
Council Grove	2.27	1.80	0.20	2.20	1.22	Fair
Wolf Creek	2.22	2.11	0.50	1.81	1.90	Fair
Wilson	2.00	1.93	0.33	2.75	2.73	Fair
Lovewell	1.69	1.25	0.50	1.85	3.44	Fair
Hillsdale	1.67	1.25	0.00	1.19	4.14	Fair
Cheney	1.31	1.21	0.48	1.88	2.18	Fair
Toronto	0.92	0.42	0.17	2.64	1.33	Fair
Tuttle Creek	0.55	0.05	0.05	2.97	0.30	Poor
Elk City	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.58	3.58	Poor

### LAKES

Clark SFL	28.50	9.50	0.00	1.68	19.58	Good
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	19.75	14.00	0.13	1.58	18.38	Excellent
Jeffrey EC-Make Up Lake	11.00	6.00	0.33	1.85	7.17	Good
Fort Scott City Lake	4.50	2.38	0.25	1.77	2.54	Good
Herrington City Lake-New	3.80	2.80	0.00	1.00	15.20	Fair
Yates Center City Lake-New	2.33	2.00	0.17	1.79	2.94	Fair
Centralia City Lake	2.25	2.00	0.50	2.43	1.13	Fair
Jeffrey EC-Aux. Makeup Lake	2.00	2.00	1.25	2.14	4.25	Good
Gardner City Lake	1.67	1.67	0.00	1.37	1.83	Fair
Wilson SFL	1.67	1.67	0.17	1.98	1.11	Good

## WHITE BASS

### LAKES

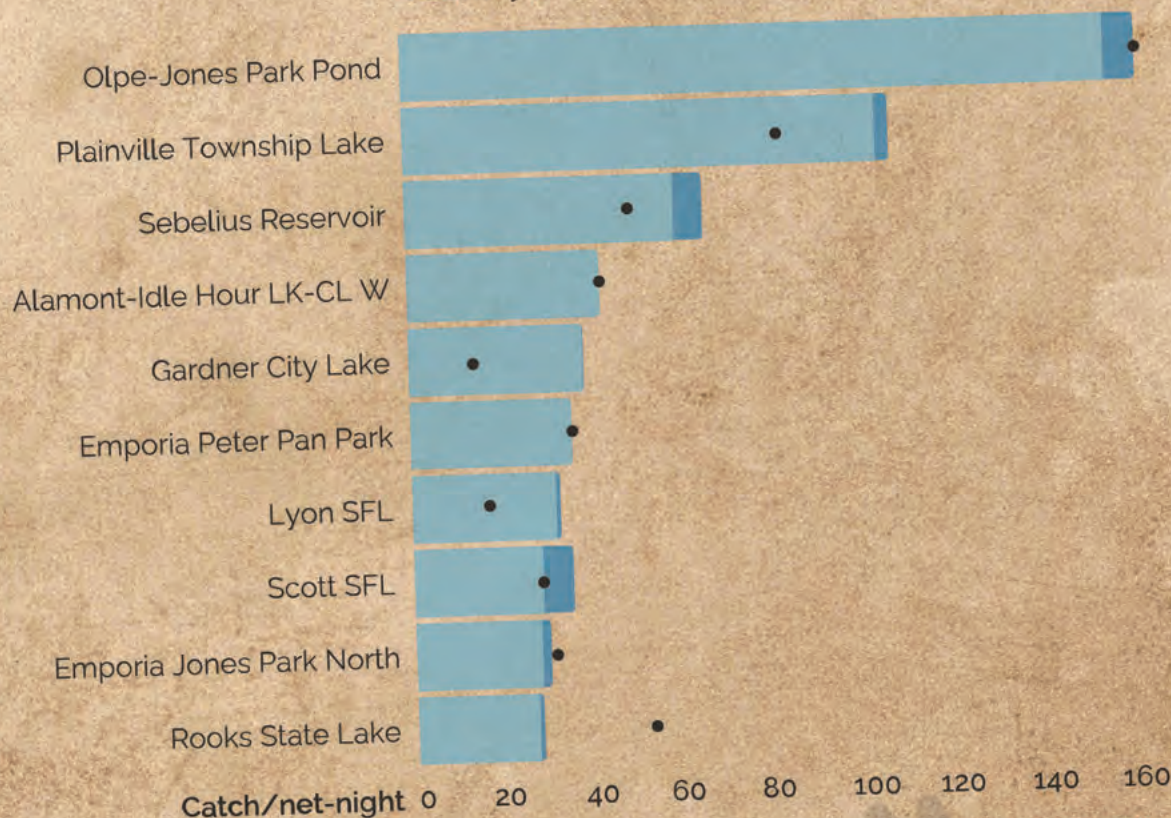
	DENSITY RATING (>9")	PREFERRED RATING (>12")	LUNKER RATING (>15")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>9")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Osage SFL	1.50	1.00	0.17	1.61	2.08	Fair
Winfield City Lake	1.40	1.20	0.00	1.31	2.05	Fair
Lyon SFL	1.33	1.17	0.17	1.92	1.00	Fair
Paola City Lake-Lake Miola	1.33	1.33	0.50	2.37	3.22	Fair
Geary SFL	1.20	1.20	0.40	2.22	2.48	Poor
Chase SFL	1.00	0.75	0.00	1.03	1.13	Fair
Moline New City Lake-North	0.83	0.83	0.00	1.06	0.67	Poor
Harvey Co. Lake-East	0.40	0.30	0.00	1.47	1.65	Poor
Middle Creek SFL	0.33	0.17	0.00	0.69	1.94	Poor
Olathe-Lake Olathe	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.84	0.33	Poor
Pleasanton East Lake	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.17	Poor





# BLUEGILL

■ Density (6-8") ■ Preferred (8-10") ■ Lunker (>10") ● 3 Year Avg.



## BLUEGILL

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>6")	PREFERRED RATING (>8")	LUNKER RATING (>10")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>6")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Sebelius	60.10	6.50	0.00	0.63	47.40	Good
Cedar Bluff	22.28	0.22	0.00	0.40	18.80	Good
Wilson	8.27	0.00	0.00	0.33	7.82	Fair
Hillsdale	6.25	0.06	0.00	0.46	4.73	Fair
Lovewell	4.83	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.99	Fair
Webster	4.69	0.44	0.00	0.47	7.08	Good
Big Hill	3.70	0.00	0.00	0.33	3.53	Fair
Kanopolis	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.37	8.17	Fair
Kirwin	1.56	0.06	0.00	0.59	2.92	Good
Lacygne	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.06	Fair
Perry	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53	Fair
Melvem	0.71	0.07	0.07	0.30	0.76	Fair
Millford	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.91	Poor
Fall River	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.66	Poor
Pomona	0.44	0.06	0.06	0.43	0.90	Poor
El Dorado	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.40	Poor
Clinton	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.26	2.47	Poor
Glen Elder	0.25	0.05	0.00	0.50	3.32	Fair
Council Grove	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.11	Poor
Toronto	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.06	Poor
Elk City	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.27	Poor
Wolf Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.45	Poor
Tuttle Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.09	Poor

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (>6")	PREFERRED RATING (>8")	LUNKER RATING (>10")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>6")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Plainville Township Lake	105.50	3.00	0.00	0.47	82.67	Good
Alamont-Idle Hour Lk-CL W	43.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	43.00	Good
Gardner City Lake	38.75	0.25	0.00	0.35	14.58	Good
Lyon SFL	32.00	1.00	0.00	0.46	17.67	Good
Scott SFL	28.67	6.83	0.00	0.54	20.38	Excellent
Rooks State Lake	27.00	1.00	0.00	0.41	51.00	Good
Moline Old City Lake-South	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	9.08	Good
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	21.25	0.25	0.00	0.34	9.17	Good
Olathe-Cedar Lake	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	14.17	Good
Chase SFL	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	15.50	Good
Sabetha-Pony Creek Lake	14.00	1.67	0.00	0.51	4.83	Good

## BLUEGILL

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (>6")	PREFERRED RATING (>8")	LUNKER RATING (>10")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>6")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Altamont-Idle Hour Lk-CL E	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	14.00	Good
Sedgwick Co.-Lake Afton	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	11.80	Good
Jewell SFL	12.80	1.60	0.00	0.44	18.38	Good
Lenexa Lake-Lenexa	12.50	1.00	0.00	0.42	4.67	Fair
Mcpherson SFL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	12.67	Good
Eureka City Lake	12.25	0.00	0.00	0.37	11.50	Good
Winfield City Lake	12.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	7.90	Fair
Edna City Lake	10.00	1.00	0.00	0.33	10.00	Fair
Miami SFL	8.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	11.08	Good
Cowley SFL	7.75	0.00	0.00	0.30	12.21	Good
Garnett City Lake-North	6.75	0.00	0.00	0.28	3.33	Good
Graham Co.-Antelope Lake	6.67	2.67	0.00	0.62	15.06	Good
Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake	6.63	0.00	0.00	0.33	6.46	Good
Pottawatomie Co. Lake	6.33	0.00	0.00	0.30	6.54	Good
Neosho SFL	6.25	0.25	0.00	0.44	4.17	Good
Marion Co. Lake	6.25	2.00	0.00	0.49	7.63	Good
Anthony City Lake	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	3.57	Fair
Osage SFL	5.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	2.88	Fair
Washington SFL	5.67	0.00	0.00	0.22	8.64	Fair
Great Bend-Stone Park Lake	5.67	0.00	0.00	0.28	5.67	Fair
Olathe-Lake Olathe	4.75	0.00	0.00	0.26	8.08	Fair
Geary SFL	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	2.58	Fair
Jetmore City Lake	4.25	0.25	0.00	0.44	11.63	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #1	4.25	0.00	0.00	0.31	2.53	Fair
Fort Scott-Gunn Park W Pd-#2	4.00	0.50	0.00	0.46	4.50	Fair
Ottawa SFL	3.83	0.00	0.00	0.24	2.17	Fair
Belleville-Rocky Pond	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	3.19	Fair
Montgomery SFL	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.30	4.50	Good
Barber SFL-Lower	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.35	1.42	Fair
Spring Hill City Lake	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.19	3.50	Fair
Harvey Co. Lake-East	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.41	2.04	Fair
Ellis City Lake	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	9.89	Fair
Bone Creek Lake	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	10.13	Good
Paola City Lake-Lake Miola	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.19	5.75	Fair
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.26	1.63	Fair



## BLUEGILL

	DENSITY RATING (>6")	PREFERRED RATING (>8")	LUNKER RATING (>10")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>6")	BIOLOGIST RATING
<b>LAKES</b>						
Great Bend-Vets Park Lake	2.67	0.00	0.00	0.19	2.67	Fair
Brown SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.25	Fair
Middle Creek SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.92	Fair
Bourbon Co.-Cedar Creek	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.25	Fair
Leavenworth SFL	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.17	Fair
Sheridan SFL	2.00	0.13	0.00	0.52	2.50	Fair
Nebo SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.22	2.03	Poor
Jeffrey EC-Make Up Lake	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.27	1.42	Poor
Pottawatomie SFL #2	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.29	1.33	Fair
Herington City Lake-New	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.35	1.08	Fair
Atwood-Lake Atwood - Main	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.16	3.00	Fair
Crawford SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.67	Fair
Wilson SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.41	7.83	Fair
Holton-Prairie Lake	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.75	Poor
Critzer Lake	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.19	1.50	Poor
Kingman SFL	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.22	Poor
Clark SFL	1.38	0.38	0.00	0.42	1.94	Fair
Mound City Lake	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.21	3.00	Fair
Jeffrey EC-Aux. Makeup Lake	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.84	Fair
Lebo City Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.75	Fair
Richmond City Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	1.00	Poor
Coldwater Lake	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.88	Poor
Madison City Lake	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.14	1.75	Poor
Bourbon SFL	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.63	Poor
Shawnee SFL	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.35	2.67	Fair
Horsethief	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.61	Fair
Gridley City Lake	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.21	Fair
Woodson SFL	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.30	Fair
Meade SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.25	Poor
Pleasanton West Lake	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.75	Poor
Pleasanton City Lake-Old	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.50	Poor
Yates Center City Lake-New	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.60	Fair
Centralia City Lake	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.13	Poor
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.33	Fair

## BLUEGILL

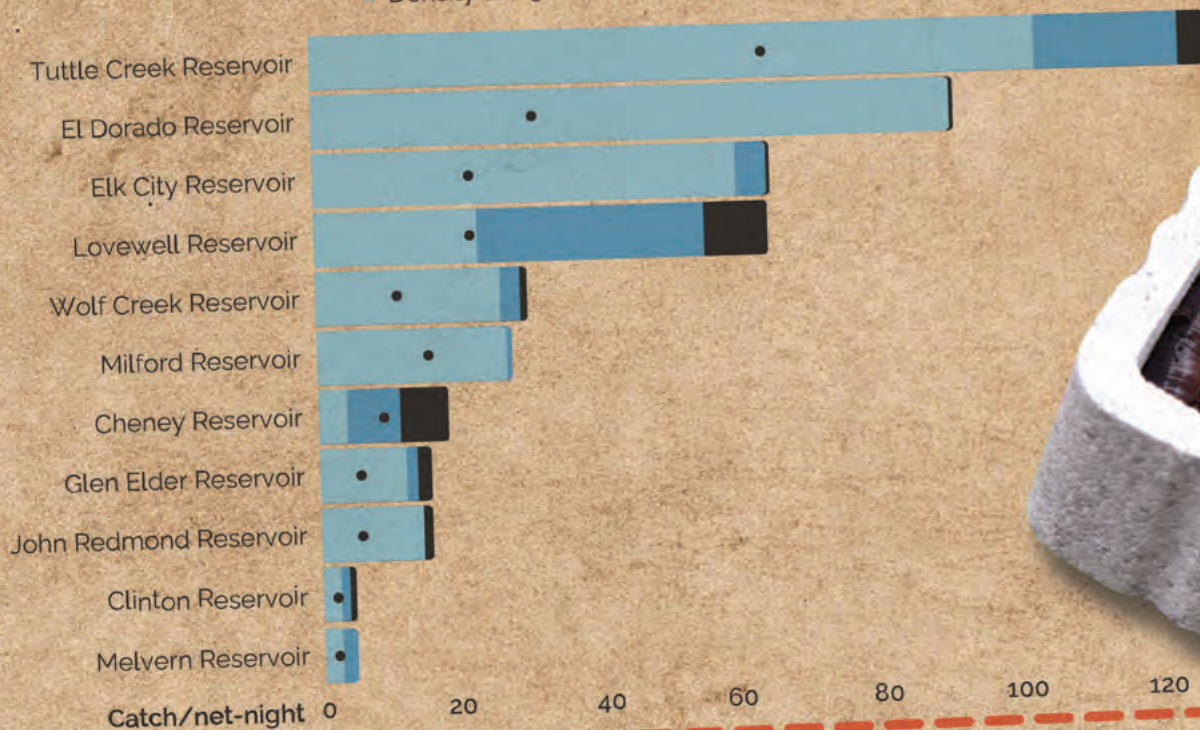
	DENSITY RATING (>6")	PREFERRED RATING (>8")	LUNKER RATING (>10")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>6")	BIOLOGIST RATING
<b>LAKES</b>						
Moline New City Lake - North	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	2.67	Fair
Logan City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.25	Fair
Fort Scott City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	1.92	Fair
Kiowa SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	2.25	Fair
Pleasanton East Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	1.17	Fair
Harvey Co. Lake-West	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	2.50	Fair
Olpe City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	2.03	Poor
<b>PONDS</b>						
Olpe-Jones Park Pond	157.00	7.00	0.00	0.54	157.00	Good
Emporia-Peter Pan Park	36.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	36.00	Good
Emporia-Jones Park North	28.00	2.00	0.00	0.43	28.00	Good
Emporia-Jones Park West Pond	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	26.00	Good
Sterling City Lake	22.67	0.00	0.00	0.24	21.56	Good
Severy City Lake	19.50	0.00	0.00	0.15	15.50	Good
St Francis-Keller Lake	17.67	0.00	0.00	0.22	17.67	Poor
St. Francis Sand Pit-North	11.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	11.50	Poor
Colby-Villa High Lake	5.00	0.50	0.00	0.46	5.00	Fair
Tuttle Creek River Pond	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.24	1.50	Poor
Browning Oxbow	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	Poor
Emporia-Jones Park East Pond	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	Poor

## BLUE CATFISH

	DENSITY RATING (>20")	PREFERRED RATING (>30")	LUNKER RATING (>35")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>20")	BIOLOGIST RATING
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
Tuttle Creek	125.52	23.96	3.65	24.47	63.16	Good
El Dorado	90.00	0.00	0.00	10.93	30.67	Good
Elk City	63.33	4.17	0.00	17.85	21.64	Good
Lovewell	63.07	40.91	8.52	28.81	21.68	Good
Wolf Creek	29.17	4.17	0.83	30.00	10.95	Good
Milford	27.08	1.04	0.00	28.66	15.14	Good
Cheney	17.50	15.50	6.50	34.17	8.77	Fair
Glen Elder	14.84	3.39	1.56	27.89	5.00	Fair
John Redmond	14.71	0.74	0.74	22.05	5.14	Fair
Clinton	4.17	2.08	0.42	25.35	1.72	Good
Melvorn	4.17	1.04	0.00	24.03	1.49	Good
<b>LAKES</b>						
Tuttle Creek River Pond	2.08	1.04	0.00	16.09	2.08	Good

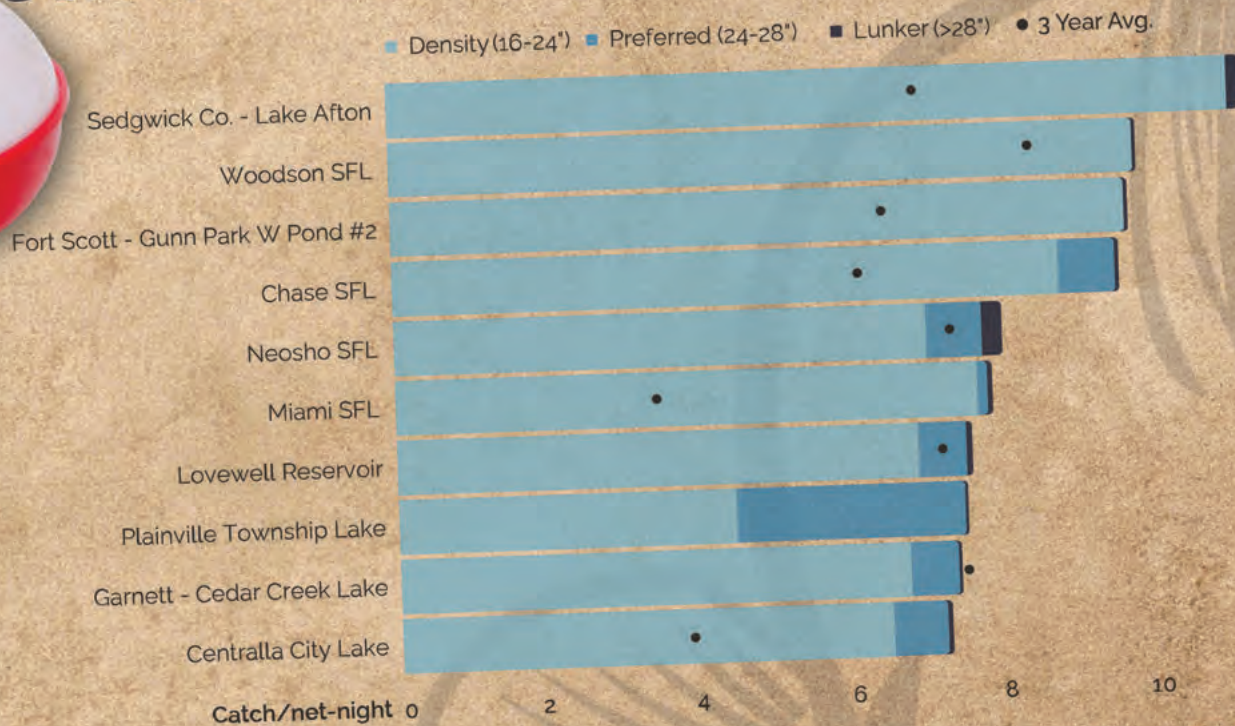
# BLUE CATFISH

■ Density (20-30") ■ Preferred (30-35") ■ Lunker (>35") ● 3 Year Avg.

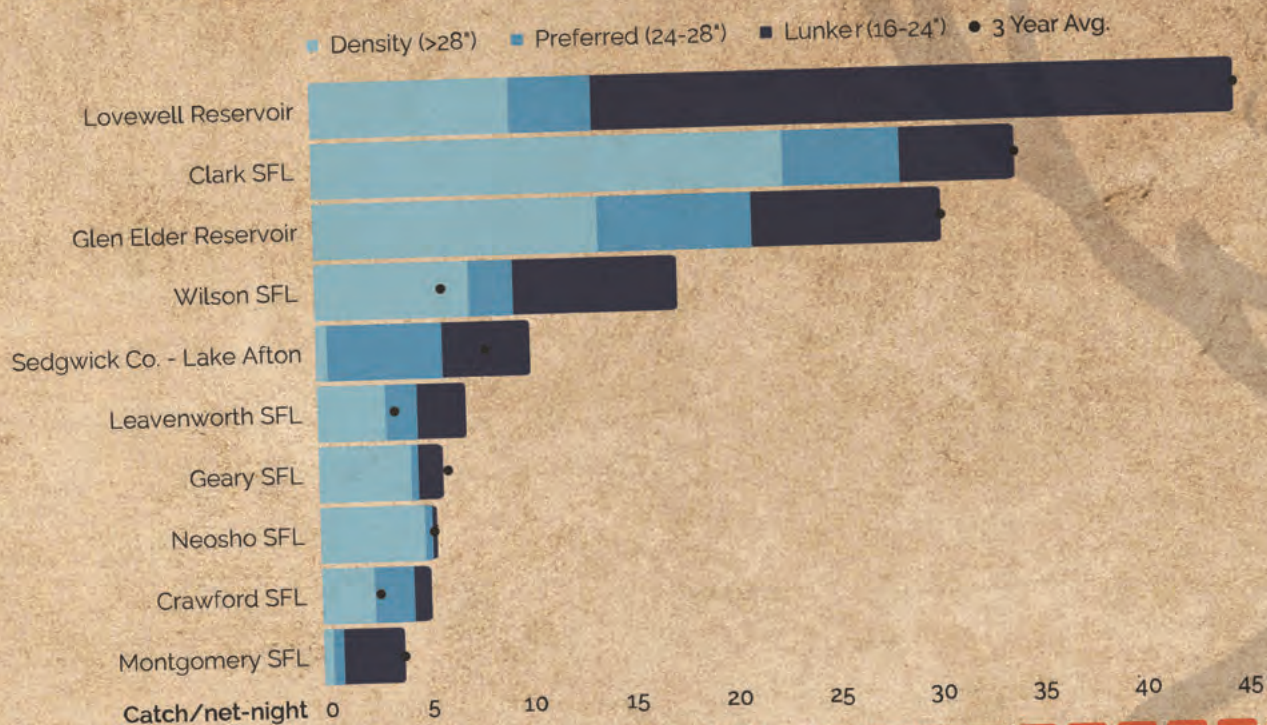




# CHANNEL CATFISH



# FLATHEAD CATFISH





# CHANNEL CATFISH

## RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>16")	PREFERRED RATING (>34")	LUNKER RATING (>28")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>16")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Lovewell	7.56	0.69	0.06	9.19	7.19	Good
Big Hill	5.70	0.90	0.00	8.61	6.23	Good
Hillsdale	5.08	0.17	0.00	7.57	5.08	Good
Marion	5.00	0.20	0.00	5.48	4.93	Good
Lacygne	3.50	0.07	0.00	7.27	2.71	Good
Elk City	3.25	0.33	0.00	5.65	2.78	Good
Clinton	2.94	0.19	0.00	6.73	2.69	Fair
Perry	2.90	1.05	0.35	12.71	2.18	Fair
Wilson	2.73	0.53	0.03	8.57	2.81	Good
Glen Elder	2.59	0.52	0.17	15.30	1.95	Fair
Melvorn	2.40	0.53	0.07	8.33	2.88	Fair
Cheney	2.28	0.34	0.00	8.87	1.83	Good
Kanopolis	2.10	0.30	0.00	6.54	4.64	Good
Webster	1.92	0.08	0.08	10.65	1.19	Good
Tuttle Creek	1.45	0.25	0.20	14.33	0.88	Good
Pomona	1.42	0.08	0.08	8.80	2.10	Good
Council Grove	1.20	0.20	0.00	5.24	1.22	Fair
Kirwin	1.17	0.50	0.17	11.24	1.16	Good
Wolf Creek	1.17	0.00	0.00	4.12	0.88	Good
Toronto	1.08	0.92	0.08	10.44	3.36	Good
Cedar Bluff	1.00	0.17	0.04	12.38	0.60	Good
Fall River	1.00	0.92	0.50	14.54	1.50	Good
John Redmond	0.89	0.28	0.11	12.35	0.96	Fair
El Dorado	0.20	0.00	0.00	2.29	0.42	Fair
Milford	0.20	0.05	0.05	9.24	0.30	Poor

## LAKES

Sedgwick Co.-Lake Afton	11.17	0.17	0.17	8.29	6.94	Good
Woodson SFL	9.80	0.00	0.00	5.14	8.40	Good
Fort Scott-Gunn Park W PD-#2	9.67	0.00	0.00	5.88	6.50	Excellent
Chase SFL	9.50	0.75	0.00	7.72	6.13	Good
Neosho SFL	8.00	1.00	0.25	12.23	7.33	Good
Miami SFL	7.83	0.17	0.00	5.83	3.50	Good
Plainville Township Lake	7.50	3.00	0.00	6.55	11.17	Good
Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake	7.38	0.63	0.00	6.75	7.46	Good
Centralia City Lake	7.25	0.75	0.00	5.40	3.88	Good
Eureka City Lake	7.00	2.00	0.50	10.58	6.39	Excellent
Brown SFL	6.50	1.75	0.25	9.04	3.51	Good
Coldwater Lake	6.00	0.33	0.00	5.65	5.27	Good
Wellington City Lake	5.40	0.40	0.00	5.83	2.69	Good
Fort Scott City Lake	5.38	0.75	0.13	19.37	4.62	Good
Mound City Lake	5.33	1.00	0.17	8.30	6.08	Good
Paola City Lake-Lake Miola	5.00	0.33	0.00	5.75	3.61	Good
Winfield City Lake	5.00	0.20	0.00	8.42	4.25	Good
Clark SFL	5.00	0.17	0.17	10.60	2.92	Good
Olathe-Cedar Lake	5.00	0.25	0.00	5.80	5.42	Good
Pleasanton City Lake-Old	5.00	0.67	0.00	4.76	5.00	Good
Middle Creek SFL	4.67	0.17	0.00	8.86	2.89	Good
Jetmore City Lake	4.67	0.33	0.00	5.34	3.44	Good
Altamont-Idle Hour Lk - CL E	4.33	2.00	0.33	8.95	4.33	Good
Bourbon SFL	4.33	0.67	0.00	10.07	2.67	Good
Bone Creek Lake	4.25	0.75	0.25	17.69	2.17	Good
Washington SFL	4.25	1.25	0.00	7.29	3.25	Good
Scott SFL	4.13	0.13	0.13	8.83	1.82	Good
Butler SFL	4.00	0.75	0.25	7.38	3.38	Good
Graham Co.-Antelope Lake	3.75	1.75	0.25	7.47	2.58	Good
Garnett City Lake-North	3.75	0.25	0.00	5.19	3.33	Good
Anthony City Lake	3.67	0.00	0.00	5.61	3.39	Fair

# FLATHEAD CATFISH

## RESERVOIRS

Lovewell	44.89	35.23	31.25	47.86	44.89	Good
Glen Elder	30.47	16.67	9.11	48.13	30.47	Good
Cheney	2.50	2.50	2.50	65.04	1.27	Fair
Fall River	1.79	1.79	0.00	8.38	1.79	Good
Clinton	0.42	0.42	0.42	42.00	0.24	Good

## LAKES

Clark SFL	34.29	11.43	5.71	40.79	34.29	Fair
Wilson SFL	17.55	10.10	7.95	57.32	6.07	Good
Sedgwick Co.-Lake Afton	10.28	9.91	9.07	55.38	5.22	Good
Leavenworth SFL	7.16	3.79	2.39	31.97	3.66	Fair
Geary SFL	5.97	1.53	1.25	30.05	5.97	Fair
Neosho SFL	5.48	0.34	0.17	10.40	5.48	Fair
Crawford SFL	5.43	2.90	1.01	16.94	2.88	Fair
Montgomery SFL	3.82	3.47	2.95	44.09	3.82	Fair
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	3.41	3.41	1.14	10.09	1.95	Good
Middle Creek SFL	2.92	1.39	0.97	39.68	2.92	Fair

# CHANNEL CATFISH

## LAKES

Gardner City Lake	3.33	0.33	0.17	13.44	3.06	Good
Pleasanton West Lake	3.33	0.00	0.00	4.14	6.33	Good
Geary SFL	3.20	0.20	0.00	6.42	2.32	Fair
Browning Oxbow	3.00	0.50	0.00	5.29	3.00	Fair
Barber SFL-Lower	3.00	0.20	0.00	5.27	2.22	Fair
Richmond City Lake	3.00	0.33	0.33	9.81	3.00	Good
Olathe-Lake Olathe	2.83	0.17	0.00	8.09	2.28	Fair
Harvey Co. Lake-East	2.80	0.10	0.00	5.50	2.24	Fair
Wellington-Hargis Creek Lake	2.75	0.25	0.25	7.28	2.75	Good
Altamont-Idle Hour Lk - CL W	2.67	0.33	0.33	12.23	2.67	Good
Herington City Lake-New	2.60	0.20	0.00	4.30	0.93	Fair
Jewell SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	4.08	2.75	Good
Sabetha - Pony Creek Lake	2.50	0.75	0.75	16.31	1.50	Good
Wilson SFL	2.33	0.00	0.00	3.25	1.39	Good
Marion Co. Lake	2.25	0.25	0.25	9.57	2.38	Good
Crawford SFL	2.17	0.17	0.00	8.40	1.00	Good
Lebo City Lake	2.00	0.25	0.00	8.92	1.33	Fair
Leavenworth SFL	1.83	0.50	0.00	4.81	1.83	Fair
Holton-Prairie Lake	1.75	0.00	0.00	4.09	2.25	Fair
Yates Center City Lake-New	1.67	0.50	0.00	7.94	1.72	Fair
Osage SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	4.08	1.58	Fair
Shawnee SFL	1.50	0.00	0.00	4.39	1.78	Good
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	1.38	0.38	0.00	7.34	2.29	Fair
Gridley City Lake	1.33	0.33	0.00	5.46	1.33	Fair
Pottawatomie Co. Lake	1.33	0.33	0.33	9.82	1.83	Fair
Harvey Co. Lake-West	1.25	0.00	0.00	2.48	0.82	Poor
Pottawatomie SFL #2	1.25	0.00	0.00	3.37	1.75	Good
Montgomery SFL	1.17	0.00	0.00	3.36	1.44	Good
Moline New City Lake - North	1.00	0.17	0.00	5.77	1.22	Good
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.13	1.17	Fair
Spring Hill City Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.41	1.00	Fair
Pleasanton East Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.02	1.17	Good
Madison City Lake	0.83	0.17	0.00	5.51	0.50	Good
Mcpherson SFL	0.80	0.00	0.00	4.49	1.00	Fair
Nebo SFL	0.75	0.00	0.00	2.35	0.36	Fair
Jeffrey Ec-Aux. Makeup Lake	0.75	0.00	0.00	3.51	1.54	Fair
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	0.75	0.50	0.00	9.70	5.42	Good
Ottawa SFL	0.67	0.00	0.00	10.34	1.06	Fair
Lenexa Lake-Lenexa	0.67	0.00	0.00	1.38	1.00	Fair
Olpe City Lake	0.50	0.25	0.00	11.46	0.25	Good
Lyon SFL	0.50	0.33	0.17	16.20	2.22	Good
Kiowa SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	2.03	0.33	Fair
Horsethief	0.50	0.33	0.17	10.01	0.32	Good
Kingman SFL	0.33	0.17	0.00	8.32	2.11	Fair
Jeffrey Ec-Make Up Lake	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.29	0.67	Fair
Atwood-Lake Atwood-Main	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.84	0.42	Fair
Ellis City Lake	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.29	0.44	Poor
Pottawatomie SFL #1	0.33	0.00	0.00	11.96	0.22	Fair
Sheridan SFL	0.17	0.17	0.17	1.93	0.83	Good
Cowley SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.29	0.00	Fair
Great Bend-Vets Park Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.22	Fair
Meade SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	Fair
Great Bend-Stone Park Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.27	0.42	Fair
Moline Old City Lake - South	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.92	0.56	Fair
Logan City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.02	5.58	Fair
Rooks State Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.00	Fair
Edna City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00			

## PONDS

Parker City Lake	0.67	0.00	0.00	2.54	0.67	Good
Tuttle Creek River Pond	0.50	0.25	0.00	5.41	0.50	Good
Sterling City Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.17	Poor

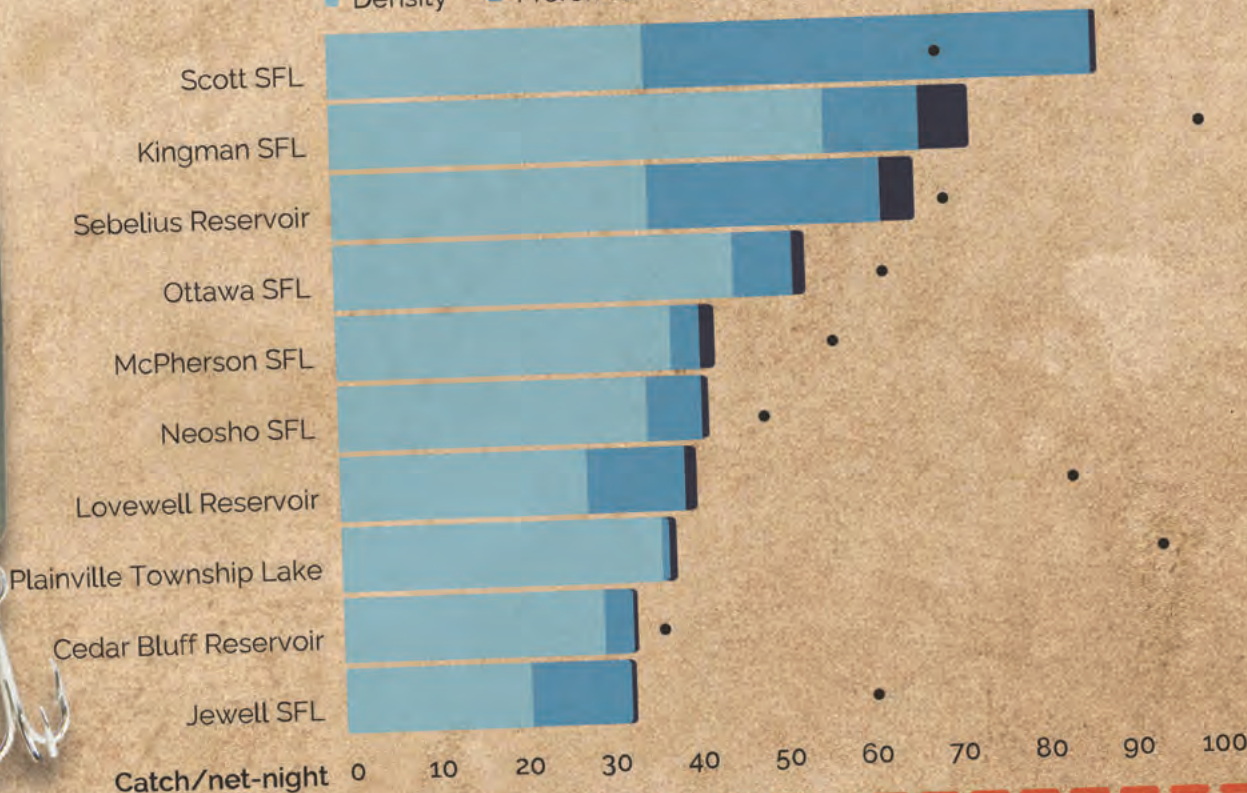
fishing forecast





# CRAPPIE *Black, white*

■ Density ■ Preferred ■ Lunker ● 3 Year Avg.



## BLACK CRAPPIE

### RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (≥12")	PREFERRED RATING (≥15")	LUNKER RATING (≥20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs.	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Cedar Bluff Reservoir	19.78	1.72	0.00	0.74	8.65	Good
Kirwin Reservoir	13.19	11.69	3.63	1.49	15.08	Good
Sebelius Reservoir	10.90	5.90	0.40	1.64	14.13	Good
Webster Reservoir	6.25	2.06	0.00	0.92	5.65	Good
Glen Elder Reservoir	4.29	3.50	0.21	1.26	7.06	Fair
Kanopolis Reservoir	2.50	1.42	0.08	0.97	4.82	Fair
Lovewell Reservoir	2.14	0.21	0.07	1.06	3.38	Fair
Marion Reservoir	1.25	0.50	0.25	1.31	2.53	Fair
Clinton Reservoir	1.06	1.00	0.13	1.10	0.56	Fair
Big Hill Reservoir	0.90	0.30	0.20	0.92	0.83	Fair
Hillsdale Reservoir	0.50	0.13	0.06	1.36	0.50	Poor
Wilson Reservoir	0.40	0.40	0.13	1.16	1.02	Fair
Perry Reservoir	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.75	0.10	Poor
Milford Reservoir	0.13	0.06	0.06	1.63	0.13	Poor
El Dorado Reservoir	0.13	0.13	0.06	1.19	0.15	Poor
Fall River Reservoir	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.69	0.03	Poor
John Redmond Reservoir	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.48	0.72	Poor
Tuttle Creek Reservoir	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.06	Poor
Toronto Reservoir	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.06	Poor
Wolf Creek Reservoir	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.96	0.37	Poor
Cheney Reservoir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	Poor
Elk City Reservoir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	Poor

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (≥12")	PREFERRED RATING (≥15")	LUNKER RATING (≥20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs.	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Rooks State Lake	59.50	2.50	0.00	0.59	29.67	Good
Plainville Lake	55.50	0.50	0.50	1.40	34.17	Good
Douglas SFL	28.33	15.00	0.00	0.68	18.78	Good
Belleville - Rocky Pond	22.00	0.50	0.00	0.59	8.17	Good
Jewell SFL	15.60	2.40	0.00	0.70	19.28	Good
Anthony City Lake	14.80	9.00	0.20	1.00	12.00	Good
Council Grove City Lake	7.25	0.50	0.00	0.64	4.83	Fair
Graham Co. - Antelope Lake	7.00	5.00	0.25	1.20	19.14	Good

## BLACK CRAPPIE

### LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (≥12")	PREFERRED RATING (≥15")	LUNKER RATING (≥20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs.	3-YEAR AVERAGE (≥12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
KDOT W. Borrow Pit	7.00	2.33	0.00	0.72	7.00	Fair
Miami SFL	6.25	0.50	0.25	0.85	3.83	Fair
Neosho SFL	5.50	0.25	0.00	0.53	4.44	Good
Alma City Lake	5.50	2.25	0.00	0.65	4.50	Good
Brown SFL	4.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	2.42	Fair
Gridley City Lake	4.00	2.25	0.50	1.08	4.44	Fair
Atwood - Lake Atwood	4.00	1.00	0.33	1.31	2.17	Fair
Wilson SFL	3.75	1.25	0.25	1.10	2.25	Fair
Kingman SFL	3.60	2.40	1.40	1.35	2.88	Fair
Shawnee SFL	3.50	0.25	0.00	0.59	2.00	Fair
Lyon SFL	3.50	2.50	1.00	1.31	2.25	Fair
Paola City Lake - Lake Miola	3.00	1.75	0.00	0.75	1.83	Fair
Herington City Lake-New	3.00	3.00	0.50	1.03	3.33	Fair
Garnett City Lake-South	3.00	0.50	0.50	1.26	3.00	Fair
Gardner City Lake	2.50	0.25	0.00	0.48	2.50	Fair
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.56	2.33	Poor
Pottawatomie SFL #1	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	1.83	Fair
Yates Center City Lake	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	1.20	Fair
Bone Creek Lake	1.88	1.50	0.25	1.10	1.00	Good
Parsons City Lake	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.53	1.75	Fair
Garnett City Lake - North	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.42	2.50	Fair
Barber SFL - Lower	1.67	1.00	0.00	0.73	1.67	Poor
Atchison City Lake #23	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.79	1.50	Poor
Pottawatomie SFL #2	1.50	0.50	0.00	0.51	1.17	Fair
Olathe - Lake Olathe	1.50	1.25	0.75	1.44	1.17	Fair
Montgomery SFL	1.50	0.50	0.00	0.60	3.58	Fair
Moline Old City Lake - South	1.50	0.50	0.25	1.55	1.92	Fair
Louisburg City Lake	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.88	1.50	Poor
Logan City Lake	1.50	1.50	0.50	1.24	1.25	Fair
Ellis City Lake	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.53	1.17	Poor
Sedan Old City Lake - North	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	1.50	Fair



# BLACK CRAPPIE

	DENSITY RATING (>12")	PREFERRED RATING (>15")	LUNKER RATING (>20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
LAKES						
Harvey County Lake-East	1.00	0.80	0.20	1.01	1.79	Fair
Middle Creek State Fishing Lake	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	1.42	Poor
Mcpherson State Fishing Lake	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.64	2.11	Fair
Centralia City Lake	1.00	0.38	0.00	0.57	1.38	Fair
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	1.00	0.20	0.00	0.40	1.33	Fair
Holton - Banner Creek Lake	0.88	0.38	0.00	0.75	6.96	Fair
Cowley State Fishing Lake	0.75	0.25	0.00	0.00	1.11	Poor
Sabetha City Lake	0.75	0.75	0.25	1.01	0.50	Poor
Crawford State Fishing Lake	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.47	Fair
Nebo SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.58	Poor
Lebo City Lake	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.25	Poor
Marion County Lake	0.33	0.33	0.33	1.19	0.33	Poor
Sabetha - Pony Creek Lake	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.58	Fair
Pratt County Lake	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.25	Poor
Harvey County Lake-West	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.26	Poor
Sedgwick County-Lake Afton	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.13	Poor
Jeffrey EC Make Up Lake	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.68	0.32	Poor
Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.13	Poor
Clark State Fishing Lake	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.93	0.31	Poor
Woodson SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	Poor
Sheridan SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.46	Poor
Horsethief Reservoir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	Fair
Sedan New City Lake - South	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	Poor
Butler SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	Poor
Ottawa SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Poor
Leavenworth SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	Poor
PONDS						
Sterling City Lake	4.00	0.33	0.00	0.61	3.00	Poor
Severy City Lake	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	1.50	Poor
Atchison City Lake #7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	Poor
KDOT - E. Borrow Pit (Wichita)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	Poor

# WHITE CRAPPIE

	DENSITY RATING (>12")	PREFERRED RATING (>15")	LUNKER RATING (>20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
RESERVOIRS						
Pomona Reservoir	23.83	6.83	1.89	1.27	19.80	Excellent
Marion Reservoir	15.88	3.63	1.25	1.59	10.30	Good
Hillsdale Reservoir	12.06	7.75	1.25	1.49	20.48	Good
Lovewell Reservoir	11.86	2.29	0.29	1.24	29.79	Good
Tuttle Creek Reservoir	11.75	10.25	1.25	1.66	11.75	Excellent
Melvorn Reservoir	9.94	6.75	0.63	1.55	11.60	Good
El Dorado Reservoir	9.75	8.50	3.56	2.10	7.36	Good
Toronto Reservoir	6.31	2.50	0.81	1.72	8.10	Good
Milford Reservoir	5.44	4.06	1.31	1.95	5.44	Good
Perry Reservoir	5.33	4.39	0.67	1.34	13.50	Good
Wolf Creek Reservoir	4.94	2.24	0.35	1.48	4.56	Fair
Big Hill Reservoir	4.80	2.30	0.50	1.02	4.17	Good
Fall River Reservoir	4.13	0.75	0.63	1.53	5.44	Good
Council Grove Reservoir	3.62	2.62	0.92	1.53	5.07	Good
Glen Elder Reservoir	3.50	0.58	0.33	2.02	2.86	Good
Cheney Reservoir	2.40	1.40	0.00	0.73	2.41	Fair
Clinton Reservoir	1.69	0.94	0.13	1.07	7.75	Fair
LaCygne Reservoir	1.62	0.94	0.31	1.17	3.10	Good
John Redmond Reservoir	1.38	1.06	0.13	1.91	3.41	Fair
Webster Reservoir	1.13	0.25	0.00	0.84	3.38	Good
Elk City Reservoir	1.00	0.44	0.44	1.95	7.14	Good
Sebelius Reservoir	0.70	0.30	0.00	0.88	0.73	Fair
Kirwin Reservoir	0.69	0.31	0.25	1.98	3.73	Good
Cedar Bluff Reservoir	0.44	0.44	0.00	0.71	0.46	Poor
Kanopolis Reservoir	0.42	0.17	0.08	2.25	2.74	Good
Wilson Reservoir	0.13	0.13	0.07	1.12	0.07	Fair
LAKES						
KDOT W. Borrow Pit (Wichita)	43.33	8.00	0.67	1.76	43.33	Good
Olathe - Cedar Lake	33.00	3.50	0.50	1.04	47.33	Good
Parsons City Lake	29.63	10.88	2.50	1.66	29.63	Good
Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake	29.13	14.88	2.25	1.31	32.92	Good
Kingman SFL	28.20	24.80	6.00	2.62	22.72	Good
Mcpherson SFL	27.83	18.83	2.33	1.18	5.44	Good
Alma City Lake	24.25	13.50	0.50	0.80	15.38	Good
Wellington City Lake	23.00	8.75	2.50	1.39	13.41	Good
Ottawa SFL	22.33	2.00	0.83	1.70	4.89	Good
Shawnee SFL	21.50	3.50	0.75	0.87	10.08	Fair
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	20.60	11.40	2.40	1.60	16.21	Good
Sabetha City Lake	19.50	15.50	4.25	1.39	2.25	Excellent
Herington City Lake-New	17.00	1.75	0.50	1.12	17.00	Fair
Sedan Old City Lake - North	16.00	4.50	0.50	1.08	15.00	Good
Ellis City Lake	14.33	4.67	2.33	1.17	6.89	Fair
Marion County Lake	14.33	6.67	0.33	1.09	9.04	Good

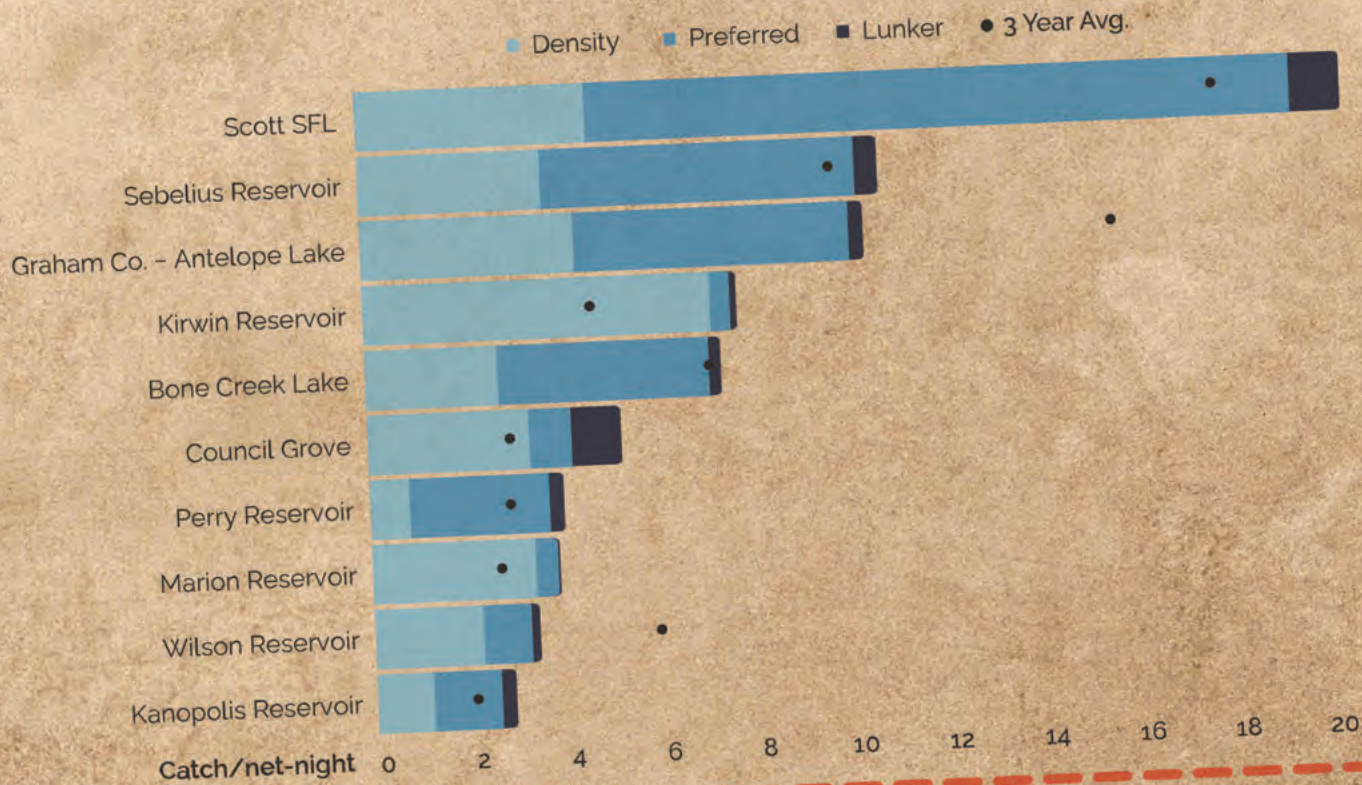
# WHITE CRAPPIE

	DENSITY RATING (>12")	PREFERRED RATING (>15")	LUNKER RATING (>20")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>12")	BIOLOGIST RATING
LAKES						
Pleasanton West Lake	13.50	8.50	0.00	0.78	13.51	Excellent
Sedgwick County-Lake Afton	13.40	0.80	0.00	0.64	8.13	Fair
Olpe City Lake	12.50	2.25	1.00	1.25	9.92	Fair
Eureka City Lake	11.75	2.75	1.25	1.28	35.75	Fair
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	11.00	2.25	0.50	0.98	27.17	Fair
Moline New City Lake - North	11.00	8.25	1.25	1.41	17.75	Good
Centralia City Lake	9.38	2.25	0.38	1.31	6.58	Good
Neosho State Fishing Lake	9.25	1.50	0.50	1.47	8.92	Good
Council Grove City Lake	9.00	1.75	0.00	0.59	11.83	Fair
Carbondale City Lake - East	9.00	2.50	1.00	1.10	6.88	Fair
Scott State Fishing Lake	7.88	5.13	0.38	1.28	9.07	Fair
Jeffrey EC Make Up Lake	7.25	3.75	0.25	0.93	4.58	Fair
Lebo City Lake	7.25	7.25	3.25	1.48	8.50	Good
Brown State Fishing Lake	7.00	1.25	0.25	0.91	7.00	Good
Wichita-Chisholm North Lake	6.75	2.00	0.75	1.19	6.75	Fair
Sheridan SFL	6.38	2.00	1.00	1.23	2.71	Fair
Olathe - Lake Olathe	6.25	2.50	0.25	1.10	12.08	Fair
Garnett City Lake-North	6.25	3.00	0.50	0.84	4.00	Fair
Middle Creek SFL	6.00	1.75	0.50	1.01	6.58	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #2	5.50	2.00	0.25	1.33	2.83	Fair
Nebo SFL	5.50	1.00	0.25	1.18	14.83	Fair
Miami SFL	5.25	1.00	1.00	1.63	11.42	Fair
Lyon SFL	5.25	4.25	2.75	1.76	4.58	Fair
Jeffrey EC Aux. Make Up Lake	5.14	4.43	0.71	0.90	4.84	Fair
Horton-Mission Lake	5.00	1.00	0.25	1.12	9.50	Fair
Garnett City Lake-South	5.00	1.00	0.00	0.80	4.75	Fair
Mound City Lake	5.00	0.75	0.50	1.23	5.00	Fair
Washington SFL	4.67	3.67	1.33	1.40	4.47	Fair
Madison City Lake	4.50	1.75	0.50	2.07	3.17	Poor
Horsethief Reservoir	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.35	6.80	Fair
Atchison City Lake #23	4.40	1.00	0.00	0.44	4.00	Fair
Yates Center City Lake-New	4.00	3.40	0.40	1.38	8.20	Fair
Wilson SFL	4.00	1.75	1.75	1.33	1.50	Fair
Harvey County Lake-West	3.50	1.00	0.50	1.36	3.66	Poor
Butler SFL	3.00	0.75	0.50	0.00	5.75	Poor
Bourbon SFL	2.25	1.00	1.00	1.58	5.13	Fair
Sedan New City Lake - South	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	2.75	Fair
Meade SFL	2.00	0.25	0.25	0.98	2.05	Poor
Fort Scott City Lake	2.00	1.16	0.33	0.56	0.63	Fair
Anthony City Lake	1.80	0.40	0.20	1.75	1.80	Poor
Belleville - Rocky Pond	1.75	0.50	0.25	1.11	4.36	Poor
Paola City Lake - Lake Miola	1.75	1.00	0.50	0.87	4.42	Fair
Pleasanton East Lake	1.75	1.75	1.00	2.13	1.70	Fair
Douglas SFL	1.67	0.33	0.00	0.48	2.14	Poor
Montgomery SFL	1.50	0.25	0.00	0.59	1.08	Fair
Louisburg City Lake	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.28	1.50	Fair
Clark SFL	1.33	0.89	0.33	1.19	1.42	Fair
Moline Old City Lake - South	1.25	1.00	0.50	1.14	4.67	Fair
Harvey County Lake-East	1.20	1.00	0.60	1.32	5.43	Fair
Holton - Banner Creek Lake	0.75	0.25	0.13	0.99	6.50	Fair
Pratt County Lake	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.71	0.50	Poor
Crawford SFL	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.44	1.14	Fair
Gardner City Lake	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.71	0.50	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #1	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.86	Poor
Wichita-South Lake	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.25	Poor
Barber SFL - Lower	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	3.61	Fair
Geary SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33	Poor
PONDS						
KDOT - E. Borrow Pit (Wichita)	8.50	3.00	0.00	0.67	8.50	Poor
Fort Scott Gunn Park W Pond #2	5.50	0.50	0.00	0.51	5.50	Fair
Atchison City Lake #7	3.50	1.00	0.50	1.82	3.50	Poor
Severy City Lake	1.50	1.00	0.00	0.58	0.75	Poor



# PERCIDS

*Walleye, Sauger, Saugeye*





# WALLEYE

## RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>15")	PREFERRED RATING (>20")	LUNKER RATING (>25")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>15")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Kirwin	7.83	0.50	0.08	8.47	4.85	Good
Marion	4.00	0.47	0.00	4.01	2.80	Good
Wilson	3.53	1.20	0.13	7.46	6.04	Good
Webster	2.58	0.50	0.17	6.36	2.17	Good
Milford	2.50	0.05	0.00	3.76	2.55	Fair
El Dorado	2.33	0.87	0.13	7.95	2.16	Good
Cedar Bluff	1.96	0.46	0.04	7.94	2.53	Good
Glen Elder	1.62	0.03	0.00	5.62	2.67	Poor
Cheney	1.31	0.86	0.17	7.55	1.57	Fair
Lovewell	1.13	0.50	0.00	4.40	1.04	Fair
Hillsdale	0.92	0.08	0.00	7.44	0.67	Good
Wolf Creek	0.56	0.11	0.00	4.63	0.55	Fair
Melvorn	0.47	0.00	0.00	1.72	0.70	Fair
Clinton	0.31	0.00	0.00	2.20	0.29	Fair
Pomona	0.25	0.00	0.00	6.07	0.27	Fair
Big Hill	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.17	0.05	Fair
Kanopolis	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.85	0.05	Poor
Elk City	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	Poor
Sebelius	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.00	Poor

## LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (>15")	PREFERRED RATING (>20")	LUNKER RATING (>25")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>15")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Barber SFL-Lower	2.80	0.00	0.00	4.98	2.16	Good
Lyon SFL	1.67	0.00	0.00	2.05	0.92	Fair
Horsethief	1.00	0.83	0.50	6.48	1.14	Fair
Holton-Banner Creek Lake	0.88	0.00	0.00	2.41	1.00	Fair
Sabetha-Pony Creek Lake	0.75	0.25	0.00	5.04	1.19	Fair
Jeffrey EC-Make Up Lake	0.67	0.00	0.00	2.13	0.89	Fair
Yates Center-South Owl Lake	0.50	0.50	0.00	4.96	0.56	Fair
Herington City Lake-New	0.40	0.00	0.00	1.97	0.60	Poor
Clark SFL	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.73	0.50	Fair
Gridley City Lake	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.98	1.22	Fair
Lebo City Lake	0.25	0.00	0.00	4.09	0.25	Poor
Pleasanton East Lake	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.80	0.17	Poor
Osage SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.17	Poor
Yates Center City Lake-New	0.17	0.17	0.00	2.93	0.17	Poor
Fort Scott City Lake	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.02	0.56	Poor
Winfield City Lake	0.10	0.00	0.00	2.10	0.35	Poor
Jeffrey EC - Aux. Makeup Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.19	0.21	Fair
Woodson SFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	Poor

# SAUGER

## RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>11")	PREFERRED RATING (>14")	LUNKER RATING (>17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Perry Reservoir	4.15	3.15	0.30	2.76	3.02	Excellent
Clinton Reservoir	0.38	0.38	0.00	2.37	0.92	Fair
Melvorn Reservoir	0.33	0.33	0.13	1.85	0.37	Fair

## LAKE

	DENSITY RATING (>11")	PREFERRED RATING (>14")	LUNKER RATING (>17")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>11")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Holton - Banner Creek Lake	0.75	0.75	0.13	1.38	1.25	Good
Jeffrey EC-Make Up Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	Poor

# SAUGEYE

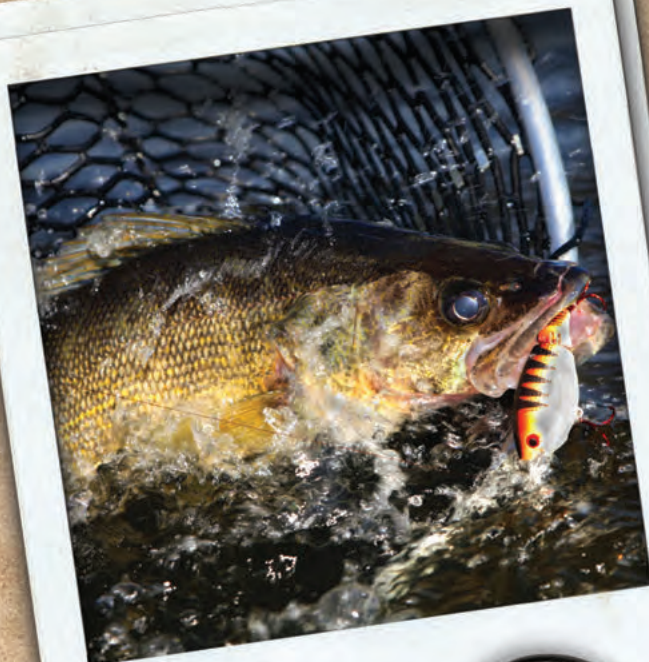
## RESERVOIRS

	DENSITY RATING (>14")	PREFERRED RATING (>18")	LUNKER RATING (>22")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>14")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Sebelius	10.80	6.90	0.40	5.67	9.90	Good
Council Grove	5.33	1.87	1.00	6.89	2.96	Good
Kanopolis	2.85	1.65	0.20	5.75	2.13	Fair
Clinton	0.38	0.13	0.00	2.72	0.38	Fair
Pomona	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.10	0.17	Fair
Webster	0.08	0.08	0.00	3.13	0.13	Fair
Tuttle Creek	0.05	0.05	0.00	3.21	0.05	Fair

## LAKES

	DENSITY RATING (>14")	PREFERRED RATING (>18")	LUNKER RATING (>22")	BIGGEST FISH lbs	3-YEAR AVERAGE (>14")	BIOLOGIST RATING
Scott SFL	20.50	15.63	1.00	5.98	17.82	Excellent
Graham Co-Antelope Lake	10.50	6.00	0.25	5.21	15.67	Good
Bone Creek Lake	7.50	4.63	0.25	5.78	7.21	Good
Geary SFL	2.80	1.60	0.20	6.97	2.43	Fair
Paola City Lake-Lake Miola	2.67	1.00	0.17	6.37	2.78	Good
Wellington City Lake	1.80	1.80	0.60	7.68	3.32	Good
Ottawa SFL	1.67	1.67	0.67	6.26	1.61	Fair
Centralia City Lake	1.50	1.00	0.75	5.87	3.00	Fair
Olathe-Lake Olathe	1.33	1.17	0.00	4.17	1.61	Fair
Atwood-Lake Atwood-Main	1.33	1.33	0.33	7.43	1.11	Fair
Madison City Lake	1.33	1.17	0.33	7.43	1.11	Fair
Sheridan SFL	1.17	0.33	0.00	3.23	1.22	Fair
Pottawatomie SFL #2	1.00	1.00	0.50	4.82	0.42	Fair
Middle Creek SFL	1.00	0.67	0.00	3.86	1.67	Fair
Meade SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.67	Poor
Eureka City Lake	0.83	0.33	0.00	2.93	1.50	Fair
Olpe City Lake	0.75	0.75	0.25	4.55	0.88	Fair
Chase SFL	0.75	0.25	0.00	2.01	5.63	Fair
Mcpherson SFL	0.70	0.70	0.50	5.92	1.57	Poor
Harvey Co. Lake-East	0.60	0.50	0.20	4.91	1.14	Fair
Washington SFL	0.50	0.50	0.00	2.75	0.38	Poor
Shawnee SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.17	Fair
Moline New City Lake-North	0.50	0.50	0.00	2.80	0.56	Fair
Garnett City Lake-North	0.50	0.50	0.50	5.31	0.42	Fair
Ellis City Lake	0.33	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.17	Poor
Gardner City Lake	0.33	0.33	0.00	4.78	0.33	Poor
Lebo City Lake	0.25	0.25	0.00	4.25	0.50	Fair
Sedgwick Co.-Lake Afton	0.17	0.17	0.17	5.39	0.44	Poor
Crawford SFL	0.17	0.17	0.17	4.86	0.28	Fair
Pleasanton East Lake	0.17	0.17	0.00	1.94	0.17	Poor
Howard-Polk Daniels Lake	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	1.08	Poor
Ponds	1.00	0.50	0.25	3.90	1.25	Fair
Sterling City Lake						

fishing forecast





## NORTHERN PIKE

### LAKES

Kingman SFL

DENSITY RATING	PREFERRED RATING	LUNKER RATING	BIGGEST FISH	3-YEAR AVERAGE	BIOLOGIST RATING
(>21)	(>28)	(>34)	lbs	(>21)	

0.17 0.17 0.00 5.41 0.50 Poor

## REDEAR SUNFISH

### RESERVOIRS

Big Hill

Elk City

### LAKES

Lyon SFL

Montgomery SFL

Jewell SFL

Moline Old City Lake-South

Leavenworth SFL

Cowley SFL

Edna City Lake

Wilson SFL

Gridley City Lake

Jetmore City Lake

Osage SFL

Shawnee SFL

Woodson SFL

Garnett City Lake-North

Pottawatomie SFL #2

Pleasanton East Lake

Neosho SFL

Lenexa Lake-Lenexa

Graham Co.-Antelope Lake

Lebo City Lake

Bone Creek Lake

Bourbon SFL

Howard-Polk Daniels Lake

Garnett-Cedar Creek Lake

Yates Center-South Owl Lake

Crawford SFL

Paola City Lake-Lake Miola

Madison City Lake

Mound City Lake

### PONDS

Emporia-Jones Park West Pond

Emporia-Jones Park North

St Francis-Keller Lake

Severy City Lake

DENSITY RATING	PREFERRED RATING	LUNKER RATING	BIGGEST FISH	3-YEAR AVERAGE	BIOLOGIST RATING
(>8)	(>12)	(>12)	lbs	(>8)	
0.40	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.77	Fair
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	Poor
24.25	11.00	0.00	1.01	12.08	Excellent
8.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	4.08	Good
7.60	0.00	0.00	0.46	5.73	Good
6.00	0.75	0.00	0.60	4.67	Fair
5.25	0.25	0.00	0.53	6.00	Fair
5.00	1.00	0.00	0.83	9.50	Fair
4.50	0.00	0.00	0.44	4.50	Fair
3.75	1.25	0.00	0.76	3.92	Good
3.67	1.67	0.00	0.68	2.25	Fair
3.00	0.25	0.00	0.88	2.00	Fair
2.50	1.25	0.00	0.83	1.25	Good
2.25	0.75	0.00	0.69	1.75	Fair
2.20	0.00	0.00	0.45	2.10	Fair
1.25	0.25	0.00	0.75	1.25	Fair
1.25	0.25	0.00	0.49	1.25	Fair
1.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.25	Fair
0.75	0.00	0.00	0.42	3.06	Good
0.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.83	Fair
0.33	0.33	0.00	0.79	0.29	Poor
0.25	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.25	Poor
0.25	0.00	0.00	0.25	3.04	Good
0.25	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.25	Good
0.25	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.33	Poor
0.13	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.19	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.93	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.06	Fair
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.75	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.13	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.13	Fair
25.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	25.00	Fair
15.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	15.00	Fair
5.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	5.00	Poor
3.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	4.83	Fair

## WIPER

### RESERVOIRS

Sebelius

Kirwin

Webster

Marion

Milford

Pomona

Cedar Bluff

Lovewell

Cheney

El Dorado

Glen Elder

Lacygne

Clinton

Council Grove

Kanopolis

Wolf Creek

### LAKES

Herington City Lake-New

Jeffrey EC-Make Up Lake

Jetmore City Lake

Sheridan SFL

Coldwater Lake

Centralia City Lake

Jeffrey EC-Aux. Makeup Lake

Kiowa SFL

Crawford SFL

Graham Co.-Antelope Lake

Marion Co. Lake

Sabetha-Pony Creek Lake

Winfield City Lake

Pleasanton East Lake

Yates Center City Lake-New

Osage SFL

Middle Creek SFL

Eureka City Lake

Lyon SFL

Yates Center-South Owl Lake

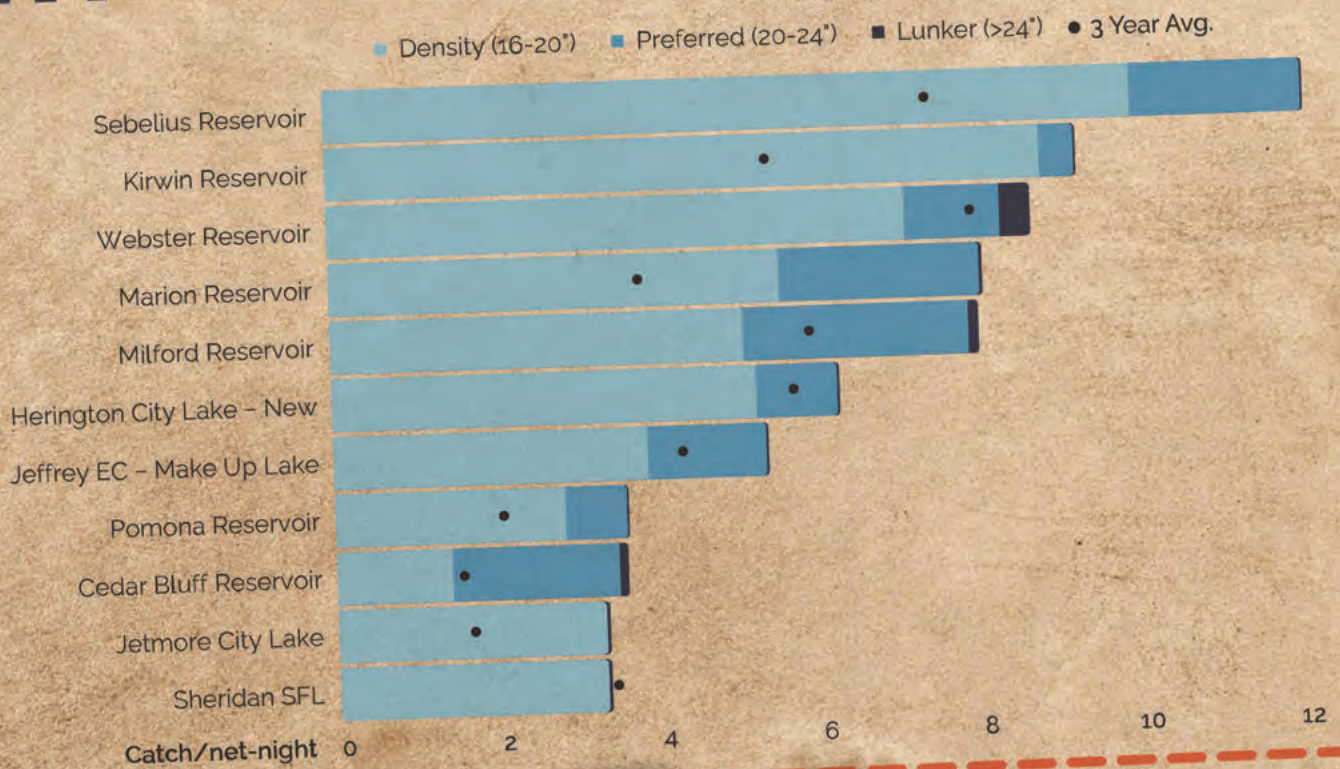
Wellington City Lake

DENSITY RATING	PREFERRED RATING	LUNKER RATING	BIGGEST FISH	3-YEAR AVERAGE	BIOLOGIST RATING
(>16)	(>20)	(>24)	lbs	(>16)	
12.00	2.10	0.00	6.81	7.37	Good
9.17	0.42	0.00	5.91	5.38	Good
8.58	1.50	0.33	8.38	7.86	Good
8.00	2.47	0.00	4.93	3.78	Good
7.95	2.85	0.10	6.81	5.88	Good
3.58	0.75	0.00	4.26	2.06	Good
3.54	2.13	0.04	9.92	1.56	Good
3.06	1.56	0.00	5.86	2.25	Good
2.14	1.55	0.14	7.99	3.06	Good
1.80	1.07	0.00	5.20	1.82	Fair
0.86	0.59	0.31	9.27	1.17	Fair
0.79	0.00	0.00	2.80	0.43	Fair
0.63	0.31	0.00	4.85	1.60	Fair
0.13	0.13	0.07	6.15	0.27	Poor
0.10	0.10	0.00	6.68	0.31	Poor
0.06	0.06	0.00	6.08	0.16	Fair
6.20	1.00	0.00	5.17	5.67	Good
5.33	1.50	0.00	5.98	4.28	Good
3.33	0.00	0.00	2.69	1.67	Fair
3.33	0.00	0.00	2.43	3.40	Fair
3.00	3.00	0.00	6.17	2.60	Fair
2.75	1.25	0.25	6.39	2.75	Fair
2.75	0.25	0.00	5.79	1.67	Fair
2.50	1.00	0.50	7.43	1.33	Poor
2.17	0.33	0.00	3.79	0.78	Good
1.50	0.00	0.00	3.08	1.08	Fair
1.25	0.25	0.00	3.06	3.00	Fair
1.00	0.75	0.25	7.74	0.83	Fair
0.60	0.60	0.40	9.88	0.60	Poor
0.33	0.00	0.00	2.69	0.33	Poor
0.33	0.33	0.00	6.10	0.61	Fair
0.17	0.00	0.00	1.61	0.08	Poor
0.17	0.17	0.17	7.69	0.22	Poor
0.17	0.00	0.00	3.81	0.06	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	1.56	0.17	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.08	Poor
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	Poor





# WIPER










# TURKEY DECOY DYNAMICS

BY MICHAEL PEARCE, FREELANCE WRITER



Watching a big ol' tom with every feather at attention, strutting to a decoy is one of the most exciting sights in the Kansas outdoors. In many ways, proper use of a decoy is more important than good calling. Done right, decoying can bring toms to almost touching distance, and then keep them around for the time it takes to get good video or to make a good shot.

The right decoy can lure in a love-struck bird from hundreds of yards, or a shy bird the extra steps needed to finally be in range. Another decoy can get a

dominant tom to leave a harem of hens on a dead run, looking for a fight.

But decoying isn't always as simple as placing any ol' fake bird on the ground. Decoys come in all shapes, sizes, genders and more. Prices range from the cost of a burger and fries to more than a decent shotgun.

Here's a review based on my 42 turkey seasons. Also, thanks to accomplished hunters Jason Wagner, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area manager, and Wamego-based Jared McJunkin, National Wild Turkey Federation, director of conservation operations, for their input.



Danny Brown photo

*Wildlife & Parks* | 31



## DECOY GENDERS

It's no surprise hen decoys hit the market first about 40 years ago. Spring seasons are held to harvest bearded toms looking for love. Replica hens come in cardboard, plywood, plastic foam and real turkey skins lure. Thousands of lonely toms fall to hen decoys annually.

They have their share of failures, too.

Most dominate toms won't leave the ugliest of hens and go to the prettiest of decoys. Those hens often won't approach a decoy for fear of losing the tom they have in tow.

Also, in the real wild turkey world, it's the hens that go to the toms. Some he-birds will come to within easy sight of a hen decoy, then strut back and forth, waiting for it to come to him. That frustrating stalemate can last an hour or more.

Jake decoys first came to the turkey hunting world to get a mature tom jealous and enraged. It's worked well

thousands of times, from Atchison to Elkhart. In fact, it's for that very reason that the hen decoy isn't even needed much of the time.

Wild turkeys maintain a strong and stringent pecking order all year. Most toms are ready to put a lowly jake in its place. I've had strutting toms thump a jake decoy – for gun, bow or camera – October through May; Some of the attacks have been very violent and lasted over an hour. In the winter, I've had more than 20 big toms strutting around the jake decoy at once. Talk about an unfair advantage.

But the intimidation can go both ways. Sub-dominant toms, especially two-year-old toms traveling solo, and jakes can be intimidated by any male turkey decoy. Wagner has noticed this is especially common when turkey populations, and thus competition, are sparse.

## REALISM (THE MORE, THE BETTER)

Wild turkeys have good enough vision to spot a camouflaged hunter flicking a tick off their wrist at 100 yards. Yet for years, they've been fooled by some pathetic-looking fakes.

The first tom I decoyed strutted around and around a silhouette, never seeming to care his new "girlfriend" was 1/8" thick. For about 20 springs, I used cheap, foldable foam jake and hen decoys that I thought looked nothing like the real things. They fooled toms from Florida to Wyoming. A little primping had them full-bodied, but honestly it helped they moved a bit in a breeze.

Turkey decoying changed about 10 years ago with the introduction of full-sized, highly realistic plastic decoys. They come with perfect paint jobs, including the vibrant colors of an excited tom's head and neck. I can't say they work better

than less life-like decoys, but they often hold a tom's attention a lot longer.

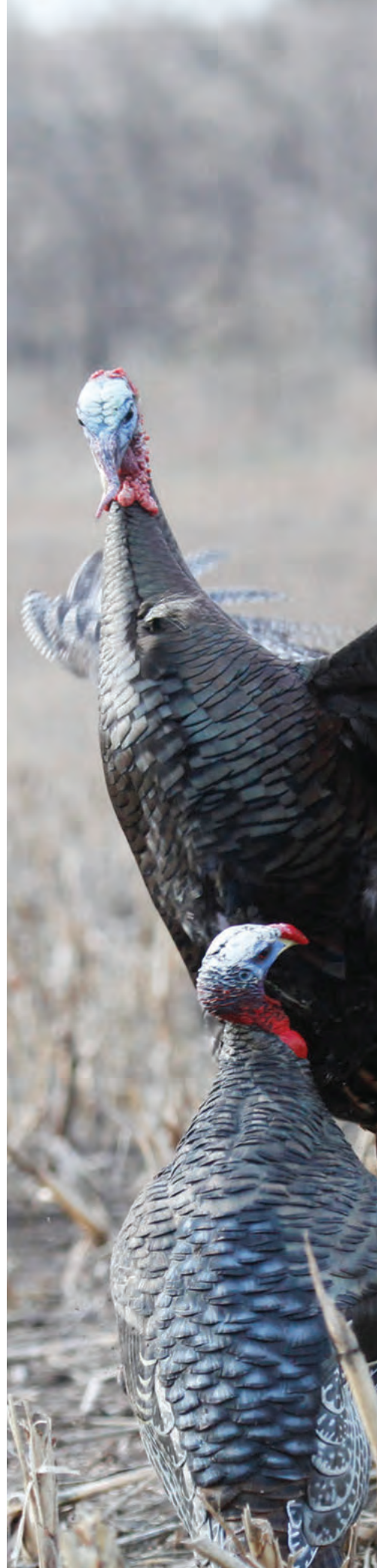
The intense attacks already mentioned were with such a jake decoy. A tom attacked the same decoy for more than an hour near El Dorado State Park as a friend and I slowly ate lunches packed in from Taco Bell. In Linn County, an old eastern tom came in so fast from a quarter mile away, I didn't even have a chance to call. Several times, a dominant tom has sprinted from his hens to do battle with the decoy. It's hard to drive a live tom away from such a realistic hen when he's in the mood.

The downside of highly detailed decoys is the expense of up to \$500 dollars. They are also bulky to transport. Some, especially those using real fans, can be as good at fooling hunters as they are turkeys and safety issues can arise.

## BODY LANGUAGE

Decoy posture and head coloration can send different messages to real wild birds. Full strut is a direct challenge to any real tom, and that could push a sub-dominant tom away. Half-strut decoys – like most fake jakes – aren't as intimidating. Decoys standing completely upright can be seen as birds on full alert, rather to flee or do battle, which can be intimidating for hens

and sub-dominant toms. Decoys placed horizontal and low to the ground show contentment, like hens feeding. Hen decoys placed directly on the ground simulate a hen that's ready to breed. Sitting jake decoys show a male bird that's totally submissive, which can draw sub-dominant toms on the run to pound on him.







## THE VARIABLES

As with all things with wildlife, decoying with wild turkeys has no “always” and never any “nevers.” There are a few variables to keep in mind.

Toms seem to attack jake decoys best early in the spring season, when testosterone and energy levels are high. Most toms are the most gung-ho right off the roost in the morning, often flying directly to a decoy placed close to where they land. Get in super early and be as quiet as possible.

Never stop your scouting. An area that has a few shy, single toms will offer much better decoying if you ever find those same birds hanging together. In a turkey’s mind,

there’s usually courage in numbers.

Using just hen decoys may be best if the tom population is low, or the area mostly holds solo toms or two-year-old toms, which will have beards and bodies noticeably smaller than those of older, more dominant toms.

Don’t accept failure and be willing to experiment. The tom that shies away from a hen and jake spread may come back an hour later and strut right in after you’ve pulled the jake. Mix up your set-up locations, your decoy spreads and the calls you use with your decoys. Sooner or later, you’ll find that magic combination and the tom you’re after will strut right in.

## SAFETY

Thanks largely to hundreds of volunteer instructors, and one of America’s top hunter education programs, hunting in Kansas remains one of the safest outdoors recreations. Kansas hunters put in millions of hunter-days per year, yet only average about 10 incidents that involve someone getting shot. The state’s last such fatality was back in 2015. Reported incidents that involve turkey hunting average once a year. Still, Kent Barrett, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks hunter education coordinator, said those humble numbers can be reduced. He recommends the following:

Always remember the hunter safety rule, “Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.” Extra care for positive identification is already important because spring turkey hunters must identify a visible beard on a bird before firing.

Do not use a tactic known as “reaping,” where the hunter hides behind a decoy or real turkey feathers and crawls towards a gobbler. Kansas has had at least two serious incidents when a hunter has shot a hunting partner as they crawled towards each other.


It’s wise, and easy, to slip on of hunter orange cap or vest when near or carrying decoys. The orange garment can be stashed when set-up for hunting. Decoys should be covered during transportation to avoid misidentification by other hunters.

Decoys should be placed where an approaching hunter can’t sneak within shotgun range from as many

directions as possible. Open pastures or crop fields are great examples. Barrett recommends hunters sit against a tree wider than their shoulders for protection from shots from behind their set-up. An orange garment can be hung off the back of pop-up blinds.

Hunters should never set their decoys so they’re lined up with any way a hunter may approach and fire, that includes from any nearby roads. Incidents have occurred when poachers fired at decoys with rifles.

All turkey hunters should avoid wearing garments that are white, red or blue – the main colors of a tom turkey’s head.

Hunters need to communicate where and when they’ll be hunting with other hunters and, possibly landowners, to avoid contact with others. Public land hunters should park in plain sight and avoid areas where others are hunting. 





# SPRING TRAPPING TOOLS

by Rob McDonald,  
Modern Wildman Blog

Furharvesting is an underutilized outdoor endeavor in Kansas, and opportunities for the take of this natural resource abound across the state. One furharvesting opportunity that many Kansans may not be aware of, is the trapping pursuit of fully-prime beaver, muskrat and otter fur during the extended season through the end of March.

## Tips, Tricks & Tools for Spring Trapping

- A **furharvester license** is required to trap and to sell furbearers in Kansas. Also, be sure to read and follow the furbearer regulations for any trapping endeavor you pursue.
- Both beaver and otter can be successfully taken in a variety of **traps**. Large leg hold traps like #4 and #5 long spring or coil spring traps work well to hold a beaver's large rear foot. 330 conibear traps placed in runs and at feed hole entrances can also be successful. Steel cable snares can be effective at catching beaver or otters in their watered travelway as well. These traps should be made in sets within the water to avoid by catch of other furbearers that are out of season. All traps must be tagged with the trappers name and address, or KDWP #.
- An **axe** for chopping ice, splitting sticks, and pounding stakes is a handy tool for running a springtime trap line. **Pliers**, **wire**, and **steel cable** are also great tools to have along, either in a trappers pack, or a five gallon bucket. These items are perfect for wiring off traps, building sets, and setting anchors.
- **Waders**, **rubber boots**, and **rubber gauntlets** will go a long way to keeping you dry, warm, and comfortable while setting and tending your trap line.
- Prepared trapping lures and scents are an effective method for attracting furbearers to your sets. **Castor mound** sets work off of a beaver's territorial instinct, and can be very productive in the springtime. To try your luck with a castor mound set, build a small aquatic vegetation mound mixed with mud, add beaver castor, and guard it with an anchored trap where beavers frequent.

For more on trapping in Kansas, visit [ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Furharvesting](http://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Furharvesting).





trapping tools





# COVERED IN PHEASANTS?

**Jeff Prendergast, KDWP small game specialist, explains how biologists use spring cover crops to help elevate pheasant habitat.**

**I**t was a crisp January evening. I sat parked on the edge of some thick grass cover north of Wilson Reservoir. About 30 minutes after dark, a pickup rolled into the edge of the CRP field where we were meeting and without hesitation a crew of college students and recent graduates went to work assembling our ride for the night. When they were finished, the vehicle looked like something John Wayne would have used in *Hatari* to chase down wild animals on the Serengeti. The

pickup now had two captain's chairs mounted to the front bumper, enough lights to turn the Kansas countryside to daylight, and a stereo on the hood that blared a strange mix of music genres all night long. With the truck rigged, we strapped a couple of the young adults to the front of the truck with big nets while the rest of us climbed into the back with more spotlights and took off bouncing across the sea of grass. What, you may ask, would be so important to for this crew to want to risk life and limb...

## Why, pheasants of course!

by Jeff Prendergast,  
KDWP small game specialist



All information authored was derived from a collaborative research project between the Kansas State University Wildlife Research Cooperative unit and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.







Alixandra Godar photo

After pheasant hens are captured, they are measured and fitted for a tracking device that allows biologists to determine their survival, reproductive success, and how they used crop cover fields during the summer.

### RECENT DECLINES

With its introduction into Kansas in 1905, the ring-neck pheasant steadily increased its population until it reached the point of being one of the top producing pheasant states each year.

Early on, the landscape pheasants were introduced to was covered in abundant wheat fields with inefficient harvesting techniques and poor weed control. The combination of winter wheat and post-harvest weeds provided ideal nesting and brooding habitat for the birds, allowing them to thrive.

As agriculture intensified and continued to make advancements in efficiency the quality of habitat in these cropland acres began to decline, and with it the numbers of pheasants. Some of these habitat losses were offset with conservation programs such as CRP, although even at its highest point, the CRP program was only a fraction of the farmed acres that once provided abundant habitat in the landscape.

This has left managers, hunters, and farmers searching for ways to improve these once productive acres for birds in a way that works well with modern agriculture. One conservation practice that may have promise is cover crops.

### IMPORTANCE OF COVER CROPS

Cover crops consist of plants that are planted between cash crops and are serving other agricultural purposes rather than being harvested. The use of cover crops can be traced back several thousand years and

were reportedly practiced even by our own first president, George Washington.

However, cover crops have not been commonly practiced in modern agriculture. This has been changing with the numbers of farms using cover crops and total acres planted to cover crops increasing substantially every year for over a decade.

The agricultural uses can vary widely depending on the specific needs of the farmer or field, but one thing they all have in common is that a crop field that would typically be disked or sprayed to be kept fallow now has the potential to provide cover for wildlife.

While in many states the cover crops are put on after fall harvest, the abundance of winter wheat in Kansas provides an opportunity for cover crops to be planted in spring in fields that would be fallow through the summer. Quality habitat in the spring and summer is the most important to increasing pheasant populations making these spring cover crops potentially valuable habitat. This is where our capture crew steps in.

### TRACKING SUCCESS

The first thing that is needed in elevating pheasant habitat is, well, pheasants. If you've ever spent a day hunting pheasant, this likely doesn't come as a surprise, but pheasants can be a frustrating and difficult animal to capture.

There has been all manner of nets, traps, etc. tried but one of the most productive methods that has been found is night lighting.



Pictured: Jeff Prendergast,  
KDWP small game specialist.

Night lighting takes advantage of the birds' reluctance to move or fly in the dark. Night lighting consists of driving through thick night roosting cover slowly with two netters sitting on the front. Music is blaring to help disorient the birds and cover the sound of crunching grass which typically indicates an approaching predator.

Spotters standing in the back of the truck use spotlights to search for moving grass that could indicate that a pheasant is running. Once located the spotlights train on the moving grass and the netters launch themselves off the front of the truck in attempts to throw a net over the moving grass, while hoping desperately that it is in fact a pheasant and not a skunk that was out for a stroll.

If it is in fact a pheasant that doesn't slip out from the side of the net, and it is a hen, then the crew takes basic measurements and gives the bird some new jewelry before releasing her.

This same dance was repeated over and over across many different fields, in many different areas, adjacent to where we knew spring cover crops were being planted. The hens were then followed through the remainder of the summer to determine survival, reproductive success and hopefully, how the birds used the cover crop fields.

## 2021 RESULTS

Since cover crops are used for a variety of agricultural purposes, there are several mixes and management options all that can potentially impact what habitat value they provide. Three different mixes were used that varied in the density of the planting and diversity of plants in the mix.

The cover crops were planted in early spring, which meant that the covers did not reach sufficient size to provide nesting cover.

Rather, the hens favored CRP fields for their nests, but the availability of cover crops in the vicinity provided many other benefits. The initial thought was that the cover crop could replicate the once fallow wheat fields that contained abundant weeds and were used extensively by pheasant broods. The combination of overhead cover from predators, abundant insects, and openness at ground level that allows movement

through the patch creates perfect habitat for young chicks.

This brooding habitat has been very limited since the use of chemical weed control has become common place. The cover crops seem to check all these boxes with cover provided and all three mixes having above the minimum threshold for insects needed. The hens seem to agree as cover crops were commonly used for brooding their chicks.

Mixes that had a diverse mix of broadleaf plants (i.e., sunflower, peas, etc.) and contained a cool season grass component, (e.g., oats) were used the most by the broods.


When pheasant broods are first born, they are the most vulnerable and least mobile before they can fly. Therefore, cover crops that are adjacent to quality nesting habitat and further from trees provided the most benefit to pheasants.

In managing cover crops, farmers need to terminate or kill the cover crop to allow the wheat to be planted in fall. This is generally done with a chemical treatment. If pheasants are of interest, delaying the termination for as long as possible will maximize the benefit to pheasant chicks. However, when chemicals were used to terminate the stand and the cover was left standing the broods continued to use the cover crops post termination.

In addition to providing brood cover, the hens with access to cover crops also had a smaller home range size than other research had shown. Smaller home range sizes typically increase survival which keeps more hen pheasants on the landscape.

## CONCLUSION

While it doesn't appear that cover crops are going to suddenly make so many pheasants that you'll need a tennis racquet for self-defense, these fields are providing resources that are beneficial to the birds.

Based on the information collected over the three years, the population growth rates will be greater where cover crops are available compared to where they aren't. In this day where we put a lot of pressure on the land for production, any practice that is positive for wildlife and agriculture is a win. As the abundance of cover crops continues to increase on the landscape, they can be at least part of the puzzle on maintaining ringnecks in Kansas into the future. 







BY RICK MCNARY, FREELANCE WRITER

# TUTTLE CREEK STATE PARK

If you look at a map of the Flint Hills geologic region that dips its toe into Oklahoma and stretches all the way into northern Kansas, Tuttle Creek State Park, near Manhattan, sits right where the heart would be. Tuttle Creek was named for Henry Tuttle, a veteran of the War with Mexico (1846). He received a veteran's Letters Patent in 1860 to 80 acres of land along the north side of the creek, less than two miles above its mouth.

The Flint Hills was named after a journal entry in 1806 by early American explorer Zebulon Pike who wrote they had, "passed very ruff flint hills." The underlying bedrock of the hills is a flinty limestone which made it difficult for earlier settlers to plow for farming, but the abundance of tall grasses made it ideal for cattle ranchers and wildlife.

Much of the Flint Hills region remains unpopulated, with ranchers and wildlife management workers using ancient means of prescribed burns and grazing to mitigate the growth of invasive species and to foster the growth of some of the best forage grasses in the world. As you drive, or boat, around Tuttle, you're going to see the land look much like it has for centuries.

Coursing through this area are also two main rivers, which are the reason that the Tuttle Reservoir was constructed. Flowing from the west is the Kansas River which hugs the lower part of Manhattan. Coming from the north is the Blue River whose drainage extends into Nebraska. The convergence of these two rivers was, of course, a place where settlers began to populate since waterways were the interstate system of travel before highways.





However, once they became populated, flooding became an issue to settlers. Between 1903 and 1959, the stretch of the Kansas River from where the Big Blue converged with it experienced 25 damaging floods. The most significant one was The Great Flood of 1951 which caused more than \$725 million dollars in property and farmland damage.

During these years, drought was a problem as well so the idea behind damming the Blue River was both for flood control as well as conservation of water that could be released during a drought. To this day, barge traffic on the Mississippi River depends on the careful regulation of these reservoir systems in Kansas to provide adequate water for their use.

Like all reservoirs in Kansas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) were the ones that selected the location, built the dam, and maintain the water flows. At the time of its construction, there was contention among landowners and towns which would be covered by the filling of the lake.

When the dam was completed in 1962, it affected ten

towns and entirely covered four of them: Cleburne, Randolph, Garrison Cross and Stockdale. Randolph was the only town to rebuild elsewhere and remnants of "Old Randolph" can be seen partially submerged to this day.

As with other reservoirs around the state, a synergistic partnership between USACE and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks provides the public greater recreational access to the water

and nearly 100 miles of shoreline. However, Tuttle Creek State Park only comprises 1,200 acres of key areas that provide the public access to the lake. Those areas are River Pond, Cedar Ridge, Fancy Creek and Randolph. It's important to note that from the River Pond area right below the dam near Manhattan to the northernmost point of the lake near Randolph, is more than 26 miles. It is a long lake!

"The northern end can be

**There is something for everyone  
of all interests, skills and abilities  
at Tuttle Creek State Park.**

and the land that surrounds it. Since 98 percent of land in Kansas is privately held, the primary way for the public to access these areas is through this partnership.

For example, Tuttle Creek Reservoir is the second largest body of water in the state with nearly 12,500 acres of water

quite rugged with their trail systems and geography," Levi Gantenbein, park manager, said. "Yet the pond area tucked below the dam is more flat and easily accessible. There is something for everyone of all interests, skills and abilities at Tuttle Creek State Park."





## Randolph Area

Randolph sits on the north end of the lake on the east side. The original town of Randolph was covered with water once the dam was erected. In the new town, the streets are named after other small communities who were covered because of dam construction.

### Randolph Area Equestrian Trail

Randolph Area Equestrian Trail has over 14 miles of multi-use trails that are accessible all year. The south entrance is closed during the winter months, but the north entrance is available all year. These trails offer beautiful views of the lake, the Flint Hills and wildlife. This trail has been built and maintained by The Flint Hills Trail Riders Association.

## Fancy Creek Area

The Fancy Creek area sits on the north end on the west side of the lake.

### Fancy Creek Mountain Bike Trail

Located just east of the town of Randolph on the west side of Tuttle Creek Reservoir, this trail contains woods and creek valleys, steep hills and rocky terrain. With a total length of 6.5 miles, there are different access roads that allow for shorter lengths. This trail is the

most challenging the park has to offer. The terrain tracks up and down the hills of the cedar forest and into native grassland. Rock outcrops and ridges allow overlook opportunities and are challenging for hikers and bikers. The trail crosses the road at marked areas. Novice mountain bikers should be aware that parts of this trail are very challenging.

### Fancy Creek Gun Range

This gun range is currently under construction and projected to be complete in August 2022. It is one of the oldest ranges in the state and will be considered state-of-the-art when finished. It is managed by the nonprofit group, Friends of the Fancy Creek Gun Range.

## Cedar Ridge Area

### Cedar Ridge Trail

With a total length of 0.7 miles, Cedar Ridge Trail has improvements and accommodations that allow it to be ADA approved. A trailhead by the parking lot above the boat ramp allows access to those with disabilities. The half-mile trail winds through forested areas with viewing points of Tuttle Creek Reservoir and tall grass prairie areas. Benches are placed at areas that allow rest and

viewing of wildlife. The short distance and gentle grade of the switchbacks make it ideal for families and groups that have younger children.

## River Pond Area

The River Pond Area offers something for everyone, including kayak rentals, a swimming beach, disc golf course, and the Luke Nihart Archery Range.

### Cottonwood Nature Trail

The Cottonwood Nature Trail, 0.25 miles, is located on the west side of the camping area by the Bob Fleming Shelter House. The location is ideal for those who are camping in the park to take a leisurely stroll. The possibility of seeing wildlife is good, depending on the time of day and season.

### Western Heritage Trail

Located south of the River Pond Area, the 1.25 mile Western Heritage Trail parallels the Blue River, through the scenic Rocky Ford Fishing Area, and ends at the bridge located on Dyer Barnes Road. It is bordered by the river and big cottonwood trees on one side and an agricultural field on the other. Each side offers great opportunities to view wildlife on this easy-hiking trail.



## Camping

Reservations can be made 364 days out of the year by contacting the park office or online through [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com), [kshuntfish-camp.com](http://kshuntfish-camp.com), or the CampItKS mobile app.

### River Pond and Rocky Ford

- 7 cabins
- 159 water/electric
- 8 electric/water/sewer
- 200 primitives

### Fancy Creek

- 24 electric-only
- 200 primitive sites

### Randolph

- 20 electric-only with community water hydrants scattered about
- 50 primitive sites

### Cedar Ridge

- 4 cabins
- 50 primitive sites

## Fishing

Both, the lake and in the river above and below the lake, feature excellent channel and flathead catfishing. Fair numbers of bass are caught near standing timber and brush piles, and saugeye can be taken off the face of the dam as well as the river below. During the spring, there are ample opportunities to catch master angler white bass and crappie. Trout are stocked in Willow Lake during the fall and winter.

## Wildlife Area

The 12,000-acre wildlife area adjacent to the park offers excellent hunting and wildlife watching opportunities. Around 480 acres of constructed wetlands provide food and shelter to migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Other species managed in the area include white-tailed deer, turkey, quail, pheasants, squirrels and doves. 🐻



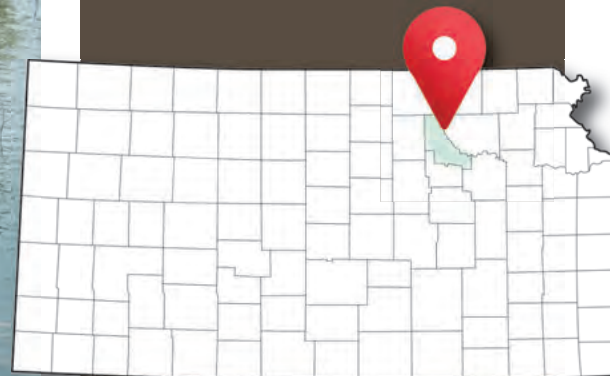
**TUTTLE CREEK**  
— STATE PARK —

K A N S A S

**Park Manager**  
Levi Gatenbein

**Park Office**  
5800 River Pond Rd A  
Manhattan, KS 66502

**Phone**  
785 (539)-7941



tuttle creek sp





# Species Profile

from the kdwp staff



Bob Gress photo

## Least Shrew

*Cryptotis parva*

### Hungry, hungry... least shrew?

**A**s a result of high energy loss, the least shrew has an unusually high rate of metabolism. Within 24 hours, the least shrew will consume 75 percent or more of its weight! With a diet of small invertebrates, the least shrew has been observed going so far as to attack the jumping legs of crickets and grasshoppers.

#### Size

Up to 3.4 inches  
and 0.2 oz.  
in Kansas

#### Reproduction

Up to three litters  
with 4-6 young each  
March to November

#### Habitat

Grasslands, shrub-  
lands, woodlands and  
wetlands

### Appearance

Danny Brown photo



### Did you know?

The least shrew is the smallest mammal in Kansas, and is not much larger than the smallest mammal in the world!





# Backlash

with Nadia Reimer

## The Greener Grass

"The grass isn't always greener on the other side... It's green where you water it," is a phrase I'm sure most of us have heard. In trying times such as these - when political and pandemic fatigue seem to be at all-time highs - it can be extremely tempting to compare our "grass" to others' or even to grasses of years past.

I'm the first to admit that I regularly compare myself, my work, my output, my finances, my schedule, my time, my looks to others... in fact, I've compared our agency to other state wildlife agencies numerous times! (This isn't to say that I'm not proud, satisfied or fulfilled in these areas - sometimes the comparison is just a simple matter of curiosity). But I realized something about comparison recently that I want to share with you, as it's begun to help me when I start comparing for the "wrong" reasons.

When I recently fell into the trap of trying to determine whose grass was greenest, I thought about the phrase itself: green grass. Then, I remembered something I had heard one time about the wildlife benefit of green grass altogether. And I came to the conclusion that, when it comes to setting benchmarks or thresholds for success, happiness, fulfillment, etc., that we've been missing the "big picture" if we only consider one type of grass: green. Let me explain.

You see, the wildlife benefit of the green grasses we see at golf courses, neighborhoods, and outdoor shopping centers - the Bermudas, Fine Fescues and Kentucky Bluegrasses of the world - are nearly zero, zilch! And any good habitat specialist worth his or her weight in salt will tell you that diversity is key when managing habitat for wildlife, especially when it comes to grasses. Native grasses such as big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass and sideoats grama are exponentially more beneficial to wildlife; these grasses provide valuable food and shelter.

So, one has to wonder - when did we collectively decide that the greener the grass, the better? Because nature tells us precisely the opposite: The more diverse, the taller, the shorter, the thicker, the skinnier, the more brown, the fuller, the weedier, the seedier, the better! If each of these aspects can prove beneficial to wildlife, why do we consider ourselves to be the exception?

When we are tempted to compare, we should consider that there may be benefit to broadening our ideas about which types of metaphorical grasses actually hold the most value. We just might find that the areas we've been comparing aren't lacking at all, we've just been using the wrong benchmarks for success. 🐮

from the editor

## Select Kansas Native Grasses



### Bluestem

Big and little bluestem are found throughout the state. Big bluestem are considered one of the highest-quality forage grasses on the prairie. The state grass - little bluestem - also provides nutritious grazing prior to maturity.



### Indiangrass

Indiangrass can be found in the open prairies, bottomlands and open woods throughout Kansas. Considered nutritious, birds and mammals consume the seeds.



### Switchgrass

Birds and mammals eat switchgrass seeds and foliage, and use the plant for cover. Found throughout Kansas, switchgrass typically grows in moist, open lowland prairies, and in open woods.



### Sideoat Grama

Commonly found on rocky hillsides and dry, open grassland, sideoat grama grows throughout the state. It is considered a high quality and nutritious forage.



# Not Just For Chickadees

Kansas is an ecologically rich and diverse state.  
The Chickadee Checkoff helps keep it that way.

Even though the Chickadee Checkoff is named for chickadees, the program supports all non-game species. Native Kansas animals such as birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and reptiles benefit from the program.



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