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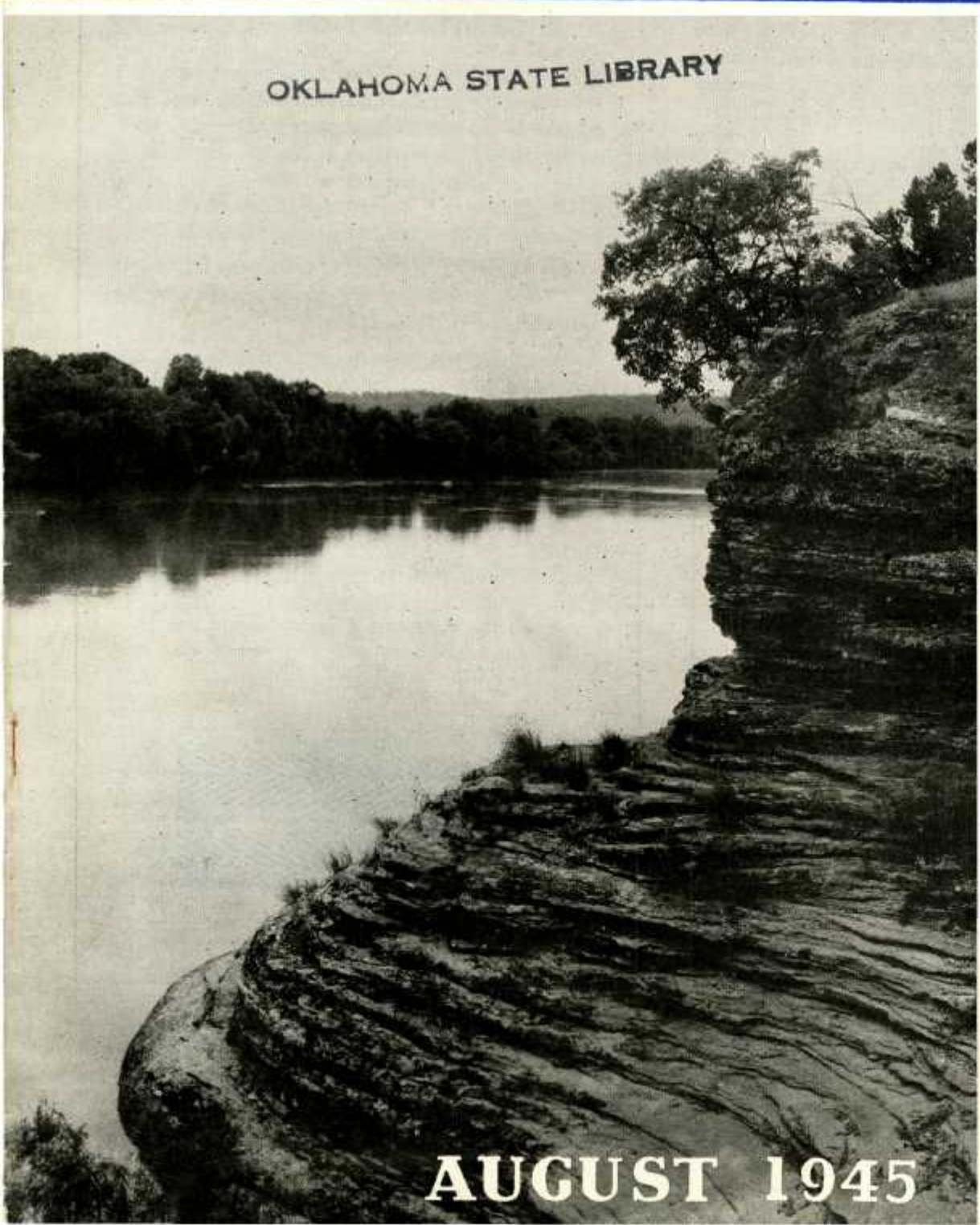
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Oklahoma GAME and FISH

News

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GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

STATE
OF
OKLAHOMA



AUGUST 1945

OKLAHOMA



GAME AND FISH NEWS

Edited monthly at the office of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission, State Capitol, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Published in the interest of Oklahoma hunters, fishermen, trappers, naturalists and wildlife conservationists

JEFF F. KENDALL
State Game and Fish Warden

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IN THIS ISSUE

	PAGE
From the Editor's Desk	3
Some Indications of Oklahoma's Developing Lacustrine Pattern	4
Know Your Oklahoma Fishes	6
From the Warden's Desk	8
More 'Coons for 'Coon Hunters	9
Ranger Personalities	11
The Long and Short of Animal Life	16
From the Mail Box	18
Minutes, Okla. Game and Fish Commission	19
Prosecution Record	19

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

Five thousand copies of Oklahoma Game and Fish News are circulated monthly without cost. The purpose is to inform those interested in the work of the State Game and Fish Commission what is being done to promote better fishing and hunting in Oklahoma, and to form a medium of exchange for wildlife conservationists all over the State.

No advertising is carried in Oklahoma Game and Fish News, nor will a subscription fee be assessed until and unless announced later.

We regret our inability to circulate this magazine to all who annually purchase hunting, fishing and/or trapping licenses in Oklahoma and who thereby support the State Game and Fish Commission in its work, though it is hoped that each reader will pass along his or her copy to others after reviewing the contents. Your favorite hunting, fishing and outdoor Oklahoma pictures and contributions are welcome at all times and will be published when possible.

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication provided proper credit is given. Please send a marked copy.

—The Editor.

COVER PICTURE. Beautiful Grand River photographed from a point near Morgan's Inn, Tip, Oklahoma, in Delaware County, northeast Oklahoma.



Member, Southwestern Association
of Industrial Editors

JUANITA MAHAFFEY *Editor*

From The Editor's Desk

TIME OUT FOR THE EDITOR

EVEN AN EDITOR MUST TAKE TIME OUT occasionally for illness. Since last we filled these pages, there has been a slight pause of one month's idleness for repairs in a local hospital. Pardon our tardy August issue. Perhaps our readers won't mind (many may even rejoice!) that we've borrowed some releases from outside sources to fill the Editorial page this month.

"THE BIG DUCK ARGUMENT" DISCUSSED IN FIELD AND STREAM

Dave Newell, Field and Stream's Editor, gives an unvarnished account of hearings of the House Select Committee on questions that will determine the future welfare of our migratory waterfowl, after attending the hearings in Washington last month. Three main points were under discussion: (1) whether feeding should be permitted; (2) whether public shooting areas should be established in Federal refuges where conditions should so warrant; (3) whether the use of live decoys should again be permitted.

Testimony is reported of Ray Benson of Ducks Unlimited, Garner W. Denmead of the Maryland Commission, E. Lee LeCompte, State Game Warden of Maryland, M. D. Hart of the Virginia Game Department, Carl W. Buchheister of the Audubon Society, Nash Buckingham of the Outdoors Writers of America and, most important of all, Dr. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Every bit of Dave's account is as interesting as a story and as immediate as a stop-go signal. Dave Newell sums up: "As to what will be the outcome of these hearings I cannot say, but I came away with the feeling that Dr. Gabrielson and the Fish and Wildlife Service are doing an excellent and conscientious job in the face of many headaches and much pressure. If the Service should listen to one-half of the requests that are made, there wouldn't be a duck in North America by the first of next January!

"It would seem that the best policy would be for the Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to set regulations as at present, basing such regulations on conditions as they may develop, both local and national. Every duck hunter knows that it is more fun and more effective to shoot over susies than it is over blocks. They also know that live decoys are mainly effective in the hunting of shallow-water feeders such as mallard, pintail and widgeon. Since it is these three species which have shown the most marked increase and which have caused crop damage in some of the western states, it would seem that the use of live decoys might be justified in such areas. Gabrielson and the Service would immediately be criticized, however, for discrimination, and it is such angles which have to be taken under consideration if hunters are to be fair in their judgment.

"From where we sit it is evident that a great many hunt-

ers resent the continued expansion of Federal refuge areas. Dr. Gabrielson insisted that it is the refuge system which is primarily responsible for saving the waterfowl. He agrees that it may be possible to open sections of these refuge areas to public shooting as conditions warrant, and when such a law as H.R. 3460 is enacted, giving the Service the right to open these areas, we hope that this will be possible, as our interest is from the standpoint of the duck hunter and not the man who just likes to see a lot of birds sitting out on the water in an inviolate refuge."

BUY A LICENSE

The purchase of a resident license in your State is the least contribution you can make towards helping your post-war hunting and fishing. It will also make possible a better homecoming for our service men, for they are looking forward to hunting and fishing when they get back.

Many States (Oklahoma included) are dependent upon the sale of licenses to carry on their programs, and they have very definite plans they wish to follow to make better shooting and fishing. The old conception that conservation departments are gestapos to persecute and make miserable the lives of men is not true today. As a whole, they are highly specialized organizations, much more so than some other departments. Many of these are supported by direct taxation, and function without question as to their efficiency.

Research workers, fish culturists, engineers, movie experts, public relations men, and a host of others aside from the law enforcement personnel make up the conservation departments of today. They have been hard hit by the war for such is the nature of their work that young men make up the bulk of their personnel. Older men have been called in to fill the places of those in the services. Despite gasoline and tire rationing, and the shortage of sporting ammunition, they are carrying on and holding their organizations together.

Under the pressure of war, wildlife is liable to be neglected or forgotten. It takes money to care for this great resource. The purchase of a license will do much to keep conservation departments going, and we owe it to our service men who make up a substantial part of our 20 million hunters and fishermen. We subscribe cheerfully to bond drives, Red Cross and community chest—and we should. True, we are reminded of this duty by posters, solicitors, radio appeal, and our own sense of what is right.

Wildlife and conservation departments cannot make such campaigns. They can only hope that you do not forget them—by failing to buy a license.

(Note: Resident fishing license sales in Oklahoma reached a total of 185,970 on July 23, 1945, while hunting licenses totaled 55,200 on the same date. These figures represent gross sales to license distributors and not the net sales to individuals. The license dispenser is permitted to return unissued licenses for refund at the end of the year.)

SOME IMPLICATIONS OF OKLAHOMA'S DEVELOPING LACUSTRINE PATTERN

By PVT. CHARLES W. JOHNSON

U. S. Army

AS SETTLERS DASHED across the starting line into the Oklahoma Territory they were confronted with a region primarily void of water bodies. Other than an occasional ox bow lake near a stream and a few patches of swampy slough lands, little resembling the lakes as conceived in northern lakelands was to be found.

All Was Well . . . Until—

Nevertheless, the abundant vegetal covering nourished by nature for centuries and carefully coveted by the Red Man, was amply supplied with moisture in most years. In turn, this vegetal covering so utilized the moisture and so controlled its flow gulfward that water problems for the native inhabitants were usually rather rare. However, with the coming of the White Man, this efficient scheme of nature's was greatly disturbed. For the ruthless destruction of the natural covering of the landscape was undertaken and other methods of modern civilization were employed to convert to non-rotational and non-diversified exploitation of soil resources.

. . . And Problems Multiply

Such exploitation and improper usage of surface waters has resulted in many problems for residents of this region during the modern era. Such problems as soil erosion, dust bowl effects, flood control, water power, navigation, conservation of wildlife, municipal and industrial water supplies, etc., are inseparably related to our predecessors and our own misunderstandings of the values of control of surface waters.

THE AUTHOR

Pvt. Charles W. Johnson, 36037321, 200th A.G.F. Band, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, submitted the accompanying article to *Oklahoma Game and Fish News* in March, 1945. We are pleased to welcome this former Illinois school teacher this month as our guest writer. His home address is 419 W. Vernon Avenue, Normal, Illinois.

It is clearly evident that the author has utilized his spare time during his year's stay in Oklahoma in a worthwhile study of the state. His authentic remarks are timely and valuable inasmuch as a lake-building program of mammoth proportions is in the approved stage for post-war construction in Oklahoma.

Far from losing sight of wildlife needs, fishing and hunting actualities and potentialities in their homeland, American men in uniform all over the World have manifested a marked earnestness of purpose and desire to keep in touch with the things they left behind in woods, waters and fields. Pvt. Johnson is one of many who has found that the out-of-doors is one great sphere of study that cannot be taken away from one, though he be far removed from his homeland.

Oklahoma's leaders within the past two decades have begun to sense these problems and, as a result, are sponsoring and making studies of water supplies within the state. Such is partially indicated by the recent vast expansion in the construction of lakes and the planning of many others. Thus a brief investigation of the developing lacustrine pattern within the state with its present and potential applications should not be amiss.

Little Drops of Water . . .

If one could inspect a graphic portrayal of Oklahoma's lacustrine pattern in sufficient proportions, one would find that artificial delayings of surface waters to form water bodies vary in size from 69,000 acres to the small and frequently intermittent farmer's ponds dotting the rural landscape in many areas. These latter are by far the greatest in number of any of the types of water bodies within the state. And agglomerated they are by no means small or unimportant. Nevertheless, this study is primarily intended to deal with the larger single water areas which we commonly call lakes or reservoirs.

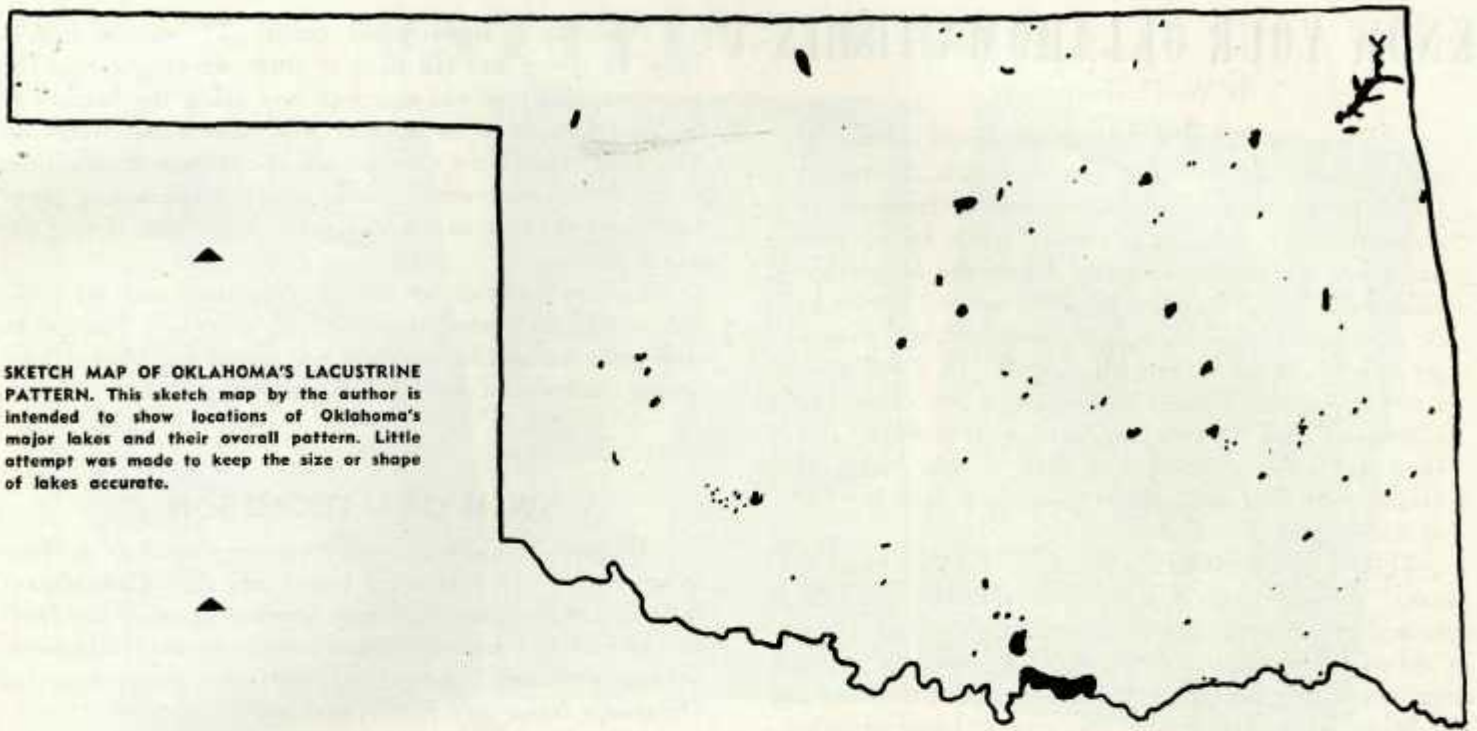
The Changing Picture

The Oklahoma issue of the American Guide Series (1941), sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, mentions thirty-nine lakes within the state's boundaries. Actually, of course, there are more, for some were not on or near the trails suggested in this book, while others have been completed since the aforementioned volume was written. Thus this former Indian Territory is, unbeknown to the average citizen, becoming somewhat of a LAND OF LAKES. However, the

Man Made Lakes have increased Oklahoma's water acreage the past decade to many times its original status. Pensacola Dam across Grand River in northeast Oklahoma, which created 52,000-acre Grand Lake, is typical.



SKETCH MAP OF OKLAHOMA'S LACUSTRINE PATTERN. This sketch map by the author is intended to show locations of Oklahoma's major lakes and their overall pattern. Little attempt was made to keep the size or shape of lakes accurate.



mere incidental listing of these lakes or the spotting of each in its separate location is of remote value in a recognition or realization of their worth *as a whole*. Rather a quick concept of the *pattern* of lakes is of far greater use to the individual in any study of Oklahoma's larger water bodies in relation to their importance. A glance at the map accompanying gives a rapid overall picture of the state's lacustrine pattern. Using such provides a more significant means for further study.

Oklahoma has an area of approximately 70,000 square miles, including about 800 plus square miles of surface waters—or in other words, slightly over one one-hundredth of the state's area. This ratio of water to land area is increasing waterwards at a rapidly advancing speed. Denison dam, for example, recently added 69,000 acres to the area previously inundated within the state (26,000 more acres impounded by the same dam lie in Texas). Of course this figure on surface water area also includes streams, but lakes constitute a goodly and increasing portion of it.

The Southeastward Slope

Oklahoma became a state on November 16, 1907, through the unification of old Oklahoma Territory (western portion of state) and Indian Territory (eastern part). The topography of this state varies from an elevation of approximately four hundred feet in the southeastern part to more than 4,000 feet in the northwestern part. The slope of the land in general is to the southeast, in which direction most of the streams flow. This provides a drainage gradient gulfward. As the primary streams proceed southeastward from a more arid region to a more humid one, they increase in size as one might expect from the usual concept of dendritic stream patterns. Downstream this provides a greater amount of water in more concentrated areas and thus when suitable sites can be found, artificial lakes become increasingly possible and probable with the southeastward flow of the streams. From these facts, one might readily deduce that the larger and greater number of artificial lakes would probably be in

the eastern half of the state. On inspection, such is found to be the case. With the greater industrial development in the central and eastern portion of the state, such a location of the greater amount of the present and potential lakes is most fortunate.

Water Is Wealth!

Unless one has spent months or years in more arid regions, it is frequently difficult to realize the great value of water and how it can be a control limiting or making possible the expansion of agriculture and industry within a region. Many persons realize the definite and close relationship between water and agriculture; few the definite and precise relationship between adequacy of water supply and industrial expansion. Perhaps a couple of quotes from recent state surveys will throw light upon this matter:

1. *Daily Oklahoman*, Sunday, July 30, 1944. "Wealth to Waste," by J. Gilbert Hill. "... Oklahoma has many very real advantages, the chief of which is, perhaps, fuel ... both gas and petroleum products, and coal. Its *major handicap is lack of plenty of pure water* of certain specifications. but this situation is not critical and can be solved."

2. *Daily Oklahoman*, Sunday, April 23, 1939. "Our Billion Dollar Baby," by Gilbert Hill. Referring to a greater industrial development, Mr. Hill writes: "Two major hurdles remain, one difficult, and one relatively easy to solve. The easy problem is that of lack of government ability. ... The second hurdle, and many consider it the most serious, is the *lack of a plentiful and satisfactory water supply*. Many relatively small industries require a water supply larger than that of a larger Oklahoma City. Even where the water supply is available in Oklahoma, it often is hard and unsatisfactory for industrial purposes. Every city in Oklahoma ... not just Oklahoma City ... must look to an adequate and satisfactory water supply if the state is to grow into the future pattern which its supporters foresee."

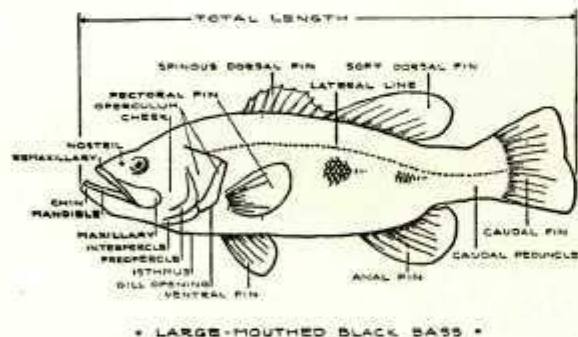
KNOW YOUR OKLAHOMA FISHES

By W. H. THOMPSON

(Note: Seventh in a series of thumbnail sketches of individuals of the 125 fish species known to exist in Oklahoma waters, we introduce our readers this month to a species which probably is already better known than any other of Oklahoma's game fishes—the largemouth black bass. This feature was begun in our first edition by A. D. Aldrich, who resigned as Superintendent of Fisheries July 31. It will be continued by W. H. Thompson, lately appointed fisheries technician in the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission's service. It is hoped that these authoritative descriptions will be the means of Oklahomans becoming better acquainted with the fish of their State.—The Editor.)

THE LARGEMOUTH BLACK BASS (*Huro Salmoides*) resembles very much the Smallmouth bass. As is indicated by the name, however, the former's mouth is larger. In the adult the mouth extends back beyond the eyes. The color is typically dark green dorsally, silvery on the sides and pale below. The young have a very distinct broad stripe running along the sides. In the adult the stripe is reduced to a series of spots.

Largemouthed bass weighing as much as 18 to 20 pounds occasionally are found in the deep South. In the North they seldom reach more than 10 to 11 pounds. The average size in most lakes is much smaller. In many of our streams and in a



few of our lakes where food is not so plentiful bass may not grow very large. The adults feed largely upon other fish, but they will eat other organisms such as crayfish, insects, earthworms, frogs, etc.

Largemouthed bass like to lie around brush piles, old logs or other similar submerged objects. During the winter after the water temperature drops they, like most other fishes, become sluggish. They eat very little and their activities are reduced. Consequently few are caught at that time. They usually spawn on sand or gravel areas in relatively shallow water. The young congregate in schools with a parent on guard for some days after hatching. As the young grow they become more solitary.

The Largemouth bass is undoubtedly Oklahoma's most popular game fish. The sluggish waters of lakes, ponds and streams such as are common in this State, are favorable for its existence in substantial numbers. It is a good food fish and a favorite with the angler.

A variety of artificial and natural baits may be used as lures. In spring and fall most of them are caught near the shore, especially in old tree tops and along the borders of aquatic plant beds. In summer when the waters warm up they tend to leave the shallows and spend most of their time in the deep, cooler water. Trolling with deep-running plugs seems to yield most of the bass in the larger lakes during the warm period.

Culture methods for the largemouthed bass are probably as well understood as those of any other fish. The species is in great demand for stocking new ponds and lakes. Under proper conditions it does well in a lake.

W. H. (BILL) THOMPSON

William H. (Bill) Thompson, employed as fisheries technician by the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission, June 1, 1945, and now Acting Superintendent of the Division of Fisheries, will write from time to time on Oklahoma fisheries problems, management, and other timely topics in Oklahoma Game and Fish News.

Thompson, 33, is a quarter-blood Delaware Indian, born and reared near Vinita, Oklahoma, on his father's original Indian land allotment in Grand River valley. Schooled at Oklahoma University, he received his B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry there in 1936; returned to the University in 1941 to complete work toward his M.S. degree in the Zoology Department. The years in between include three years' work at the Tulsa Zoological Gardens, Mohawk Park, Tulsa; and a one and one-half years' teaching fellowship at Louisiana State University.



There followed a year as instructor in Zoology at Kansas State College, some time as a chemist in two defense plants, and another period as head of the Biology Department at the Institute of Technology at Weatherford, Oklahoma, which position Thompson resigned when he came to work for the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission.

"All my life I've been associated with fish and game in one form or another," the fisheries technician relates. "Learned to fish when I was five in my father's farm pond, and worked in the summer months between my high school terms, as lake patrolman at Spavinaw." During his years at the University of Oklahoma Thompson had a large measure of experience in collecting, preserving and recording specimens for the excellent wildlife museum at the institution.

Bill is an ardent fisherman, "but not much of a hunter," he professes. He likes plug fishing, fly fishing, and "just plain nigger fishing," in the order named. Naturally the waters of northeast Oklahoma are his choice for piscatorial sports, though he'll take his chances gladly "in any fishing waters."

BATTLIN' BASS!



BATTLIN' BASS! You'll be the talk of the town if you can hook on to a bass the size of any of these three, which came from Oklahoma waters in July. Left, W. W. Fondren, Madill, and a 7-pound, 24½-inch black beauty taken at Madill city lake on a home-made plug resembling a river runt. (Picture supplied by Ranger J. H. McMillan.) Center, C. B. McHugh, Frederick, snagged this 6-pound fighter at Murray lake near his town, also on a river runt. (Picture sent in by Ranger L. E. Crawford, Lawton.) Right, M. rs. Charles Harvey, Heavener, happily displays a string of Cedar lake beauties caught in early July on shiners. Here's a real fisherwoman who spends much time on LeFlore county's beautiful lakes and streams, says Ranger C. C. Curtis, Summerfield, who supplied the picture.

ROUGH FISH INCREASE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

By W. H. (BILL) THOMPSON
Fisheries Technician

There probably is no cause for concern over increased populations of rough fish in our new artificial lakes.

Frequently we hear people speak of the "menace of the rough fish." Concern is expressed over the possibility that carp, gar and other such non-desirables are taking over in some of our larger lakes.

Carp have been known to make conditions unfavorable for game fishes in small mud-bottom ponds. Carp and others of this so-called "undesirable class" can become temporarily numerous in a large lake.

We of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission's fisheries division can see no cause for alarm, however. There always exists in nature's communities a more or less balance between the various organisms of a community. Strong competition exists between all the groups. One group is very seldom allowed to increase in numbers beyond its allotted quota. We refer to this as a "balance of nature." Nature's balance is not a fixed balance, it is subject to periodic fluctuations. But regardless of these fluctuations, the numbers of any given species will oscillate around a certain point. One species may become numerous at times or its numbers may become less. Eventually though, the original healthy balance will be restored.

In our larger lakes Mother Nature will, without a doubt,

be able to make the necessary adjustments. The fact that angling tends to take the game fishes and leave the rough fish, is probably not enough in large lakes like Texoma, Grand, and others, to influence populations of rough fish.

TWO PORCUPINES KILLED IN OKLAHOMA IN JULY

Perhaps the porcupine population of Oklahoma is (or was) increasing. Though rare in the state, an occasional report of the prickly-backed animals reaches the state game warden's office. This month two were reported killed in widely separated points of Oklahoma.

J. F. Dillahunt, living on a farm south of Granite, killed one of the "porkies" July 10 when the excited baying of his dog led him to the animal. He brought the animal to town, said the Granite Enterprise, "but was unable to find anyone who had ever seen one of these animals, and no one here had ever heard of one in this section."

The second porcupine was killed by Bill Gagnebin on his farm three miles northwest of Carmen early in July, "the first one found in this section for a long time," said the Carmen Headlight. The animal was thought to be destroying a neighbor's chickens.

The Editor of Oklahoma Game and Fish News would like to place an Oklahoma porcupine in the wildlife museum maintained at the State Capitol by the state game and fish commission. When and if another is killed or captured, won't the captor please bring or send it in?

From The Warden's Desk

By JEFF F. KENDALL
State Game Warden

It Was Nice While It Lasted!

Hot weather usually makes fishing poor in Oklahoma and this season is no exception. Maybe there was an exception in cool weather over the State which lasted for a longer period into the summer than any we can remember. Fishing then has been good *longer* this year than any season on record. More water to fish in, more people fishing.

About Doves

Even though the dove season is not due for some time to come, we have gathered some information from the field men about the little dark-meated birds. It seems like they are here when the season is not, or they are gone when the season is on. They are here now in untold numbers—on the highways, in the fields and near the water's edge. Will they stay for the hunter's gun? I don't know the answer to that one, but I know the State Game and Fish Commission has asked for a change in the season from the Fish and Wildlife Service. They promise us consideration.

About Ducks

During the month of June I attended a meeting of International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners. The question of ducks and the duck season was considered more than any other subject. How many ducks could be expected this season? Where and when would the flight be on? Would live decoys be used? What bag limits

would be permitted—and on and on. Here's the information up to date:

The duck survey shows a decrease of some twenty million birds (don't be alarmed, there's still enough) from last year. Whether this loss has come from the nesting conditions in the far north, whether the food has been inadequate, or whether disease has taken its toll, we are not in position to say. I can say this information will come some time in the very near future.

According to all States represented at this meeting, we were unanimous in one thought—that the season not be shortened. If the ducks need additional protection, a smaller bag limit would be practicable, as the limit has been raised regularly. Correspondence on my desk is to the effect we will have the 80-day shoot this year, as last, the opening and closing dates to be announced soon.

Record Year For Fishing License Sales?

With resident fishing license sales nearing the 180,000 mark for the first six months of the calendar year, I am expecting this figure to be near the 200,000 mark by December 31. Last year the total was 160,000 for the entire year.



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

There are riflemen who would give a right arm to be able to shoot that nimble target, the Oklahoma prairie dog, with the agility of one Oklahoma Game Ranger. Yet Arnold Purviance, state game ranger at Mooreland, reports it "all in a day's work" when he knocks off three or four dozen of the little barking ground squirrels. His report of July 18 to the state game warden stated, nonchalantly: "I stopped at the Starr Ranch and killed 35 or 40 prairie dogs."

Western Oklahoma ranchers consider the animals a nuisance and are glad for game rangers or others to shoot the prairie dogs when possible.

PITTSBURG COUNTY QUAIL CROP LOOKS GOOD

Oklahoma quail hunters should do all right in Pittsburg county uplands the coming fall and winter, according to State Game Ranger C. A. Williams, Quinton. Completing his day's patrol July 17, Williams remarked: "In working the country around Indianola and Scipio I haven't seen as many quail in years. I saw several bunches of young birds and it seemed a bobwhite on every fence post."

SUGGESTED FOR READING

COOKING WILD GAME by Frank G. Ashbrook and Edna N. Sater, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This book should have been done years ago. It is a contribution to conservation, for we should use widely the creatures we take. And for better living—who knows, maybe this book might persuade the missis that hunting is not such a waste of time after all! (Orange Judd Pub. Co., 15 E. 26th St., N. Y.—\$4.00.)

TALL STORY TAKES THE PRIZE

Wichita, Kansas.—An AP story gives W. R. York, an aircraft worker, the Champion Liar title of the Southwest. Here's the yarn about his faithful quail dog.

"While hunting quail in some thick brush in western Kansas he lost his dog and finally gave up trying to find her and went home. He trained another dog and the next year went hunting in the same locality. Beating out some heavy cover he found the skeleton of the dog he had lost still standing on point. This itself was not so unusual, but she had given birth to seven puppies and they, too—now seven little skeletons—were standing, honoring the point of their mother."

MORE 'COONS FOR 'COON HUNTERS

BY LLOYD C. BARLOW
Secretary, Tulsa County 'Coon Hunters Association

Read How a Group of Northeast Oklahomans Worked Out a Popular Two-way Payoff Scheme Resulting in Increased Raccoon Populations in Their Section of the State, and Cash Dividends for Participants in Their Field Events!

THE TULSA COUNTY 'COON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION was first organized back in 1940 at a time when 'coons were rather scarce all over Oklahoma and had been for the past several years. The 'coon hunters realized that something must be done toward restoring the 'coons here in Oklahoma or their greatest sport would soon come to an end.

Many of our old timers can remember when they have gone to the woods night after night and rambled all night along rivers, creeks and lakes without a muffled sound from their "crack shot" 'cooners.

A Remedy Is Hatched

One night on one such hunt a trio of Tulsans had wandered almost all night along the Neosho River in northeast Oklahoma, and not a sound had come from any of the hounds.

In the party was one well known "old timer" to the boys at the forks of the roads—Dr. E. B. Masters. The boys had come up on a large flat rock and seated themselves for a short rest before going on. While sitting here the Doctor meditated on the critical situation and had almost decided to hang up the shingle in lieu of his beloved sport. Finally he hit upon an idea and it did prove to be very successful—a plan to organize 'coon hunters association and hold field trial meets to raise money and buy 'coons for restocking.

The First Trial

A time was set for the day of their meet and it went off with big success. Funds for the first field trial were raised by charging an entry fee to each contestant—twenty-five percent to go to the association and the remaining seventy-five percent to go into a pot for the final winner of the event.

The field trials are held in a series of elimination heat races until they are eliminated down to the champion 'coon dog. In each race the entry generally consists of five dogs and before they are released on the trail, each dog's chances of placing first, or second, at the line and tree are auctioned off to the highest bidder. The association also gets twenty-five percent of their winning purse.

Others Follow Suit

Since our first meet met with such outstanding success, the plan was quickly adopted by some of the other local (both county and city) 'coon hunting enthusiasts. For the first year or two the Tulsa association dragged along with only a dozen members or so, and at times it looked like the association would fold up, but the boys kept their fingers crossed and kept right on struggling.

The Real Payoff

Finally the treasury was built up enough from receipts of our field trials that we were able to make our first purchase of raccoons for restocking, these coming from the State of Texas—something like forty big, healthy creatures.

This seemed to put new life in the boys and since then our membership has been on the increase. To date (April, 1945) we have a total membership of one hundred and seventy-five.

From the reports in the February issue of Oklahoma Game and Fish News, giving the number of racoon pelts taken each year since 1940, you can readily see the difference of today and back in 1940. So, fellow sportsmen and Oklahoma 'coon hunters, you will have to admit that the 'coon

Upper: Officers of the Tulsa County 'Coon Hunters Association. Back row, left to right, Sam Foster, President; Lloyd Barlow, State and County Secretary; Fred Steele, State President and County Vice President; Dahl Lonon, Tree Judge; Lonnie Rice, Tree Judge; Elmer Sappington, Line Judge; A. D. Thompson, Line Judge. Front row, left to right, Charles Miller, starting judge; Chuch Wilson, Chief Field Marshal; Harold Chambers, Asst. Field Marshal; Ted Smith, Asst. Field Marshal; Harvey Hall, Chief Trail layer.

Center: Scene of the Auction Pool in Progress (Mohawk Park). Lower: Starting of a Race. Entries from left to right are: Hampton's "Rocky"; Smith's "Lead"; Pen's "Troubles"; Reed's "Corky"; and Nichols "Trailer."





THE PAY-OFF. Although the Cash Payments on Winners Incite Interest, the Real Pay-Off as far as wildlife enthusiasts are concerned are more ringtails in Oklahoma's hunting terrain like the fat 'coon pictured here!

TREED. The dogs have located the 'coon and are barking-up.

hunters associations have done much toward raccoon propagation in Oklahoma.

Sportsmen All—These 'Coon Hunters!

Our association is not only known as a 'coon hunters' organization, but a sportsmen's association, as well, and we have some mighty fine members in our club, most of whom hold membership in the Izaak Walton League, too. We do not confine our whole plan to 'coon propagation alone, but strive for protection of all wildlife.

Good Season Anticipated!

We are looking forward to this season as our best, as we have purchased a fine public address system that is quite an assist in promoting our meets and for advertising. There will be no dull moments at our meets, for while there is not a race in progress, our fans can be entertained by some hot transcribed music of the popular hit tunes and the old breakdown numbers!

* * *

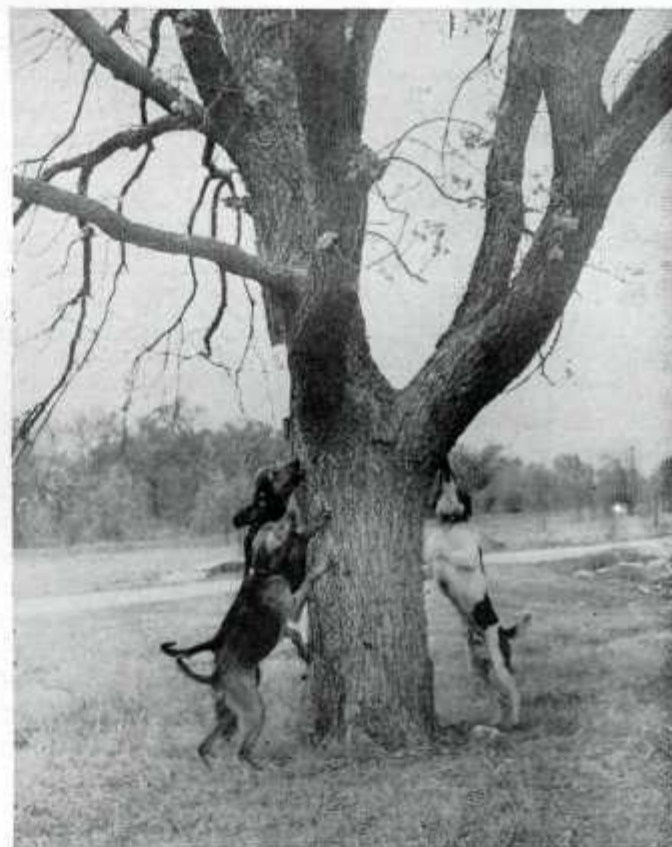
(Editor's Note: The Oklahoma law permits the chasing of raccoon for sport from July 1 through April 30, though hunting, trapping, capturing or killing of raccoons is permitted only during the months of December and January.)

SPORTSMEN'S EXCHANGE

Oklahoma outdoorsmen are wanting little in the way of hunting and fishing gear these days, and few have anything to dispose of, it seems. That's fine, if everyone has everything he needs and is happy. Otherwise, let us know what you want to buy, sell, trade or give away, and we'll tell our readers.

Glen Miller, 312 S. Independence, Sapulpa, wants to trade a 16-foot Thompson canvas-covered canoe (in good condition) for a 3 HP Twin Outboard Motor. Anyone want a swap?

A 25-pound bag of double-O BB shot is offered for sale by an Oklahoma City reader. Write Oklahoma Game and Fish News if you are interested in this item.



OKMULGEE FIELD TRIAL AREA STOCKED WITH HATCHERY BOBWHITES

Okmulgee, July 18.—Eighty full grown bobwhites from the state game farm near El Reno were released on the Okmulgee field trial area by State Game Rangers Claude Goin and Ed Hines today.

"The birds are laying and we should have good reproduction from this bunch," Goin commented when the release was made.

Ranger Personalities

(Editor's Note: E. W. Prier, Guthrie, district ranger in Logan, Kingfisher and Blaine counties, a section of the Northwest Division, was chosen as the subject of this seventh in our series of interviews with individuals of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission's field personnel. The purpose of these articles is to acquaint Oklahomans with those men who serve as guardians of the State's wildlife, and to promote better understanding between the hunter-fisherman and the officers they meet from time to time in outdoor Oklahoma.)

* * *

A SECTION OF OKLAHOMA'S great blackjack cross-timbers runs northward into Logan county, blends westward into the rolling wheat farms of Kingfisher and Blaine counties, and finally into the gypsum hills and the palisades of the Cimarron to form the 2,560 square miles patrolled by State Game Ranger Earl W. Prier, Guthrie. The area slopes into two major watersheds—the Cimarron and the North Canadian—while a third, the South Canadian, drains the southwest extremity of Prier's district.

Roughly this section of Oklahoma is no criterion of Oklahoma's fishing or hunting terrain, though the great oblong area does supply a good share of Oklahomans with game and fish and fun afield. Squirrel hunting in east Logan county; bobwhite quail in the blackjack timbers, the agricultural sections and the sandhills to the west; cottontail rabbits in the brushy parts of all three counties; 'possum, 'coon and other furbearers in the river bottoms—these are the hunter's quarry in the district which Prier patrols. Catfish in the Cimarron and the two Canadians, bass, bream and crappie in the several artificial lakes and many farm ponds of the district, provide the angler with plenty to keep him interested throughout the fishing season. Coyote drives occupy a prominent place on the outdoor sports calendar in winter, and rattlesnake hunting in the gypsum hills of Blaine county have gained widespread attention in recent years.

Let us look into the personal history of the game ranger who looks after the wildlife, the fishermen and the hunters in this great cross-section of Oklahoma.

E. W. Prier, 48, has worked for the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission since March, 1938. He is married and has two sons, both Ensigns in the U. S. Navy.

Born on a farm in the Ozarks near Monett, Missouri, Prier graduated from high school at Purdy, Missouri, came to Oklahoma in 1916, where he attended the State Teachers College at Weatherford until the Navy claimed him for participation in World War I in 1917-18. Discharged from the Navy in June, 1919, Prier returned to Weatherford to engage in the drug business, at which he had worked part time during his college years. A desire to go to medical school, which stemmed back to early youth, led him to the next best substitute—a pharmaceutical career—since the war had interrupted his education. Prier became a registered Oklahoma



Ranger E. W. Prier,
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

pharmacist in 1923. For the next 15 years he followed that profession, first in his own pharmacy at Bessie, Oklahoma; next as a representative of the Liggett Drug Company in Oklahoma City and Dallas; finally moving to Guthrie in 1934.

When the opportunity presented itself in 1938 to become a state game ranger, "Doc" Prier, as his friends and associates had come to know him, grabbed eagerly at this chance to work outdoors. Too many years behind a prescription counter were wearing on this former farm lad, who had come to love the woods, waters and fields years before. For one who liked hunting and fishing as Prier did, and does, he could see no percentage in the long hours demanded of him in his erstwhile occupation. So, shedding his professional white, "Doc" Prier donned the field khaki of the state game ranger, and he's never been sorry.

Neither have the people who live in Logan, Kingfisher and Blaine counties. For this sturdy ranger has done a good job the past seven and one-half years, promoting the interests of the State Game and Fish Commission, protecting and managing the wildlife resources, and keeping the fishing and hunting public within the bounds of Oklahoma law in his tri-county area.

"As long as I can be a game ranger, they'll have a hard time getting me back into a drug store," the Guthrie game ranger avers.

Prier is a fisherman and hunter from way back, though he leans to hunting. "You can wedge in a bit of hunting here and there while working the hunting areas," he explains, "but when you fish, you've no time to work." His earliest hunting experience dates back to boyhood when he

(Continued Next Page)

hunted quail in the Missouri Oarks. At the same time he learned to fish in Roaring River.

Though quail is still his favorite, he stoutly maintains that the squirrel hunting in east Logan county is hard to beat. Likewise, Prier finds time on the year's calendar of sporting events, to do a little duck shooting on Guthrie lake and along the Cimarron; to knock down a fair share of the mourning doves each September in the wheat stubble fields on the west side of his district; to join in the winter coyote drives which sportsmen of his district organize annually; to bag a bunny now and then. "I even hunt rattlesnakes!" he admits with a grin. And so do a number of others in Prier's district. It's quite a fad when the big diamond backs come out of winter hiding in the gyp hills up northwest.

He is looking forward to a big game hunt in Alaska with a group of his friends when the war is over. To date there has been no big game hunting among his shooting sports. Prier's two favored sections for quail hunting in his district are the sandhills and river bottoms near Canton, and the blackjack area in southeast Logan county.

His favorite Oklahoma fishing waters are Lake Carl Blackwell, just over the line in an adjoining ranger district; Grand Lake in northeast Oklahoma; and of course his own City of Guthrie's 274-acre reservoir four miles south of town. The latter, one of the older artificial lakes in Oklahoma, was drained and restocked in 1940, reopened in 1942 to amaze mid Oklahoma anglers with some of the most spectacular bass fishing ever witnessed in these parts!

Ranger Prier likes plug fishing for bass, and as for firearms, he is presently content with his 16-gauge L. C. Smith double-barreled shotgun, though he intends to acquire an over-and-under Browning as soon as wartime restrictions are lifted.

Prier believes that active participation in civic affairs is one way to gain the good will and cooperation of local sportsmen in the game and fish program. He has taken a large part in the war effort in his county, serving as home service chairman for the American Red Cross, appeal agent for Selective Service, and district commander of the American Legion, to which office he was elected in July. He holds membership in the Izaak Walton League, the Sportsmen's League of Guthrie, the Kingfisher Coyote Round-Up Club.

This Logan county ranger has encountered no great difficulty in game law enforcement in his three counties. As a whole, the dairy farmers, agriculturists, wheat farmers, and oil industrialists of his district are a law-abiding lot, though Prier has been troubled with oil field pollution in Logan county streams from time to time. He has done a good job keeping the situation under control, however, and on at least half a dozen occasions has obtained convictions with heavy penalties from offenders in the oil fields.

Like other Oklahoma rangers, Prier has been detailed to work in other parts of the state from time to time. He has probably made more of the big lake openings—that is, the initial opening of fishing—which have made history in Oklahoma the past decade—than any other ranger, Murray, Grand, the Wichita Refuge Lakes, Carl Blackwell, and Guthrie city



Ranger Prier (right) and Bill Nelson, Guthrie sportsman, display a fine string of Guthrie lake bass.

lake—all these it has been his good fortune to help patrol on opening dates in various years. Such openings are always gala occasions for participants and, though they mean hard work and long hours of patrol for game rangers, yet these officers like the excitement and good fellowship of working in crews at the big events.

Prier has further worked, on occasion, in northwest Oklahoma's prairie chicken country; in the mountains of McCurtain county down southeast; in southern Oklahoma's Red River bottoms one quail season; and in Atoka county during two deer hunting seasons.

If you have not encountered him in any of these far-flung sections of Oklahoma, you'll likely meet him when you fish upstream on the Cimarron, the North Canadian, or at Guthrie city lake; or when you go rabbit, quail, dove or duck hunting in Logan, Kingfisher or Blaine counties next winter. He'll give you a genuine Oklahoma hand-clasp, a cheery grin, wish you good hunting and fishing—which you'll know he means and which you'll probably find in E. W. "Doc" Prier's district.

HOSPITALIZED FLY FISHERMAN HAS UNIQUE HOBBY

Alvis Walker, a patient for more than one and a half years in the State Sanatorium, Senator, South Dakota, has not forgotten his love for fly fishing during that time. He is collecting artificial flies from all over the United States and now boasts specimens from 25 of the 48. State Game Warden Jeff Kendall of Oklahoma added one this week to bring Walker's total representation of States to 26.

FISHERIES SUPERINTENDENT, LICENSE CLERK, RESIGN

A. D. (Bob) Aldrich, superintendent of fisheries for the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission since April, 1944, resigned July 31 to take over duties as recreational chief for the U. S. Army Engineers. W. H. (Bill) Thompson, employed as a technician in the fisheries division June 1, is acting superintendent for the present.

Of interest to their many friends and acquaintances among Oklahoma fishermen and hunters was the wedding July 14 in Oklahoma City of Aldrich and Mrs. Ruth Standley, who resigned her position as the Commission's license clerk July 31 also. She had been employed in this capacity the past four years. The Aldriches will live in Tulsa.

Commenting in his popular Hunter and Fisherman column July 15, Sports Editor Sid Steen of the Tulsa World, said: "The state will lose the services of one of the outstanding fish culturists in the United States when A. D. (Bob) Aldrich, fisheries superintendent for the Oklahoma game and fish department, takes over his new duties as recreational chief for the U. S. Army Engineers on gigantic Texoma lake August 1.

"There isn't a better known or more popular sportsman to be found in the ranks of hunters and fishermen than Aldrich, who served 13 years as Tulsa culturist before taking his present job two years ago.

"A number of improvements have been made in the state hatchery set up since Aldrich moved in. Among them was establishment of a mobile unit which is expected to supply the answers to a number of questions on lack of fish in many waters. His recommendations have been followed in a number of other cases which produced beneficial changes.

"However, a man couldn't pass up advancement and Bob's new job would certainly fall in that classification. It will be his duty to develop all recreational facilities in the new reservoir area on the Texas-Oklahoma line. That will include cabin and camping sites, hunting and fishing, boating, swimming and other activities.

"It's going to be a tough assignment but anyone who knows likeable Bob has no doubt about his ability to carry it out. The state's loss will certainly be the army engineers' gain."

RANGER M. H. JACKSON, MAYSVILLE, RESIGNS

Marian H. Jackson, district game ranger in Garvin and McClain counties the past four years, resigned his position with the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission July 15. He announced his intention to move to California to make his home for the duration of the war.

Earl Sparks, a Garvin county farmer residing near Maysville, was employed by the Commission to replace Jackson.

In announcing the Garvin county game ranger's resignation, the Purcell Register of July 5, said: "Jackson's work as a ranger has been approved universally among the hunters, fishermen and all persons interested in the wildlife program."

OKLAHOMA FISH HATCHERIES ON THE JOB

Oklahoma's six state fish hatcheries distributed a total of 3,730,128 game fish to streams and lakes of the State during the year ended June 30, 1945, records of the state game and fish commission disclose.

Included in the deliveries were 2,610,948 fingerling (or larger) game fish delivered last fall and winter from 1943 and 1944 hatches, and 1,119,180 bass and channel catfish fry hatched this year and placed in culture waters over the state.

"The figure is below our hatchery production of other years," Jeff F. Kendall, state game warden, pointed out, "but we are striking for proper placement of fish in correct ratio of species and numbers to produce the highest possible yield in edible fish. In other words," he continued, "we are not seeking to turn out vast numbers of fish at our hatcheries, but only to stock all Oklahoma waters that need fish, with the exact numbers and kinds of fish the waters need."

A total of 855 individual consignments were made to lakes and streams, and twelve species, including largemouth bass, bluegill, channel cat, crappie, red ear perch, warmouth bass, golden shiners, goggle eye, small mouth bass, mud cat, rock bass and tadpoles, were distributed. Individual hatchery delivery totals were: Holdenville, 871,506; Medicine Park, 779,950; Durant, 762,554; Tahlequah, 632,193; Cherokee, 444,125; Heavener, 239,800.

Applications for fish for 1945 fall and winter delivery should be placed with the state game and fish commission on or before August 15. An Oklahoma Fish Management guide booklet is available free to owners of farm ponds desiring to produce more and bigger fish.

HOLDENVILLE YOUTH HOOKS BIG BASS IN CORN FIELD

When veteran city fishermen gather to spin tall, and truthful, tales of the big ones they hooked, 11-year-old Earl Leewright, Jr., city grade school youngster of Holdenville, can tell them to move over and make way for an expert's story on how he once caught a three-and-one-half-pound bass in the furrow of a Hughes county corn field.

With his father at Bud Giles' farm north of Holdenville, Earl, Jr., recently heard a splashy noise, but paid little attention at first. The noise was repeated and, tracing the sound, the youngster and his father discovered the fish floundering in six inches of water, stranded when flood water receded.

The bass, fishermen believe, came from the Country Club lake, by way of Tiger creek, or reached the corn field through Wewoka creek after being released from Lake Wewoka when the dam went out.

"UNCLE BILLY" SEZ: A sportsman ain't necessarily some feller with a lot of money an' a fancy outfit. He may wear patched clothes an' shoot a single barr'l gun. His dawg mout be a half breed. Main thing 'bout a sportsman is, he ain't no hawg. He's just a fair minded feller that respec's other folks' rights.

OKLAHOMA'S LACUSTRINE PATTERN

(Continued From Page 5)

With these facts in mind, one can readily glimpse the present and increasing future importance of Oklahoma's lacustrine pattern.

Year Round Supply Essential

In recent findings of one of the most thorough investigations of the industrial potentialities of the state, Frisco Railroad reiterates the same vital importance of the year round water supply quite significantly. Oklahoma's present and future citizens should burrow deeper into the aspects of this problem. Instructors in Sooner educational centers can do much to aid in this visualization of lakes as a vital addition to the state's economic living.

"Little" Lakes, What Next?

McAlester's lake with 2,500 acres was large in its day; Grand lake was enormous on its construction; but the lake behind Denison dam is stupendous! This dam, 15,000 feet long, is the second largest earth dam in the United States and probably the world. The lake impounded by this dam is believed to be the fourth largest artificial lake in the United States, smaller only than Boulder, Fort Peck and Grand Coulee reservoirs. What future lake developments await? Considerable depends upon an intelligent study of such by individual Sooners, as well as upon the limits imposed by Nature.

Is Our Vision Too Limited?

A year's stay within the borders of Soonerland by a "foreigner" (Illinoisian) and an ex-teacher in the service, has influenced this writer to see a lack of comprehension and appreciation of Oklahoma's lacustrine resource patterns by its natives. These resources are slowly being developed, but this progress would be enlivened more rapidly if Oklahoma's adults of tomorrow were presented today with a fuller knowledge of resources in a pleasantly digestible form—concise and direct—not through endless miscellaneous and seemingly unrelated facts, but as comprehensible, interrelated and interlocking patterns. The relation of Oklahoma's lacustrine pattern to her industrial and agricultural development is a vital one and presents an exciting potential.

Look Into The Future!

It is hoped that this observation spurs the reader into tracing some of the lacustrine patterns within the state, especially in an effort toward seeing their extending significance which would provide a helpful background for a greater development of the state and richer benefit from its possibilities by the coming generation.

(Editor's Note: The Reader is invited to review once more "Millionaire Angling For Oklahoma Fishermen!" in Oklahoma Game and Fish News of March, 1945. This article by A. D. Aldrich stresses food and recreational values which will accrue from fish produced in thirteen lakes planned for post-war construction in the Arkansas River watershed.)

RULES ANNOUNCED FOR LAKE TEXOMA

Denison, Texas, July 4.—(Special.)—U. S. army engineers have announced a set of regulations governing Lake Texoma and now in effect.

The use of firearms on the lake or federally owned shore line, except for shotguns during the waterfowl season, is prohibited.

Other regulations are as follows:

Do not damage or remove trees, shrubs or plants.

Dispose of all burnable refuse in campfires; bury all non-burnable garbage, cans, bottles and other trash.

Extinguish all fires before leaving.

The occupation of a camp site on government property is restricted to a maximum of two weeks, unless prior written approval has been obtained from the officer in charge.

Before the following objects can be placed on or in the water of Lake Texoma, a permit must be obtained from the officer in charge: Boat, boathouse, landing, duck blind, houseboat or mooring.

Fishing from the dam or parking automobiles on the main embankment are prohibited.

BARTLESVILLE IKES PROUD OF QUAIL PROJECT

Members of the Bartlesville Izaak Walton League are proud of their 1945 quail raising project, carried on under the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission's program of lend-leasing coops and baby quail chicks from the state game farm. Two hundred and fifty bobwhites, about three-fourths grown, were released in mid July by the Bartlesville club, under supervision of Glen Webster, member, and Sid Priest, state game ranger. Another 250 will be ready to turn loose soon, Webster said.

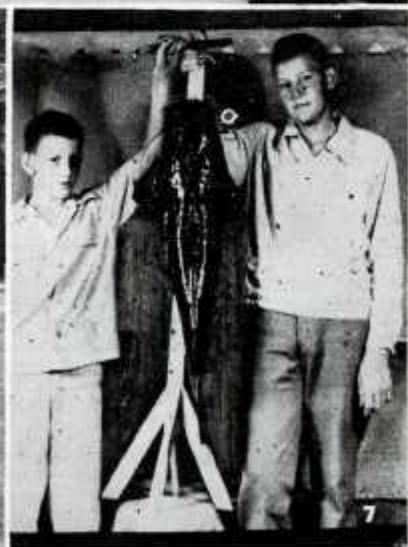
The quail were hatched and raised on the Webster place in the Limestone area and were liberated, after leg-banding for identification when recovered, in scattered sections of north and east Washington county.

"Only one bird was killed in the process," said Priest, "when a brooder door fell on it. When we turned loose the last box of birds, the last one out rose and flew in a circle of about 150 yards, sailed right into my car and sat down behind the seat. We picked him up and turned him loose again. Maybe the thoughts of going out in the world and making his own living gave him the buck, eh?"

BRINGING IN THE BASS IS WHAT COUNTS

The month's funniest fishing story was provided by Ted Walker, Waynoka, a novice plug caster. Walker went fishing with John Ryan and Ted Knight at a little lake three miles south of their town. In his first hour's casting, Walker hooked on to a good one, and, true to form (for the novice), ran backwards with his line until a high bank stopped him. At this point he dropped rod and reel and started bringing in the bass hand over hand, but that, too, proved slow. Finally the fish came in sight in the shallow water and Walker splashed in, bulldogging the bass like a rodeo performer. He got himself all wet, but he landed his bass!

CATFISHIN' SEASON!



CATFISHIN' SEASON! There's no time like summertime in Oklahoma for bulldogging the big catfish. Here's proof in a group of pictures from all over the State. (1) Left to right, Geo. Leach, A. E. Doyle, Mrs. E. W. Hubbard, Mr. Hubbard, K. E. Keller, and Guy Pope, a group of Cushing anglers, caught this load of oversized flatheads at their city lake June 3-4 on carp-baited trotlines. (2) You'd beam too if this string of whiskery monsters had been the result of your day on the bank! These eight catfish were snagged at Twin Bridges near Wyandotte by Jack Robinson, son of Miami's Fire Chief Asa Robinson, and Cpl. Howard Taylor of the U. S. Air Corps, who was in Miami on furlough recently from his station in Texas. This mess of catfish caught on cane poles, totaled 42½ pounds. (Picture courtesy of Miami News-Record.) (3) Game Ranger Sid Cunningham (left), and Monroe Barwick of Kingston hooked these blue catfish (largest 11½ pounds) at Lake Texoma south of the new bridge. (4) This 17-pound-2-ounce channel cat came from Lake Duncan June 10. Jack Mosler and Ed Pittman, Duncan, shown here, were the lucky fishermen. (Picture supplied by Lewis Pickett, lake caretaker.) (5) Walter Harris and his

young daughter of Hugo display the prize catch of all. Weights of the catfish from left to right are: 9, 15, 10, 45, 85 and 100 pounds! (6) Here's a 44-pounder which came from Cushing City Lake, displayed by M. R. Caldwell, the captor. (7) James and Frank Wall, Jr., Eagle Scout of Tulsa, are proud of their 32-pound blue cat from Texoma lake near Modill. (Picture sent in by Ranger J. H. McMillan.)

THE LONG AND SHORT OF ANIMAL LIFE

BY HENRY P. DAVIS

The age limits of animals, birds, fishes and insects have always provided an interesting subject for students of natural history. The may-fly, according to a Remington Arms Company researcher, is said to have the shortest span of life. This common *Ephemera vulgata* emerges from the water in thousands for a wedding dance of an afternoon, lay their eggs, and die.

"But these performances," he said, "occur only in the final phase of a comparatively long life-history. The may-fly hatches as a small wingless larva with six legs and three tails and dwells in the stream from one to three years before emerging in his final adult form.

"Animals which are really long-lived are comparatively few," he continued. "Here are some of the figures estimated by competent authorities:

Giant Tortoise	200 years
Carp	150 years
Vulture	118 years
Eagle	104 years
Whale	100 years
Salmon	100 years
Crow	100 years
Parrot	100 years
Raven	100 years
Man	100 years
Shark	100 years
Eider Duck	100 years

"In the strong, active carnivores, 25 years is seldom exceeded. The tiger may live to be 25 and possibly 35; bear up to 25 and 40; sea lion 17; cat 9 to 10 and sometimes much older; dog 10 to 15 and, rarely, up to 35; hyena, jackal and fox 14; badger 12. The horse may live 25 to 40 years; cow 25; deer about 20; antelope, goat and sheep about 15. Some animals live much longer in captivity than in native environment. This is due to the elimination of many of their natural hazards. Others, which cannot successfully adapt themselves to the conditions imposed by captivity, live comparatively short lives.

NO, NO! DON'T TOUCH!

During every vacation time, bringing to us the urge to get out into the outdoors and wander through woods and fields inhabited only by wildlife, there is another urge which comes to those uninitiated in the lore of nature, according to a Remington Arms Company wildlife authority.

"This," he said, "may be called mother instinct or a sympathetic feeling for helpless things. But young wildlife is not as helpless as it might seem to be. The dainty fawn, anxious to be friendly once it is discovered, more apt than not has a protecting mother nearby anxiously waiting for the human explorers to quit her domain. The baby quail or

grouse or pheasants which one might come across in a tramp through fields and woods are better off if left in their native environment than if taken into captivity and administered to by hands which are sincerely sympathetic but inexperienced in the ways of taking care of young wildlife.

"So leave them alone," he cautioned. "Most likely the mother is close by and will return to contact her young as soon as the intruders depart. Many will die if subjected to conditions of captivity unnatural to them. Any species of wildlife wants to remain just that. Let them have the freedom that you enjoy."

OLD HUNTING LICENSE COMES TO LIGHT

State hunting license number 12871 issued September 17, 1909, to R. V. Bardon, proprietor of Tulsa's sporting goods store bearing his name, is thought to be the oldest Oklahoma hunting license in existence. The license bears the name of J. S. Askew, first state game warden, and is countersigned by C. H. Sypert, Tulsa, bonded game warden.

The 1909 hunter, according to this old license, was permitted to bag during one year's hunt: One buck deer between November 1-December 1; 25 quail per day between November 15-February 1; three wild turkey between November 15-January 1 plus one gobbler between March 15-April 15; prairie chicken (apparently no limit) from September 1-November 1; snipe, plover, curlew, ducks, geese, brant, crane, swan from August 15 to May 1, 25 per day with not over 150 in a season.

Sounds like a veritable hunter's paradise, doesn't it? In addition the hunter was allowed to shoot pheasants from November 1-December 1, 1914, and thereafter. That notation was made on the 1909 license no doubt because pheasants were being imported to Oklahoma at the time, with a belief that sufficient quantities would have established themselves for benefit of the hunter within five years. Another interesting warning on the 36-year-old license was that the hunter "was not allowed to kill Carrier Pigeons (now extinct) at any time, nor any game birds or animals on Sunday."

NAVY STOCKS PHEASANTS ON GUAM

The Island of Guam in the Pacific now has a new game bird, thanks to the combined efforts of the U. S. Navy and the California Division of Fish and Game. On Sunday, July 1, 200 twelve-week-old pheasants, reared at the State Game Farm at Sacramento, were loaded on a C-47 at McClelland Field and reached Guam on Monday morning.

The shipment was made at the request of Admiral Nimitz, who is an enthusiastic sportsman, and who believes that habitat conditions on the island are favorable for their survival. There are said to be no other upland birds to compete with the pheasants there, nor any natural enemies to prey upon them.

It is hoped that this planting eventually will result in upland game bird shooting on Guam. The immediate purpose, however, is to give our men stationed there now a chance to see a few game birds which they will associate with home.



IN FAR OFF CHINA AMERICAN BOYS DISCUSS OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE

Are there any panthers in Oklahoma? This question formed the basis of a friendly argument between American soldiers at a North China base this month. To settle it, Corporal Robert E. Hale, native of the Kiamichi sector in southeast Oklahoma, wrote from that far off point to Oklahoma Game and Fish News, stating: "I'm an Oklahoma boy and I have heard and seen wild panthers in the Kiamichi Mountains, and heard them scream many a night."

In reply, Corporal Hale was informed: Many people disagree as to what a "panther" is. Our common Oklahoma bobcat is often mistakenly referred to as a panther. Actually it is of the lynx family. There once were panthers, more correctly known as Cougars or Mountain Lions, in Oklahoma. There are many of them farther west in New Mexico and other states. State Game Rangers in LeFlore county, southeast Oklahoma, reported a rumor of two mountain lions in the hills of northern LeFlore county not long ago, though the report was never verified with certainty.

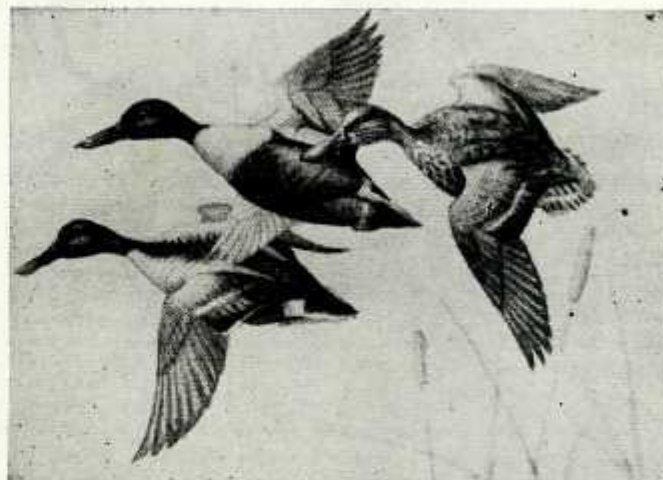
The panther or cougar formerly was found over practically all of North America as far north as the Great Lakes and Maine. It is now extinct in much of this former range. The classification of the Cougar is in a condition far from satisfactory. Many names are in more or less current usage and it is very likely that when these big Cats are revised upon the basis of large series of specimens, it will be found that all of the North American Cougars are races of the one species.

ONE FISHERMAN WITH 37 LICENSES— WHATTA RECORD!

Game rangers are used to surprises, but when angler Myrl M. Meder, 1820 NW 11th street, Oklahoma City, pulled his bag of tricks on Ranger L. E. Crawford at Lake Overholser recently, the ranger thought the July heat had him seeing things.

When asked to display his 1945 fishing license, Meder brought out not one license, but an array of 37 Oklahoma licenses. Included were 14 fishing licenses and 23 hunting, one a combination fishing and hunting issued in 1924—a collection dating back to 1923 when Meder, then 14 years old, bought his first license. Added to this, Meder has saved his federal duck stamps for each year since they were first issued in 1934.

Meder and his fishing partner, Fred W. Feuerborn, 1934 NW 13th street, have fished and hunted all over Oklahoma since childhood. Duck hunting is their specialty and they tell some tall tales of their experiences in Oklahoma's wilds and waters. There was the mallard drake with 33-inch wingspread, believed to be a record, bagged by Meder last year. And there was a day when the two hunters came in from their morning's hunt, when eleven big wild geese swooped over just as they were breaking down their guns to get in the car and go home. To finish off a perfect day's hunt, they bagged three and drove away.



HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR 1945 DUCK HUNTING STAMP YET? Above is a reproduction of what you'll get for your dollar this year—the 1945-46 Federal Duck stamp which went on sale at first and second class post offices July 1. It depicts two male and one female shovellers in full spring plumage. The original sketch in black and white water color, is the work of Owen J. Groome, Curator of birds and mammals at Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

FARM POND PAYOFF

Mooreland, Oklahoma, June 10—Perhaps the liveliest tussle enjoyed by any Oklahoma angler this week was that between Arnold Underwood of this town, and a 17 1/2-pound channel catfish caught by him on a minnow-baited hook at Bryon Hines lake, according to State Game Ranger Arnold Purviance.

"He fought and broke water just like a grandpappy bass!" the excited fisherman vowed.

This little lake located a quarter north and two and one-half miles west of Mooreland, is one of many in north-west Oklahoma stocked by State hatcheries in recent years, which are yielding great poundage in edible game fish now, Purviance says.

Charles Gardner, county agent at Taloga, vouches for the fine fishing in this once arid section also. He recently caught as fine a string of bass at the Marion Graves lake nine miles north of Quinlan, as any fisherman could desire—a total of four weighing respectively six, five and a quarter, four and three and a half pounds.

FISH CALENDAR

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

Blacker the fish—Better the day for fishing

From The Mail Box

MADILL CORPORAL'S MOUTH WATERS IN FAR OFF ROME

Rome, Italy
June 7, 1945.

Juanita Mabaffey, Editor,
Oklahoma Game and Fish News,
State Capitol,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.A.
Dear Editor:

Well, I was just reading in your fine Magazine about some of my friends making such wonderful catches in Lake Texoma. I am very happy to know that someone is trying and doing a good job of selling Oklahoma's natural beauty to the other 47 states in the Union. My Dad sends me the magazine as soon as he gets through with it. I read every line, and some of the stories make my mouth water.

I haven't seen those wonderful scenes of Oklahoma since September 27, 1942. But I have seen a good part of the World, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Libya and Italy. I'll still take Oklahoma over all of them.

If I ever get back there I shall make it a point to drop in for a chat with you. And I'd like to take you on a fishing trip on Lake Texoma. You see my home town is Madill.

I read an article by my old school mate Joe Lawrence Temple. He is still the same old boy. So when you see him or write him give him my regards. Remember 1937 when Lake Murray opened? Well I made the prize catch of the day June 1st. I'd like to get my hands on some fishing tackle and have a try at fishing here, but no such luck.

I wish you could see the walls of the office that I work in. Right in front of the desk is a map of Lake Texoma and I've colored it to make it stand out more. I'm living for the day when I can get back to Oklahoma and do some hunting and fishing. Bob Hill of Norman works here in the office with me, and we nearly run the Captain crazy talking about Oklahoma. I think we will have sold him a pretty good bill of goods about Oklahoma before we return home.

So Juanita keep the good work up, and after we've whipped the Japs I'll be home to help you get out more copy about the things that Oklahoma has to offer the sportsman.

Yours sincerely,

Cpl. Elie W. Edelen 38064269
Co. "B" 760 Ry. Diesel Shop Bn.
A.P.O. 512 c o P.M., N.Y., N.Y.

ANOTHER HOMESICK SAILOR

June 6, 1945.

Oklahoma Game and Fish News,
Oklahoma, City, Okla.
Editor:

I recently received the April-May issue of your magazine that my wife mailed me from Oklahoma City. It was the first I had seen and enjoyed reading it.

For some time I have been looking forward to the day when I can again fish the clear streams of the Cookson Hills—I've had some wonderful times fishing the Illinois River—also the Blue River not far from Tishomingo.

I would appreciate it if you would put me on your mailing list so that I may receive other copies. I understand that the new Lake Texoma is furnishing some excellent fishing—hope you run an article about it in an early issue.

ROY C. GREEN, Pho M 2c
HARTU—CASU 32
c/o FPO San Francisco.

FIELD TRIAL, BIRD DOG ENTHUSIAST WRITES

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
407 Medical Arts Building
June 13, 1945.

Miss Juanita Mabaffey, Editor,
Oklahoma Game and Fish News,
State Capitol,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
My Dear Miss Mabaffey:

Please accept my belated but no less sincere congratulations on, and appreciation of, your very fine publication, Oklahoma Game and Fish News.

Naturally my first enjoyment is of your field trial and bird dog news. There should be more of this. And next I find very interesting and instructive the articles by Mr. Aldrich on Oklahoma Fish. Like many other sportsmen, I have for years been catching various kinds of fish without understanding the fine distinction between the species and sub-species, such as the different kinds of perch or bream, "goggle-eyes", etc. As the white bass is a new fish to me, I found the white bass article very instructive.

More power to you.

Sincerely,

Dr. A. C. Hirschfeld.

GAME & FISH NEWS BETTER WITH EVERY ISSUE THIS ONE SAYS!

Stillwater, Okla.
July 13, 1945.

Dear Miss Mabaffey:

I enjoy reading the Oklahoma Game and Fish News better with each issue. The pictures are well worth anyone's time and money.

Please change your mailing list to:

Ernest H. Muncief,
Vocational Agri. Teacher,
Marlow Public Schools,
Marlow, Okla.

HELPFUL IN TEACHING CONSERVATION

Fayetteville, Ark.
July 17, 1945.

Editor,
Oklahoma Game and Fish News,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Please keep my name on your mailing list. It is helpful in teaching conservation. Many of our students teach in Oklahoma.

S. C. DELLINGER,
Dept. of Zoology,
University of Arkansas.

OSAGE COUNTIAN REPORTS GOOD QUAIL HATCH

Grainola, Okla.
July 14, 1945.

Mr. Jeff F. Kendall,
State Game Warden,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

I would like to get some fish this fall to put in a lake that has not been stocked for about seven years. Please send me some application blanks.

Fishing here has been rather good but hardly anyone has time to fish now. The quail hatch is the best I think I ever saw in this part of the county. I have not seen any young prairie chickens yet, but there is no reason that it should not be good.

Yours truly,

FRED MOW.

PROSECUTION RECORD, GAME AND FISH LAW VIOLATIONS

June - 1945

County	Defendant	Charged With	Disposition
1—Garvin	Fred W. Pearson, Paoli, Okla.	Illegal seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
2—Garvin	Casey Anderson, Paoli, Okla.	Illegal seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
3—Garvin	Freeman Foster, Paoli, Okla.	Illegal seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
4—Greer	B. D. Evans, Mangum, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
5—Greer	Troy Ballu, Mangum, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
6—Greer	A. J. Evans, Mangum, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	Paid court costs, dismissed
7—Greer	G. P. Stover, Mangum, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	Paid court costs, dismissed
8—Greer	W. Walker, Altus, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
9—Greer	Charley Moore, Altus, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
10—Greer	John Jones, Altus, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
11—Jefferson	R. F. McCredie, Ryan, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
12—Jefferson	C. A. Smith, Terral, Okla.	Selling game fish	\$25 fine and court costs paid
13—Jefferson	J. H. Greer, Terral, Okla.	Selling game fish	\$25 fine and court costs paid
14—Johnston	E. M. Chapman, Tishomingo, Okla.	Illegal seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
15—Johnston	Kenneth Smith, Tishomingo, Okla.	Illegal seining	Case pending
16—LeFlore	D. B. Elmore, Fort Smith, Ark.	Fishing without proper license	\$50 fine and court costs paid
17—LeFlore	O. J. Stiles, Holdenville, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
18—LeFlore	Mrs. O. J. Stiles, Holdenville, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
19—LeFlore	L. E. Bassmore, Fort Smith, Ark.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
20—LeFlore	E. L. Bowburg, Fort Smith, Ark.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
21—LeFlore	Evelyn Stiller, Holdenville, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
22—Major	Leo Shaw, Enid, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
23—Marshall	Claude Bowen, Mannsville, Okla.	Hunting without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
24—Mayes	Claydon Haggard, Spavinaw, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
25—Mayes	Julia R. Sturges, Spavinaw, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
26—McClain	Art Snapp, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Unlawful seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
27—McClain	R. H. Sutherland, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Unlawful seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
28—McClain	E. Renbarger, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Unlawful seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
29—McCurtain	John Roe, Idabel, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
30—McCurtain	John Roe, Idabel, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
31—McCurtain	John Roe, Idabel, Okla.	Use of excessive length minnow seine	\$10 fine and court costs paid
32—McCurtain	R. C. Hopper, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Possession of undersized game fish	\$10 fine and court costs paid
33—McCurtain	O. B. Hopper, Oklahoma City, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
34—McCurtain	L. R. Allen, Tulsa, Okla.	Possession of undersized game fish	\$10 fine and court costs paid
35—Pittsburg	Tom Castleberry, Savanna, Okla.	Hunting without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
36—Pittsburg	Kenneth Miller, McAlester, Okla.	Hunting without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
37—Pittsburg	R. C. Springfield, Tulsa, Okla.	Hunting without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
38—Pittsburg	E. O. King, McAlester, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
39—Pittsburg	Irene King, McAlester, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
40—Pushmataha	Herman Aubrey, Sobol, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
41—Pushmataha	Dallas Lawter, McAlester, Okla.	Illegal seining	\$10 fine and court costs paid
42—Pushmataha	Mrs. G. D. Crabil, Allen, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
43—Pushmataha	Jack Wyrick, Snow, Okla.	Killing a deer in closed season	Case dismissed
44—Pushmataha	Marvin Wyrick, Snow, Okla.	Attempting to kill a deer in closed season	Case dismissed
45—Pushmataha	Vern Pendegriff, Clayton, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid
46—Stephens	Fair & Woodworth Oil Co., Tyler, Tex.	Stream pollution	\$200 fine and court costs paid
47—Tillman	Clarence Evaige, Frederick, Okla.	Fishing without license	\$10 fine and court costs paid

MINUTES, OKLAHOMA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

July 6, 1945

MEETING AT OKLAHOMA CITY, July 6, 1945, the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission:

Read and approved Minutes of June 5-6, 1945; audited and approved current claims for payment; authorized and directed necessary travel for each Commissioner in June and July.

Opened and reviewed bids for timber on the McCurtain County State Game Preserve; rejected all bids submitted, voted to readvertise for bids acceptable until noon, July 30, 1945.

Authorized securing of bids for printing 1946 fishing licenses.

Authorized issuance of Honorary Ranger Commissions to: Dr. C. P. Bonduant, Rev. Dewey L. Riley, Kirby T. Mitchell, H. C. Hewett, Hobert Orton, C. B. Boulton, Harold Poas, Mrs. Albert Bolinger, Mrs. Martha Brame, and Loy B. Northrup.

Accepted the resignations of A. D. Aldrich, Superintendent of Fisheries, effective July 31, 1945; Ranger M. H. Jackson, Maysville, effective July 15, 1945; and Mrs. Ruth Standley, License Clerk, effective July 31, 1945, expressed unanimous regret at losing her.

Increased the salaries of the five Division Ranger Superintendents from \$200 to \$225 per month, effective July 1, 1945, upon motion of Commissioner Boone, seconded by Commissioner Earp, with resultant roll call vote

as follows: Boone, Earp and Chairman Kirkpatrick, Aye; McMahan and Ticer, No.

Increased the salary of W. A. Gaines, game farm superintendent, to \$225 per month, effective July 1, 1945, by unanimous vote.

Employed Earl Sparks, Maysville, to replace M. H. Jackson as ranger in Garvin and McClain counties, effective July 16, 1945, at \$125 per month for a 90-day probationary period.

Appointed Esta Campbell license clerk, effective on date of completion of \$5,000 bond, if dated prior to July 15, 1945.

Met with and discussed field problems with Division Ranger Superintendents.

Voted unanimously to go on record as favoring use of a limited number of live decoys in migratory waterfowl hunting.

Reviewed a report of Warden Jeff Kendall of a meeting of the U. S. Army Engineers held at Denison, Texas, June 22, 1945, relative to proposed development of recreation on Lake Texoma; was informed by the Warden that the Oklahoma Game and Fish Commission's application to secure suitable land for the present patrol headquarters on the lake was accepted; requested that an agreement for the land in use be given to the Commission by the Corps of Engineers.

THE COMMISSION MEETS NEXT AT OKLAHOMA CITY, AUGUST 2-3, 1945.

A vertical strip of illustrations on the left side of the page depicts various outdoor activities: a person fishing, a person hunting with a rifle, a person carrying a large fish, a person in a canoe, a person on a horse, a person in a car, and a person on a motorcycle. At the bottom, a large illustration shows a deer running across a field. On the right side, a large silhouette of a man in a hat and coat, holding a rifle, stands looking towards the left.

« « The » » SPORTSMAN

"His Creed and Dogmas"

- ¶ Shoot carefully and respect the farmers' property.
- ¶ Take only your share of the game, your license does not permit you to shoot or fish for another.
- ¶ Leave a goodly number for replenishment. Don't always take the limit.
- ¶ Stamp out all fires.
- ¶ Feed the birds in winter.
- ¶ Do not burn the meadows in nesting time.
- ¶ Drive with care—the wild life cannot cope with our speed.
- ¶ Remember the child is somebody's boy or girl—Do not drive recklessly or carelessly. Preserve a life.