

Department thanks those who donated land, money

Continued from page 7.

plauded for their actions." The Oklahoma Wildlife Habitat Donor Program is another example of how private citizens contribute to the conservation of wildlife habitat. Through the program, people who donate \$5 receive a Habitat Conservation Patch and people who donate \$10 receive an American-made hat with the patch attached. All funds received through the Habitat Donor Program are earmarked for acquiring public hunting and fishing access. Oklahoma sportsmen contributed more than \$30,000 to this program during the last fiscal year.

Duffy said the Department also received more than 3,000 acres of land in 1995 from individuals. "Places where the public can go to hunt, fish and enjoy wildlife will always be important," he said. "The land donations we received last year are special because they will remain forever as a lasting legacy to the extreme generosity some have for wildlife."

Brown trout fair game at Mountain Fork River

From the
State Wildlife Department

"Brown trout are well-known for their savvy and fighting ability."

Barry Bolton,
assistant chief
fisheries
Wildlife Department

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Thanks to stocking efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and new regulations that took effect Jan. 1, trout anglers fishing in the Lower Mountain Fork River designated trout area now have the opportunity to catch, and keep, a brown trout.

The Wildlife Department began stocking brown trout in the Lower Mountain Fork in 1991. Biologists were hopeful that the trout would grow and eventually reproduce. So far the overall growth rate for the browns has been a good 1/2 inch per month. Although reproduction has not yet been confirmed, biologists are still hopeful that it will take place within the next few years.

"Brown trout are well-known for their savvy and fighting ability," said Barry Bolton, assistant chief of fisheries for the Wildlife Department. "They are considered by many to be one of the most desirable fish species that inhabits fresh water and anglers can now fish for them right here in Oklahoma."

There is a 20-inch minimum size limit on brown trout at the Lower Mountain Fork and anglers are allowed to keep one brown per day.

Anyone fishing in the designated trout area must possess a trout license, no exceptions. Anglers also should remember that the use of bait or barbed hooks is prohibited from the State Park Dam downstream to the reregulation dam.

Free bird nest boxes available

From the
State Wildlife Department

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Phillips Petroleum Foundation, Inc. and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Project WILD are again teaming up to offer free bird nesting boxes to Project WILD trained educators.

The Birdbox Program provides easy-to assemble nest boxes made of wax impregnated cardboard which are designed to last one nesting season. Distribution of nest boxes to Project WILD trained educators will begin January 29, 1996, and continue through April 19, 1996.

A summary form for educators to use in compiling their students' results is included in each classroom set along with a nesting report form which is to be copied and distributed to students. Each set of nest boxes also includes an Oklahoma Nesting Birds poster.

The Birdbox Program, now in its seventh year, has distributed more than 40,000 nest boxes to educators in Oklahoma and almost 134,000 have been sent to educators outside the state. The boxes are available nationally for purchase with out-of-state orders being handled throughout the year.

If you have any questions about the Birdbox Program, need an order form to purchase a set of nest boxes, or want to verify if you're eligible for free boxes, write to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Attn.: Education Section, 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or call 405/521-4633.