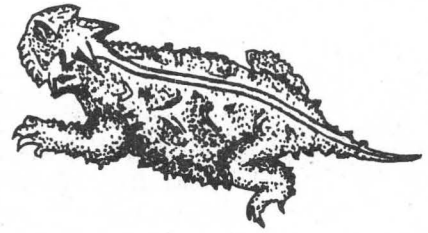


**KANSAS
HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**



NEWSLETTER

Number 6

April 1975

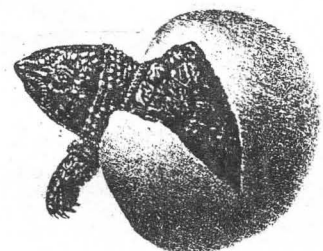
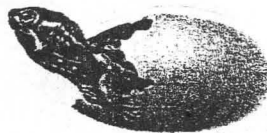
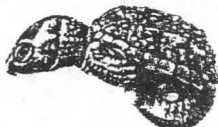
MARCH MEETING HELD AT SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO

The March meeting of the KHS was held on the 29th of the month at the Sedgwick County Zoo. Meeting in the Zoo's education room, President George Pisani began the day's program by receiving reports from Jan Caldwell (KHS President-elect), Terry Schwaner (Secretary), and Mary Dawson (KHS Treasurer). After voting an amendment to the KHS constitution (see elsewhere in this Newsletter), the 45 assembled KHS members and their companions were given an excellent talk on zoo philosophy by Sedgwick County Zoo Director Ronald Blakely. In addition to being director of the Sedgwick County Zoo, Mr. Blakely is President of the American Association of Zoos, Parks and Aquariums, the governing body of zoos in this country. He made an eloquent plea for less federal restrictions of zoos so that they can go about their tasks of education, conservation and propagation.

Following Mr. Blakely's talk, KHS members were given an informative tour of the new Sedgwick County Zoo herpetarium by David Grow, keeper in the building. It was another excellent KHS meeting -- the KHS executive council was pleased to see such a large attendance.

FIRST KHS FIELD TRIP WILL BE HELD IN MAY

The first KHS field trip will be held on 3 and 4 May 1975 at the Kingman County Game Management Area (see attached map). All persons interested in participating in the field trip should meet at the Kingman GMA Headquarters in the shaded area on the map (south of U.S. Rt. 54) on Saturday (3 May) at noon. Jan Caldwell, KHS president-elect, in cooperation with the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, will lead a census of selected areas and initiate a mark and re-capture project involving a few of the more common species of amphibians and reptiles found on the Kingman GMA. Information gained from this KHS field trip will be shared with the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, and will assist them in planning future wildlife projects in this area. All KHS members and their friends are urged to attend. Come prepared to camp out overnight -- bring your own food or eat at nearby restaurants.



EDWARD HARRISON TAYLOR IS FIRST KHS HONORARY MEMBER

The Kansas Herpetological Society is proud to welcome Dr. Edward H. Taylor, Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas and world renowned herpetologist, as its first honorary member. This class of membership is reserved for persons who have made outstanding contributions to the science of herpetology and who are retired from their scientific position. Dr. Taylor has published nearly 10,000 pages of scholarly work in a career spanning 63 years which has taken him to every continent. This career continues today at the age of 86. Taylor has made numerous contributions to Kansas herpetology -- indeed, his master's thesis (written in 1916) was entitled "The lizards of Kansas." He has guided many students in this field, the most notable of which is Hobart M. Smith. Taylor is holder of numerous honoraria, and has recently been nominated for the President's Science Medal.

President Pisani has announced that the KHS Executive Council will consider other nominations at future meetings as are needed.

AAZPA CONDEMNS RATTLESNAKE ROUND-UPS

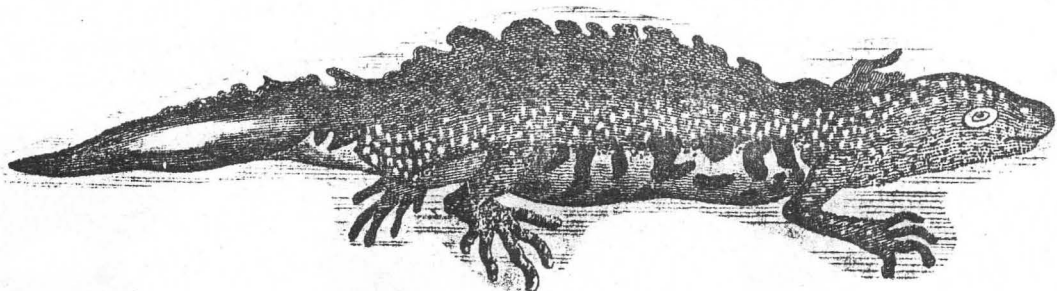
The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) adopted an official resolution condemning rattlesnake round-ups at its annual meeting in October (1974) in Philadelphia.

The resolution states:

"The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums finds rattlesnake round-ups condemnable as inhumane, dangerous and not in keeping with accepted conservational management practices. Therefore, we support legitimate efforts to curtail the continuation of this activity."

This stand concurs with that of other national organizations including the American Humane Association, the Humane Society of the United States, Defenders of Wildlife, and the National Audubon Society. It is hoped the message will filter to the organizers of such functions.

-- Dudley A. Brown, AAZPA Humane Association Liaison Committee (21 November 1974).



CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by Mary E. Dawson, and contains articles of possible interest to KHS members.

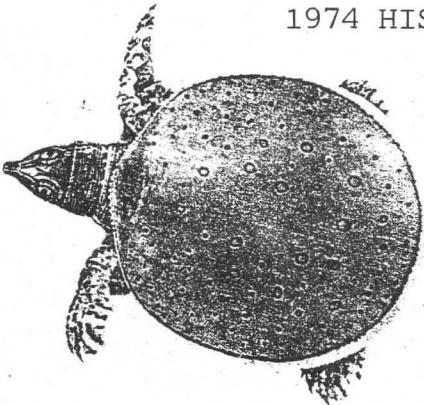
Fleharty, E. D. and J. D. Johnson

1975. Distributional records of herptiles from the Chautauqua Hills of southeastern Kansas. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., 77(1): 65-67. (This paper reports new locality records and habitat data in Kansas for the Great Plains Toad, Spotted Chorus Frog, Cope's Gray Treefrog, Eastern Fence Lizard, Southern Coal Skink, and the Rough Earth Snake).

Fitch, H. S.

1975. A demographic study of the ringneck snake (Diadophis punctatus) in Kansas. Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Pub., 62: 1-53. (Available for \$3.00 from: Publications Secretary, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045).

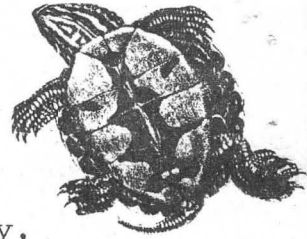
1974 HISS YEARBOOK OF HERPETOLOGY. The long awaited 256 page publication containing many sections of interest to herpetologists, including: a directory of herpetologists and their addresses; 2) a complete checklist of all species of amphibians and reptiles found in the United States; 3) a section on venomous snakes. This publication is available from: Herpetological Information Search Systems, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.



SCHERMERHORN PARK AND SHOAL CREEK APPEAR DOOMED

On the weekend of 5-6 April your KHS associate editor had an opportunity to visit the Ozarkian Region of the Cherokee Plain in extreme southeastern Kansas. This region is of interest to KHS members because at least eight species of amphibians are found here and nowhere else in Kansas. All eight species are considered THREATENED SPECIES IN KANSAS by the Kansas Academy of Science, and are so designated in my book (Collins, 1974). I visited first at Schermerhorn Park, just south of Galena, and was disgusted to note that land developers had moved in and denuded the entire area north and east of the park -- further, subdivisions were being erected west of the park along the north bank of Shoal Creek. These actions almost certainly mean that:





SCHERMERHORN AND SHOAL CREEK DOOMED (CONTINUED)

1) Shoal Creek will become polluted and, eventually, controlled to prevent flooding, and 2) that the water-flow through the cave at Schermerhorn Park will be altered and eventually eliminated. This latter consequence will cause at least four species of salamanders to become extinct in Kansas.

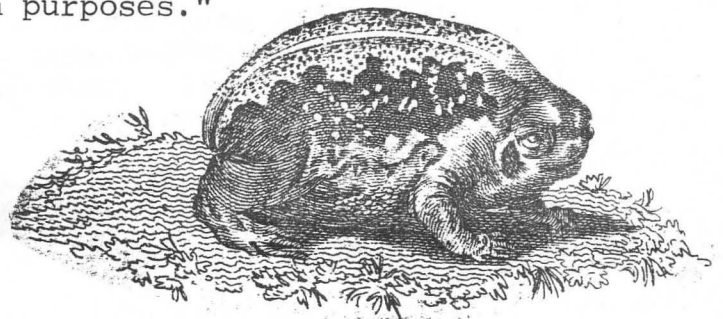
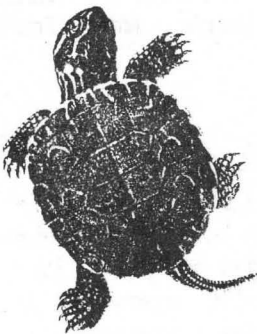
As if this were not enough, I drove south to the Oklahoma border and turned west along the stateline road (which is the border between Oklahoma and Kansas) only to be saddened by the destruction being wrought in the name of "economic progress." The entire southern quarter of the Ozarkian Region in Kansas now consists of gravel pits and mounds -- some of the mounds are higher than any natural ridges in eastern Kansas.

Unless immediate court action is initiated to stop further development in the Ozarkian Region of Kansas, we can write this area off as wasted. The only solution is outright purchase by the state and/or federal government. Please write your congressman -- please write someone. Its a shame.

KHS CONSTITUTION AMENDED

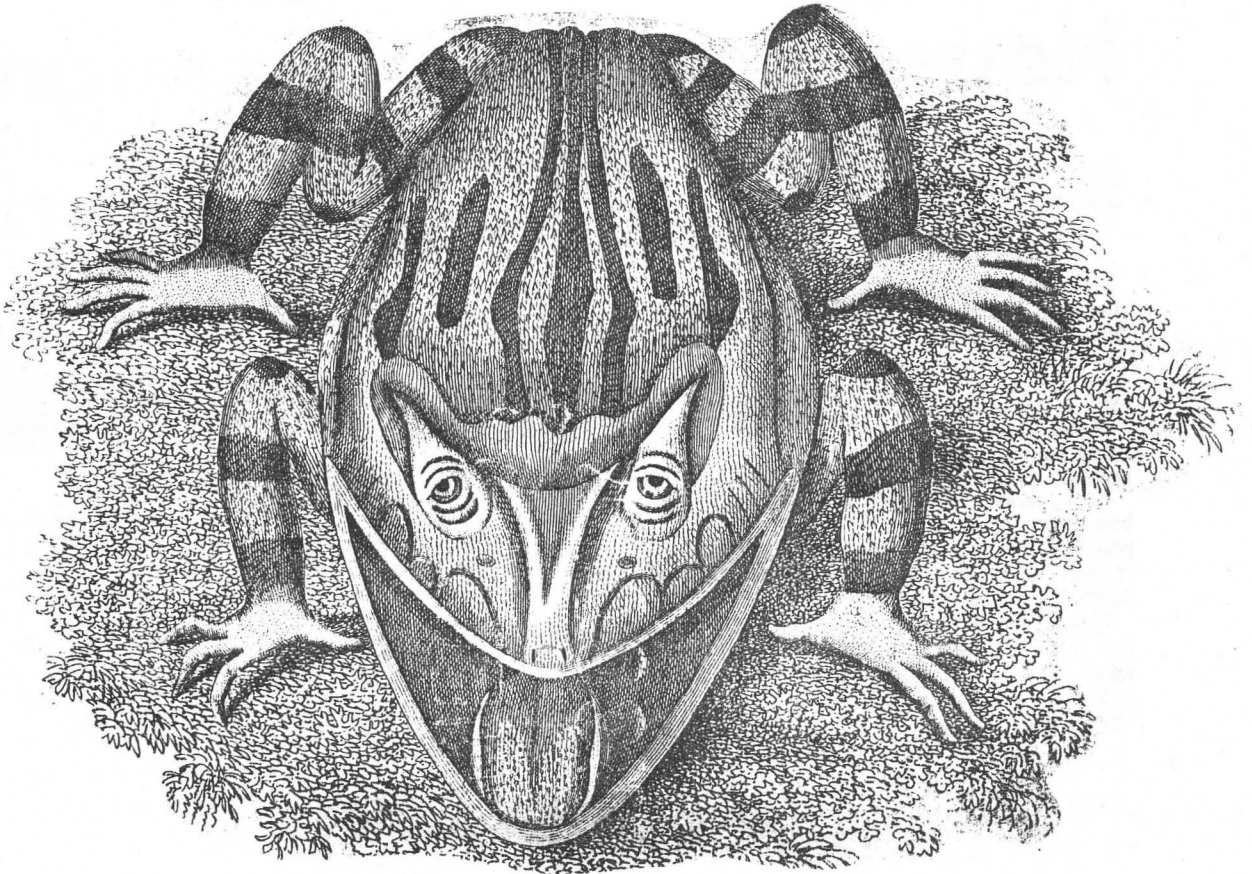
At the KHS meeting on 29 March in Sedgwick County, the assembled members voted to amend Article V of the KHS Constitution to read as follows:

"Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Executive Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the Society in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Council shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."



REPORT ON KHS - 4H WORKSHOP

KHS members Ray E. Ashton and Terry Schwaner held a day-long herpetology workshop for 4-H members in Wichita on 15 March 1975. Although only four 4-H members attended the workshop, their enthusiasm and interest appeared to be worth the effort. Participants learned how to use keys for amphibian and reptile identification (using live and preserved material), and were instructed on such topics as 1) the value of studying amphibians and reptiles, 2) natural history of these fascinating creatures in Kansas, and 3) venomous snake-bite treatment.



CAREER PAMPHLETS ENCLOSED WITH THIS MAILING

Enclosed with this mailing is a career booklet on herpetology published by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. This booklet is being mailed to all members as a service by the KHS, and in accordance with action voted by the KHS Executive Council last month. We hope the KHS membership finds this booklet useful.

COLLINS RESIGNS AS ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF KHS

Joseph T. Collins, first KHS Newsletter Editor and current Associate Editor, has resigned effective with the issuance of this number of the KHS Newsletter. Ms. Jan Perry, KHS Newsletter Editor, and President Pisani are searching for a replacement for this position.

Collins resigned in order to devote more time to field work on Kansas herpetofauna. He will serve for the remainder of the year as KHS program chairman.

THREATENED SPECIES LEGISLATION STILL IN SENATE

House passes bill designed to protect endangered wildlife

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—A bill designed to conserve and protect endangered species of wildlife in Kansas was passed 87-36 today by the Kansas House and sent to the Senate.

Passage of the bill came after the measure was given a second chance.

Last week, the bill was brought up for tentative approval and it was ruled that the House on a voice vote and refused to approve the measure.

This left the bill on the calendar and it was brought up again Monday and given tentative approval on a roll call vote, 83-37.

The bill authorizes the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to decide what species of wildlife are endangered and to set up programs for their protection.



-- The above article appeared in the Lawrence Journal World of 4 March 1975. Currently, the bill is still before the Energy & Natural Resources Committee of the Kansas Senate. Any KHS members concerned about the outcome on this bill should write their senator. (NOTE: This issue of the KHS Newsletter had a deadline of 8 April 1975 -- the matter may be decided by the time you get this issue).

-- The KHS Newsletter is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045, and ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Joseph T. Collins, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045.



Welcome To . . .

KINGMAN COUNTY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA

DESCRIPTION

Where is it?

On U. S. Highway 54, eight miles west of Kingman or six miles east of Cunningham. It's located in the valley of the Ninnescah River's south fork.

How big is it?

4,462 acres.

What's its history?

The original 1,562 acres were acquired by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission in 1931 and named the Kingman County State Park. The 100-acre lake was constructed in 1932-33 and enlarged to 185 acres in 1955. The site was re-named in 1962 to Kingman County Game Management Area.

TIPS FOR HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN OF KINGMAN COUNTY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA—

Fishing for—

Bass? There is annual reproduction of largemouth bass. Use plug with weedless hook, minnows. Many $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., up to possibly four or even five pounds. Fair numbers.

Bluegill? The lake boasts extremely heavy concentrations of this little scrapper. Weights are $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. on down, but ideal for children. We urge you to keep the bluegill you catch—don't throw them back—as they make good eating. This will help thin the numbers, also. Try worms.

Bullheads? Low population levels, but good-sized. Range $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Worms are excellent.

Carp? Not many, but increasing in numbers. Good size, ranging from one lb. to six- and seven-pounders. Try worms, dough-balls, yellow corn.

Channel Cats? Good numbers. Dead or live minnows, liver, worms, grasshoppers in season, and "stink" baits—all produce results. Vary from one lb. to 11 lbs. Many six- and seven-pound channels have been taken.

Northern Pike? Numbers are slight. Only occasionally caught. Large deep-running plugs, even plastic worms and earthworms. Possibly up to 15 pounds.

Walleye? Recently introduced. Occasionally caught. One- to three-pounders were found in test nettings in 1970. "Wounded-shad" action lures, white or yellow spinner or jigs, and feathered spinners are all good walleye baits.

Hunting for—

Cottontail rabbits? Their population levels are subject to fluctuation. Sometimes plentiful, sometimes scarce.

Deer? Good whitetail numbers. Both bow and firearms hunters with permits allowed.

Dove? Good hunting first two weeks of September on wheat strips, timber and water areas. Populations generally decrease through natural migration by mid-September.

Pheasants? Fair population. Pheasants are usually found throughout the area in feed patches with grasslands or other areas of "edge."

Squirrels? Fox squirrels are plentiful in timbered areas. There is considerable hunting pressure in the latter part of the season.

Quail? A fine population is found here. You'll find 'em in draws, semi-wooded, brushy areas, and along the river.

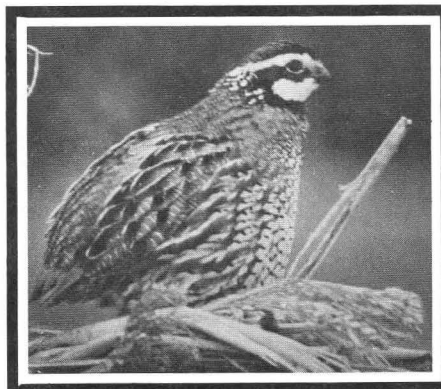


Photo by Ken Stiebben

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT KINGMAN COUNTY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA'S—

Boating?

- Any motor-driven vessel on the lake must be used for fishing only!
- The lake is shallow, so use large motors with caution.

- A synopsis of Kansas Boat and Water Safety Laws is available by writing: Kansas Forestry, Fish & Game Commission, Information-Education Division, Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas 67124.

Camping?

- As with all camping areas, insects can be a nuisance. It's always a good idea to take along some insect repellent.
- Because the camping area is wooded, wind is not normally a major problem.
- Trash receptacles are provided throughout the camping area. Your help is appreciated in keeping the area clean!

Fishing?

- Seining minnows is prohibited.
- Vegetation is a problem. It is a spring-fed, shallow and clear lake, and makes aquatic vegetation control difficult. Efforts will be made by the Fisheries Division to improve this condition. Until then, these areas have vegetation from about mid-June to mid-September:
 - All sides of the lake except near the dam.
 - Intermittent patches occur in the lake's middle. Generally speaking, boat fishermen can escape much of the vegetation.

Hunting?

- Modern game management practices have been applied to the Kingman County Game Management Area. Ideal habitat is achieved by diversifying plantings of legumes, tree sites, food plots, pothole creation, and thinning of mature timber all of which creates the "edge" effect.
- Watch your bird dogs! Highway 54 through the area is heavily traveled. Also, dogs may be used for hunting purposes only during hunting seasons. They are to be otherwise controlled by leash or chain.
- No pit blinds may be dug for waterfowl hunting. All blinds must be portable or temporary, using native materials found at the blind site.
- Waterfowl hunting is permitted on the lake's west arm, along most portions of the Ninnescah

4mi. to
Penalosa

Radio
Tower

32

Windmill

33

T W
Parking
Area

54

T W
Parking
Area

Pond

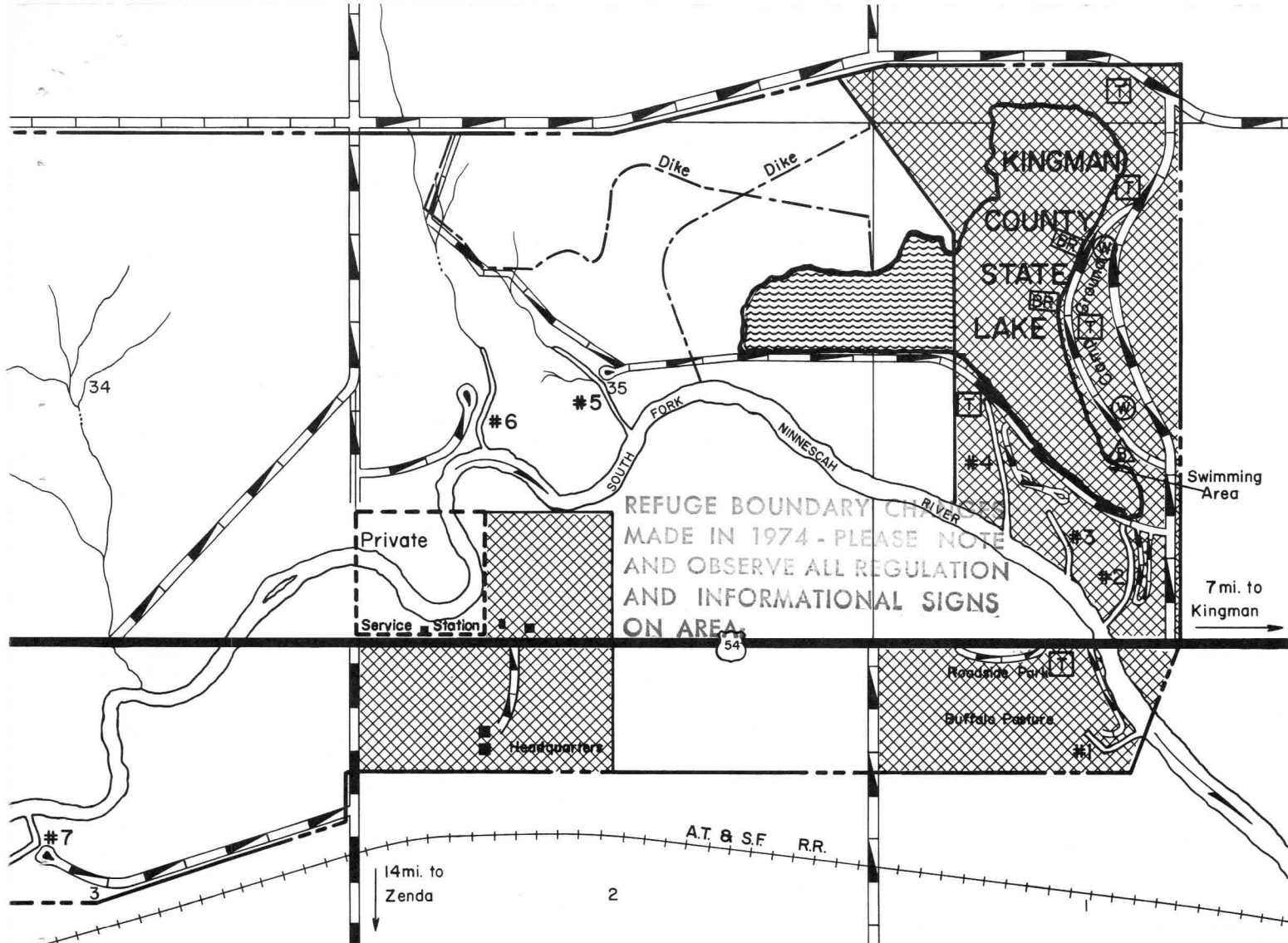
5

Private Drive

4

Pond

SOUTH FORK NINNESCAH RIVER



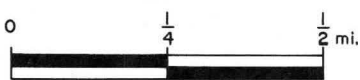
REFUGE BOUNDARY CHANGED
 MADE IN 1974 - PLEASE NOTE
 AND OBSERVE ALL REGULATION
 AND INFORMATIONAL SIGNS
 ON AREA

KANSAS FORESTRY FISH & GAME COMMISSION

KINGMAN GAME MANAGEMENT AREA



SCALE



LEGEND

- Paved Surface Highway
- Bituminous Road - Low Type
- Gravel or Sand Surface Roadway
- Improved Earth Roadway
- State Property Line
- Refuge Area - No Hunting
- Lake Area Open to Hunting
- Toilet
- Bath House
- Well
- Boat Ramp
- #1 thru #7 Backwater Channels

River, and on scattered pond areas throughout the management unit.

- e. Let sportsmanship, safety and common sense be your guides. At all times, obey signs and govern activity accordingly. And when you destroy one of those signs, you destroy part of your sport.
- f. Hunting is prohibited on several areas due to conflicts of multiple use. These are:
 - 1. Headquarters area.
 - 2. Buffalo pasture.
 - 3. Small area of private land indicated on map.
 - 4. Lake area other than the west arm.

Swimming?

- a. The swimming area is located in the southeast corner of lake, and is marked by buoys.
- b. The sandy beaches of this area are fairly solid.
- c. Deepest water is about ten feet.
- d. There are no lifeguards, so swim at your own risk.



Photo by Ken Stiebhen

TO ALL USERS OF KINGMAN COUNTY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA:

- a. Fire hazard is great, owing to rank vegetation. Please make sure campfires are out. Don't flip lighted cigarettes out of the car. Even your car's muffler, if defective, may start a fire.

PLEASE HELP US PREVENT UNPLANNED PRAIRIE FIRES!

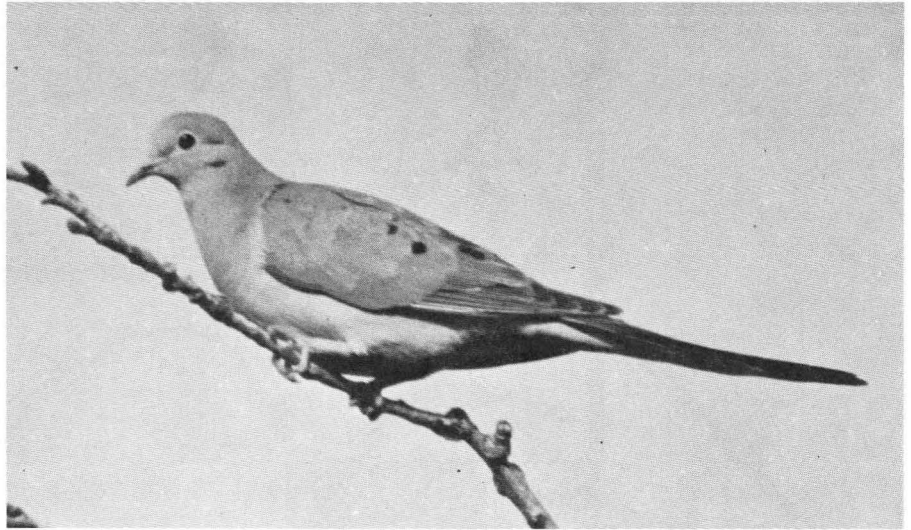
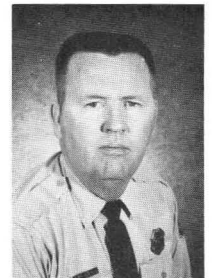
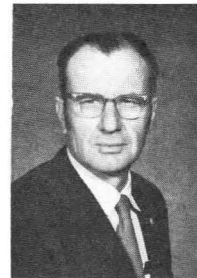


Photo by Ken Stiebhen

- b. Speed limit is 25 m. p. h., and stay alert while driving—a deer may dart in front of your car, particularly at dusk and at night.
- c. You may have in your possession a firearm only during hunting season.
- d. Park only on roads. Vehicles are not allowed inside fences. Walk-in gates are located no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile apart for your convenience.
- e. Fish and Game area personnel ready to help you:



Area Game Manager Byron Walker (left), and State Game Protector Jack Dunbar (right), are on your side. Get to know them. They provide and protect what you want to give your grandchildren.

KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
Pratt, Kansas 67124
BILL SCOTT, Special Publications Editor

Photo by Ken Stiebhen

