

The Kansas Upland Game Bird Stamps – Part One

by David R. Torre, ARA

In today's post, I find it is first necessary to *modify our frame of reference* before we begin looking at the Kansas upland game bird stamps, themselves. Over the years much has been written by myself and others about the predecessor to this series, the Kansas quail stamps. However, relatively little information is available for collectors about the upland series.

There are a couple of good reasons for this. First, the much revered Kansas quail series is of far greater importance to our hobby. This is owing, in large part, to the fact that *historically* they were **believed to have been** the first fish and game stamps issued by a *state* government in the U.S.

The bi-colored quail stamps were printed for 25 years and issued for 24 (more on this later) and the series includes numerous *constant* varieties which have captivated philatelists ever since. Second, there is scant information available to the philatelic researcher and writer to work with when it comes to the upland stamps. A thorough internet search was of very little help.

The upland stamps were issued over a much shorter period (1961 – 1973) and they lack the constant varieties. Therefore, it may be tempting to conclude they are relatively uninteresting and their primary philatelic significance is that the series serves to *complete the quail stamp story*.

Nonetheless, as we move through this series of posts we will find that embedded within the upland game series are four printing errors – ranging from one that is relatively minor (but still quite interesting) to one of the most dramatic errors in the fish and game hobby.

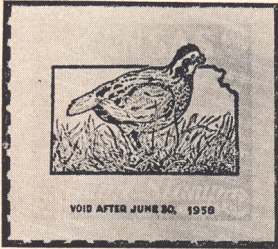
Preface

The Kansas quail stamps were formally introduced to collectors by Joseph Janousek, in his column in the October 1959 issue of *The American Revenuer*. Janousek pictured a (1957-58) stamp which showed an inscription printed on the bottom, "VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1958". He went on to state: "The fiscal year is July 1st to June 30[.] **First issued on June 30, 1937**" (see Figure 1).

**STATE GAME HUNTING AND
FISHING REVENUE STAMPS**

By **JOSEPH J. JANOUSEK**
5275 North 43rd Street
Glendale, Arizona

**KANSAS
QUAIL HUNTING STAMP**

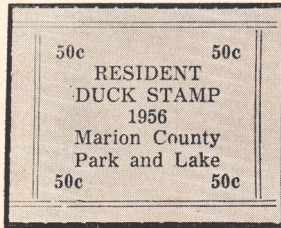


32mm. x 27mm.
Outline Map of Kansas and Quail
The fiscal year is July 1st to June 30
First issued on June 30, 1937
Roul. 7

1937-1938.
KQ-1 .50 green & red brown
1938-1939.
KQ-2 .50 red & blue
1939-1940.
KQ-3 .50 blue & black
1940-1941.
KQ-4 .50 yellow & brown
1941-1942.
KQ-5 .50 yellow & red
1942-1943.
KQ-6 .50 green & brown
1943-1944.
KQ-7 .50 blue & brown
1944-1945.
KQ-8 .50 purple & brown
1945-1946.
KQ-9 .50 olive brown & brown
1946-1947.
KQ-10 .50 pink & brown
1947-1948.
KQ-11 .50 deep blue & red
1948-1949.
KQ-12 .50 magenta & yellow
1949-1950.
KQ-13 .50 brown & gray
1950-1951.
KQ-14 .50 rose carmine & blue
 green

1951-1952.
KQ-15 .50 blue green & red
1952-1953.
KQ-16 .50 brown & blue green
1953-1954.
KQ-17 .50 red brown & light brown
1954-1955.
KQ-18 .50 yellow & green
1955-1956.
KQ-19 .50 dark green & black
1956-1957.
KQ-20 .50 pink & black
1957-1958.
KQ-21 .50 yellow & black
1958-1959.
KQ-22 .50 orange & brown
From 1939 to 1946 issued in one
stamp booklets, perf. left only. All
other years issued in sheets.

**MARION COUNTY - KANSAS
DUCK STAMP**



43mm. x 32mm.
All printed matter in black
10 stamp per pane in booklets of 100
Some years Roul. 7, other years
perf. 11¾.
1939-1953. No information available
1954-1955.
KCD-16 .50 on pink
1955-1956.
KCD-17 .50 on light green
1956-1957.
KCD-18 .50 on white
1957-1958.
KCD-19 .50 on light green
(Continued on page 124)

Page 118

The American Revenuer

**FIGURE 1. JOSEPH JANOUSEK'S COLUMN FEATURING THE KANSAS QUAIL STAMPS.
NOTE THE TEXT BENEATH THE QUAIL STAMP IMAGE.**

The September 1968 issue of the *State Revenue Newsletter* (SRN) included E.L. Vanderford's serial publication, *HANDBOOK OF FISH AND GAME STAMPS*. This issue covered the quail series in more detail. Instead of being precise about the first date of issue, Vanderford stated "**First issued for the 1937-38 season**" (see Figure 2). When the *Handbook* was published as a stand-alone collector's guide in 1973, this page was exactly the same.

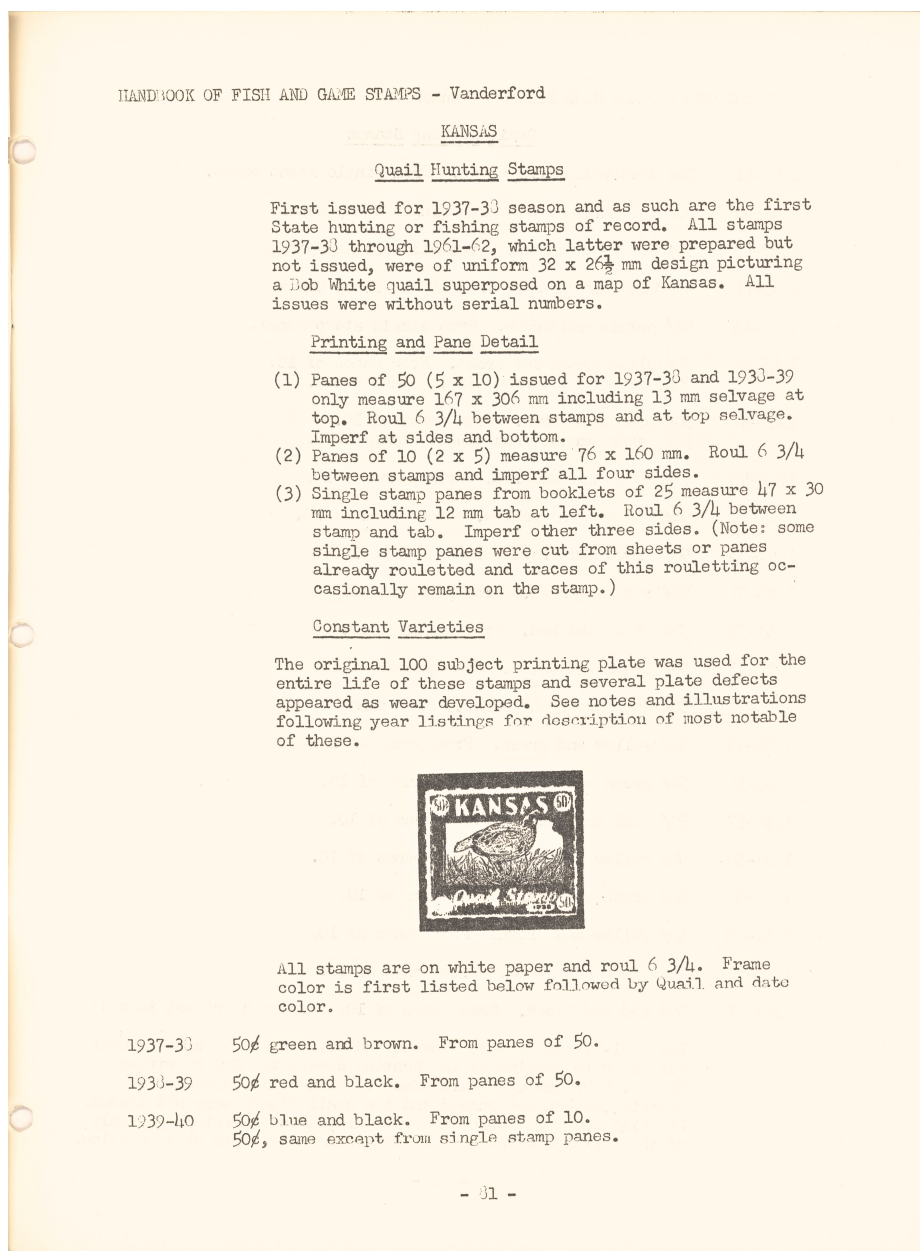


FIGURE 2. E. L. VANDERFORD'S KANSAS QUAIL HUNTING STAMPS PAGE, PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1968 (VOL. 8; NO. 6) ISSUE OF *THE AMERICAN REVENUEUR*.

And now for some embarrassment on my part. As stated in [Ken Pruess Remembered – Part Three](#), in 1972 the State Revenue Society (SRS) published Charles J. Bellinghausen's *Kansas State Revenue Catalog*. Here, the esteemed Kansas revenue specialist discussed the quail stamps in much greater detail than Janousek or Vanderford.

The introductory sentence to the Quail section clearly states, "Quail stamps were first placed on sale in Kansas **in the fall of 1937** following enactment of legislation requiring their issuance earlier that same year" (see Figures 3 and 4).

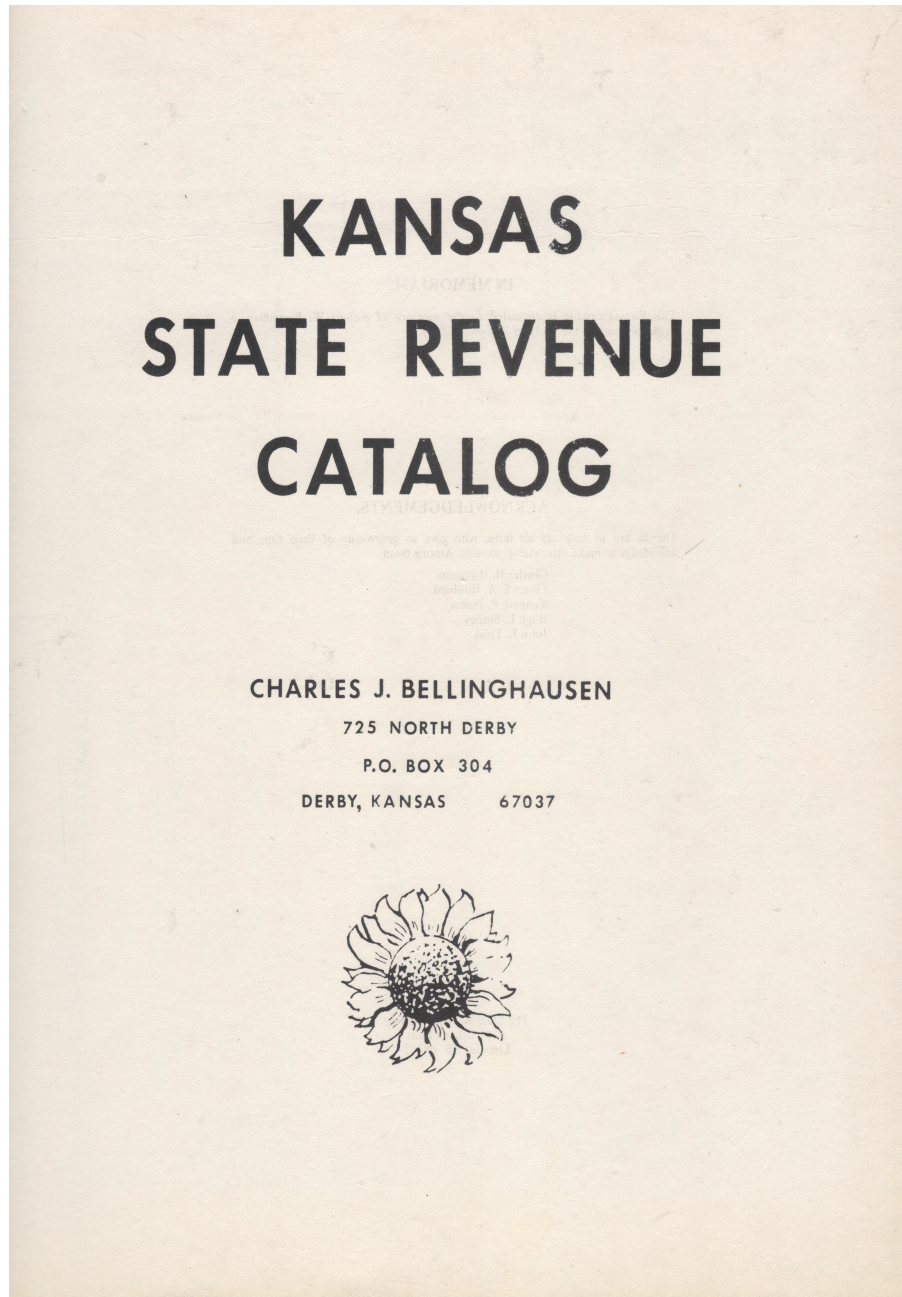


FIGURE 3. COVER FOR THE KANSAS STATE REVENUE CATALOG, BY CHARLES J. BELLINHAUSEN.

Charles J. Bellinghausen

QUAIL

Quail stamps were first placed on sale in Kansas in the fall of 1937 following enactment of legislation requiring their issuance earlier that same year. Legislation made it necessary that all persons hunting quail in the state, who were otherwise required by law to possess a hunting license, affix a quail stamp to his/her hunting license, and cancel the stamp in ink by writing his/her name across the face of the stamp. Each quail stamp subsequently issued carried an expiration date printed on the lower right hand portion of the stamp. First stamps expired on June 30, 1938. This date corresponds to the fiscal year for which the licenses were issued.

The legislators early in 1959 enacted laws to transfer all licenses from a fiscal to a calendar year basis. So beginning July 1, 1959, special six months licenses were issued. Expiration dates on the stamps were not changed at that time and continued the issuance of stamps on a fiscal year basis.

During the first part of 1961, quail stamps bearing the expiration date of June 30, 1962, were printed and sent to County clerks and license vendors. However, the legislature, meeting at the same time as the distribution was being made abolished the quail stamp and instituted in its place the upland game bird stamp. Subsequently, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission withdrew the distribution of quail stamps and issued the upland game bird stamp bearing the expiration date of December 31, 1961. Persons who had already purchased the 50¢ quail stamp were allowed to trade in the stamps on the purchase of the \$1 upland game bird stamp.

In 1963 consecutive numbers were applied to the upland game bird stamps at the printing plant in order to keep a closer accounting for audit purposes. Prior to this, the 1961 and 1962 stamps were not numbered.

All quail stamps have the same motif—a quail standing in short grass. The stamps are in two colors, one color for the frame and the second color for the design. Late in 1939 the design plate was damaged and one stamp per sheet has a void in printing in the lower, center portion of the grass. It is always white and due to the odd shape is known as the 'white feather.' White feathers are known on all issues, 1939 thru 1962. Many varieties exist in this series (spur on leg of quail, broken circles around value, break in last s of Kansas, etc.). Only the white feather will be listed here. The white feather is stamp No. 23 in sheet of 100 and position No. 5 in sheet of 10.

In 1940, 1942 and 1946 printers proofs from sheets of 10 (2 x 5) were sold and used by the Fish and Game Commission Office. These sheet stamps are very rare.

First color listed is for the frame, the second for the design.



VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1942

white feather

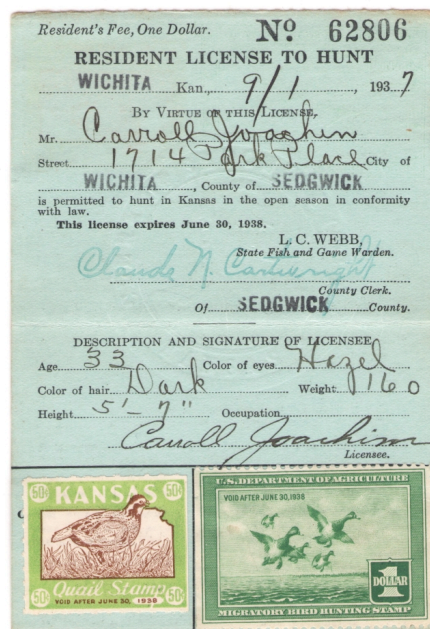
FIGURE 4. INTRODUCTION TO THE QUAIL SECTION IN BELLINGHAUSEN'S CATALOG. NOTE THE FIRST SENTENCE.

When I started to exhibit in the early 1990s, I included a page which showed the first quail stamps (both on and off license). I stated at the top of the page, “In 1937, Kansas became the first state or local government to issue a fish or game license stamp with one required to hunt quail” (see Figure 5).

State and Local Issues — 1937

Kansas Quail Stamps

In 1937, Kansas became the first state or local government to issue a fish or game license stamp with one required to hunt quail. In his *Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps*, pioneer collector E. L. Vanderford stated that the 1937-38 and 1938-39 Kansas quail stamps were issued in booklet panes of 50 (5 x 10) with selvage across the top and straight edges on the sides and bottom. The same plate was used through 1961-62 and developed numerous flaws over the years.



1937-38 Kansas quail stamp used on resident license to hunt
Issued September 1, 1937.



1937-38 Kansas quail
with plate flaw along
right frameline



1937-38 Kansas quail
yellow-green color
variety

FIGURE 5. KANSAS QUAIL STAMPS PAGE FROM MY FIRST EXHIBIT.

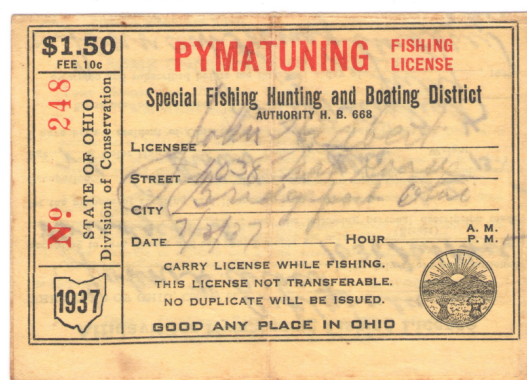
So far, so good. At this point I had not yet acquired a copy of the **undated** Pymatuning hunting (waterfowl) stamp – the 1938 Pymatuning stamp was still believed to be the first in that series.

Subsequently, I obtained an undated Pymatuning stamp. My research showed it was likely issued in the fall of 1937. I stated, “while complete documentation is still lacking... on September 1, 1937, the Ohio Conservation Council did approve a stamp...” (see Figure 6).

State and Local Issues — 1937-1938

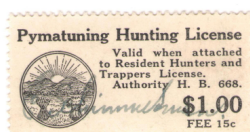
Pymatuning - The First State Waterfowl Stamps

Pymatuning Lake is a large man-made reservoir that straddles the Ohio-Pennsylvania border in the northern part of each state. Until recently, the 1938 Pymatuning hunting stamp was thought to be the first state-issued waterfowl stamp. It now appears that Ohio issued a Pymatuning hunting stamp for the 1937 waterfowl season. The undated example below was discovered in 1994. At that time the exhibitor figured it to be a 1939 stamp based primarily on typestyle characteristics. The fact that it was the only Pymatuning stamp on record to bear a vender's fee (15¢) was puzzling. In 1996, the 1937 Pymatuning fishing license below was discovered — also bearing a vender's fee. While complete documentation is still lacking, additional research has revealed that on *September 1, 1937*, the Ohio Conservation Council did approve “a stamp to be affixed to the regular hunting and fishing licenses for the special Pymatuning district”.

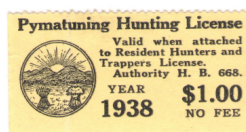


1937 Pymatuning fishing License- Issued June 3, 1937

Two recorded examples



1937 Pymatuning waterfowl
Finest of three recorded examples



1938 Pymatuning waterfowl
Ex Vanderford
The only recorded example

FIGURE 6. PYMATUNING EXHIBIT PAGE – SUBSEQUENT TO THE ACQUISITION OF AN UNDATED (1937) STAMP AND A FEW TRIPS TO OHIO, RESEARCHING INFORMATION ON THE SERIES.

I'm still OK at this point. I did not know for certain the undated stamp was issued in the fall of 1937. However, I must confess it never occurred to me the 1937 Pymatuning hunting stamp may have been issued prior to the 1937 Kansas quail stamp.

Like Janousek and (no excuse) influenced by his statement made back in 1959 – I always had it in my mind the 1937 quail stamp was issued sometime toward the end of June. Unfortunately, when Bellinghausen's catalog came out in 1972 – *his* statement simply did not register with me.

I believed, like Janousek, that since the stamp bore a fiscal year expiration date – it would have been issued a year prior. This in keeping with the precedent set by the federal waterfowl stamps introduced in 1934. It never occurred to me that the expiration date on the first quail stamp was selected to **conform to the expiration date on the state licenses** and had no relationship to when the first stamp was actually issued.

In 2010, David Boshart and Ira Cotton discovered an example of the undated Pymatuning stamp, used on license with a 1937-38 federal waterfowl stamp. My understanding is that Ira discovered the item while looking through a box of miscellaneous licenses that had been laying around David's office for quite some time (see [Morton Dean Joyce: Fish and Game Hall of Famer – Part Three](#) and Figure 7).



FIGURE 7. THE 1937 PYMATUNING WATERFOWL STAMP ON LICENSE.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL CSAPLAR.

Ira called, informing me of their discovery, and I soon made a deal with David to acquire this amazing piece for my own collection. A couple of years later, when Will and Abby were still in the planning stages for their upcoming exhibit, [A License and Stamp System for Waterfowl Conservation in the 20th Century U.S.](#), we all decided the piece was integral to telling their story and I agreed to sell it to them.

At this point, *I knew for a fact* the undated Pymatuning stamp was issued in the fall of 1937 – and it still did not occur to me it may have been issued prior to the quail stamp. Up until recently, including several places on this website, I have stated the quail stamp was issued “a few months earlier”.

I was wrong. In 1937, the waterfowl season in Ohio began on October 9 – the Kansas quail hunting season over a month later, on November 20 (see Figures 8 and 9).

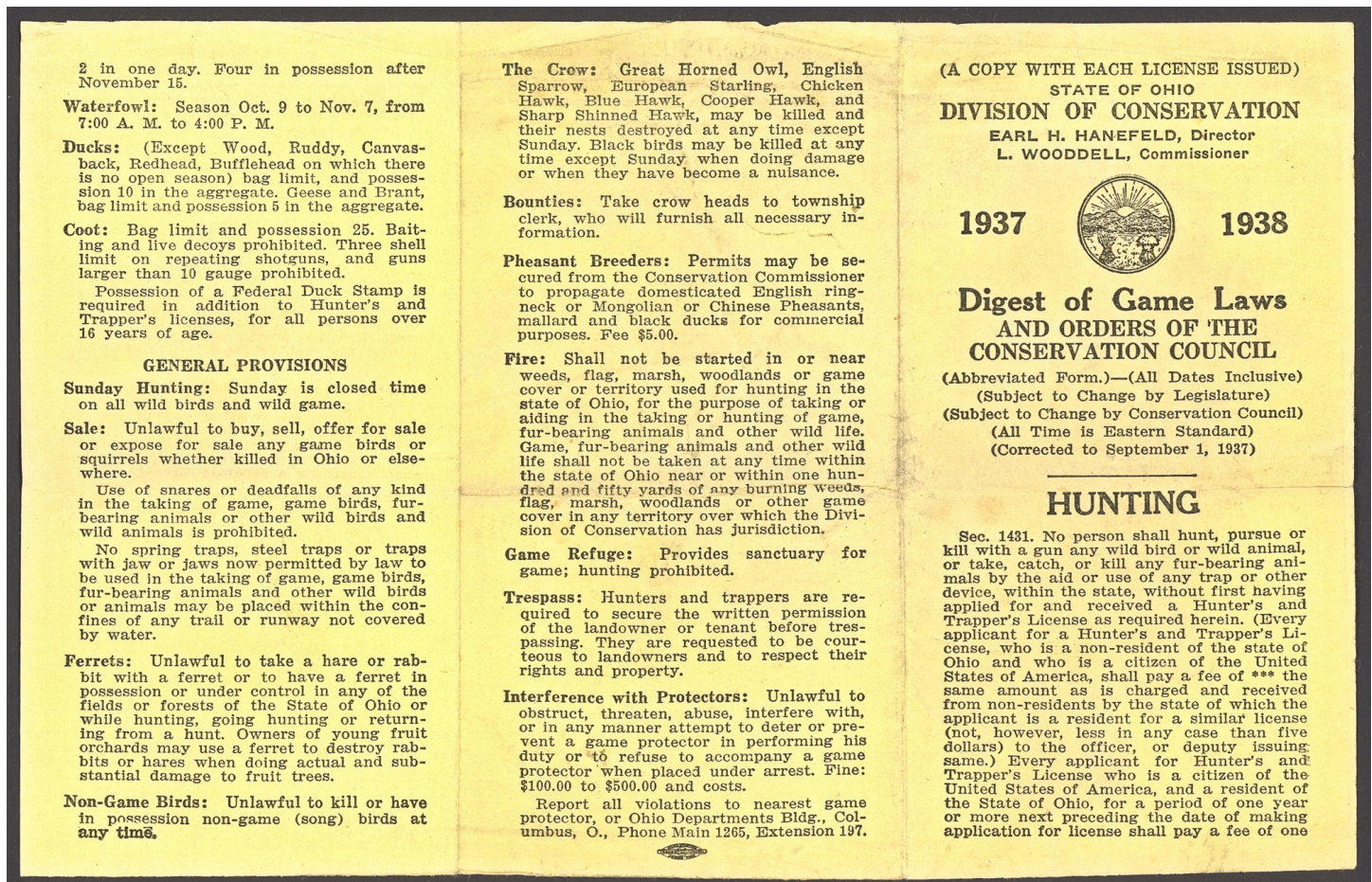


FIGURE 8. OHIO 1937-38 DIGEST OF GAME LAWS. NOTE WATERFOWL SEASON OPENED OCTOBER 9 (UPPER LEFT).

EXTRACTS FROM KANSAS FISH AND GAME LAWS

The ownership and title to all wild animals, birds and fishes is vested in the state.

Unlawful to hunt without a license, which must be carried on the person of the hunter.*

Unlawful to kill or have in possession any wild song or insectivorous bird or to destroy the nests or eggs thereof.

Fur bearing animals may be taken from December 1 to January 31.

Open seasons and bag limits: Quail—November 20 to 30, inclusive, daily bag 10, season bag 25. Prairie chickens—closed season. Doves—September 1st to October 15th, inclusive, daily bag 20. Fox squirrels—August 1 to January 1.

The season, bag limits and other regulation on ducks, geese, brant, coot, jacksnipe, rails and gallinules will be established by the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Biological Survey, and announced shortly before the season opens. The hunters are urged to communicate with the State Game Department and to watch the newspapers for this announcement. The season as established by the Department of Agriculture automatically becomes the Kansas as well as federal law.

Commission authorized by law to shorten or close seasons entirely on any game bird or animal.

Unlawful to kill birds unless they are in flight or from a motor boat, motor car or aeroplane, or with a gun larger than ten gauge.

Rabbits may be killed any time but one must have a license to hunt them.

Licensed hunter may make proper affidavit and ship to himself at his home address a two-day bag limit of game (except migratory birds).

Unlawful to kill, trap or molest beaver and otter at any time.

Unlawful to kill, or molest pheasants at any time.

This license not transferable and is not valid if in possession of nonresident.

For violations of the fish and game laws, penalties may be assessed, ranging from \$5 to \$500 with costs added. Violators may be imprisoned.

Complete fish and game laws sent free on request to the FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION, PRATT, KANSAS. Hunters are urged to return as directed, leg bands found on ducks and quail. This information is important in determining the habits of these birds.

In buying your license you have assisted the Fish and Game Department in restocking the state with fish and game. You can further assist this department and yourself by reporting fish and game law violations.

* Those legally required to buy a hunting license must also procure and affix to hunting license a state quail stamp to hunt quail in Kansas. Residents under 16 years of age not required to have a hunting license.

16-7673-s

FIGURE 9. REVERSE OF 1937 KANSAS RESIDENT LICENSE TO HUNT.
NOTE QUAIL SEASON OPENED NOVEMBER 20 (PARAGRAPH FIVE).

So now we know, the 1937 Kansas quail stamp was *not* the first fish and game license stamp issued by a state government in the U.S. That honor goes to the 1937 Pymatuning Hunting stamp – issued by the state of Ohio to hunt waterfowl on Pymatuning Lake (see Figures 10 and 11).

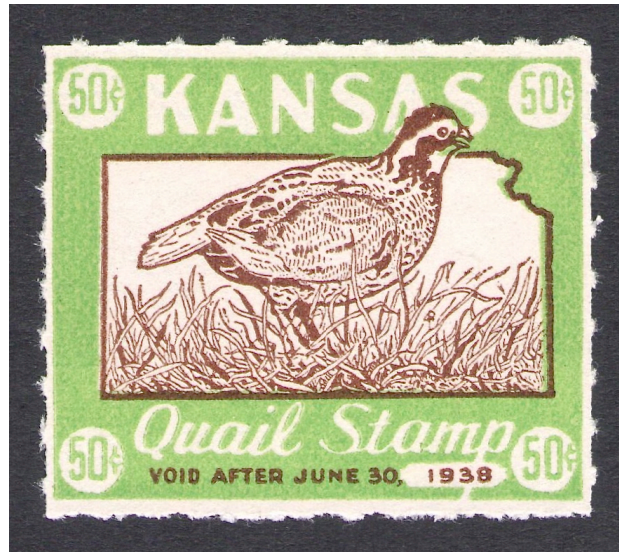


FIGURE 10. 1937-38 KANSAS QUAIL STAMP – MISSED BEING THE FIRST STATE FISH AND GAME LICENSE STAMP BY LESS THAN TWO MONTHS.

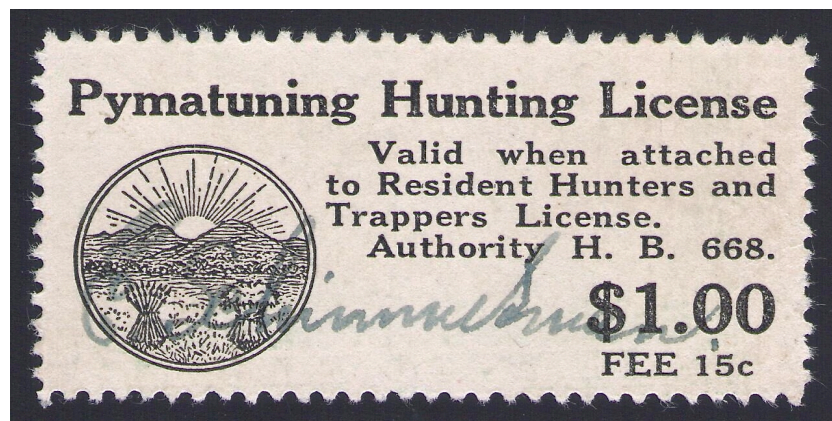


FIGURE 11. 1937 PYMATUNING WATERFOWL STAMP
– THE FIRST STATE FISH AND GAME LICENSE STAMP.

It wasn't until today, while in the initial stages of researching this blog series on the Kansas upland game bird stamps – that I finally connected the dots. I think I should pause here and allow everyone some time to wrap their minds around this – myself included.

Part Two

In the last post I reported the Kansas quail stamps were *not* the first fish and game stamps to be issued by a state government in the U.S. When I looked at the quail stamps in my album this morning, I found that my feelings for them had not changed – I still find them to be captivating. Before moving on to the upland series, we will take a closer look at the quail series and some of the varieties that makes them so fun to collect.

Introduction

The first game law in Kansas was enacted in 1861 and applied only to Leavenworth County. It protected deer, quail, partridge, prairie chicken and wild turkey from April 1 to September 1.

In 1877, Kansas Governor George T. Anthony established the office of Commissioner of Fisheries. He then appointed Mr. D.B. Long as the first Commissioner. Long negotiated the introduction of shad from China and over 100,000 salmon from California into Kansas ponds and streams.

The Kansas Fish and Game Department was formally organized in 1905 and a new set of game management laws was announced (the bag limit for quail was 20). At this time, resident hunters were required to purchase a license and the first Kansas game wardens were paid from the license proceeds (see Figure 1).

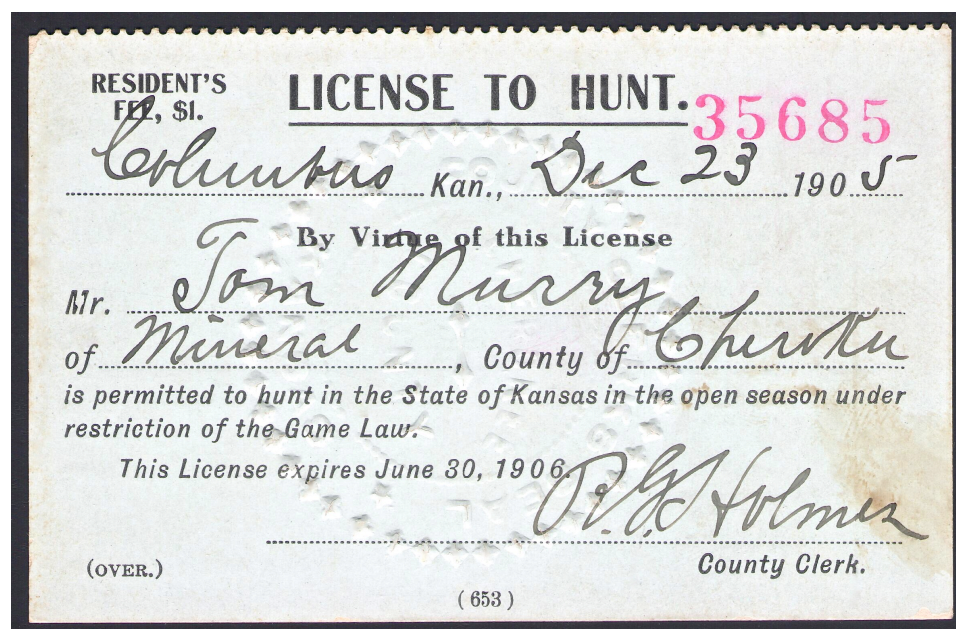


FIGURE 1. 1905-06 KANSAS RESIDENT LICENSE TO HUNT.

In 1911, the State Fish and Game Department was placed under the supervision of the University of Kansas Board of Regents. At this point the hunting license form was changed from a horizontal to a vertical format (see Figure 2).

Resident's
Fee, \$1. LICENSE TO HUNT. 10324

Hutchman Kan., *Sep. 9* 191*1*

By Virtue of this License,
Mr. *Geo. R. Burris*
of *Hutchman* County of *Deno*
is permitted to hunt in the State of Kansas in the
open season under restriction of the Game Law.
This License expires **June 30, 1912.**
H. M. Payne
County Clerk.

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE.

Age *25*
Color of eyes *Blue*
Color of hair *Brown*
Weight *130 lbs.*
Height *5 ft 7 1/2 in*

Geo. R. Burris
Licensee.

This License is not transferable. 3 5474

FIGURE 2. KANSAS LICENSE TO HUNT, ISSUED THE FIRST YEAR IN WHICH THIS FORM WAS USED – 1911.

A similar form was used until the 1930s, when boxes were added to the bottom for federal waterfowl stamps (1934) and quail stamps (1937).

In 1925 the Fish and Game Department was reorganized as the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. A three-member Commission was appointed by the governor. Starting in 1927, men between the ages of 18 and 70 were required to obtain a license before fishing and the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission was authorized to appoint game wardens.

The Kansas Quail Stamps

For an introduction to the Kansas quail stamps and a discussion of quail stamp proofs, please see *Morton Dean Joyce: Fish and Game Hall of Famer – Part Two*.

In the Joyce blog I quoted Kansas quail stamp specialist David Lucas, “[Starting in 1937] The quail stamps were issued by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to raise monies for the Quail Preservation and Propagation Fund, which supported the state quail farms and other efforts. All quail hunters were required to purchase the 50-cent stamp and affix it to their hunting licenses”.

The quail stamps were printed through 1961-62. I covered the Kansas quail proofs in some detail in the Joyce blog, including some of the constant printing varieties that collectors find so fascinating. Today’s discussion will focus primarily on the varieties that can be found on regularly issued quail stamps.

All of the Kansas quail stamps were **printed in two colors**. Philatelists refer to these stamps as *bi-colored*. This is one their most striking features and accounts for no small part of their allure. As we shall see later in this post, it also allows for some very collectible printing varieties.

The first Kansas quail stamp was printed with a central image (vignette) in the shape of the state enclosing a quail standing in the grass. Both the vignette and the void date were printed in dark brown ink.

The vignette was centered within a light green outer border area which included round denomination (50 cents face value) tablets in all four corners and the void date of “June 30, 1938” – which we discussed at length in part one of this series. The resulting effect draws you in with near 3D eye appeal (see Figure 10, part one).

The quail stamps were then cut into large 50 subject panes and distributed to county clerks around the state (see Figure 3). There are really no major varieties to speak of on the first issue, only color shades. However, if you examine the pane below, you will see several stamps along the right side which exhibit a slightly broken frame line on the right – where the metal plate was “nicked”.



FIGURE 3. 1937-38 KANSAS QUAIL, COMPLETE PANE OF 50. EX LUCAS, EX DANIELSON.

The following year (1938-39), the quail stamps were printed with a black vignette and void date within a red border and issued in sheets of 50 (see Figure 4).



FIGURE 4. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL, UNUSED PAIR. EX DANIELSON.

The second year saw the introduction of a flaw in the printing plate, likely due to wear. Over time, this plate flaw became enlarged. Pioneer fish and game collectors decided it resembled a “white feather” – and the name stuck. The white feather variety is by far and away the most highly sought after and prized by collectors today (see Figures 5 and 6).

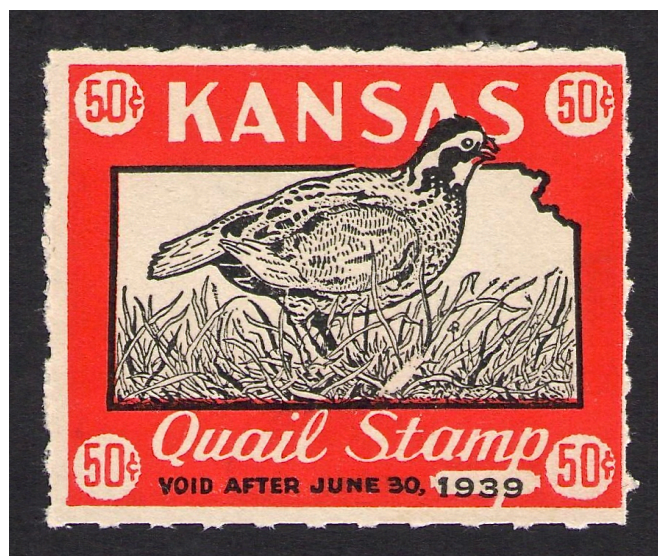


FIGURE 5. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL WITH NASCENT PLATE FLAW.

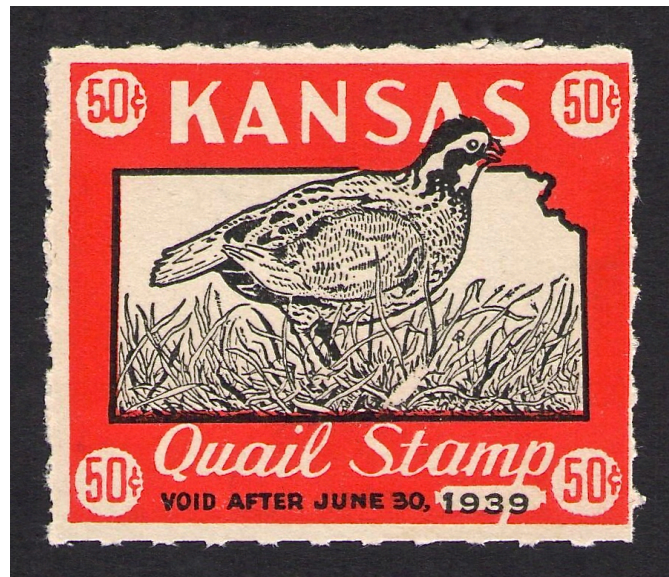


FIGURE 6. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL WITH PLATE FLAW RESEMBLING A SMALL “WHITE FEATHER”.

The white feather variety can be found on all of the quail stamps printed through 1961.

Also starting with the second year, we find examples of quail stamps with numbers printed on the face (occasionally written by hand). It is believed these numbers were applied at the county level and served in bookkeeping procedures (see Figures 7-9).

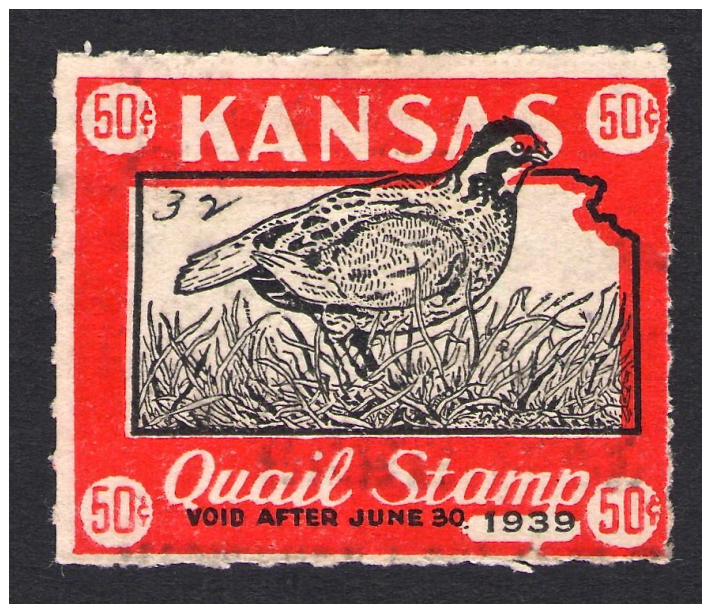


FIGURE 7. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL NUMBERED BY HAND.

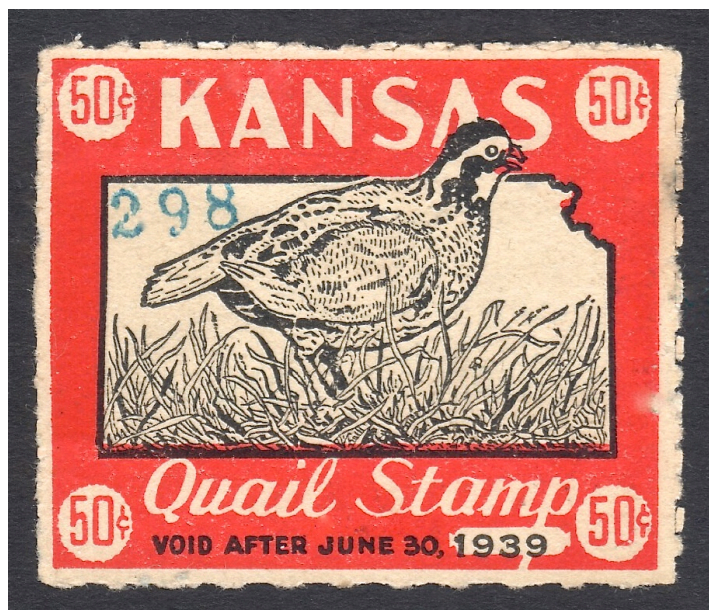


FIGURE 8. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL WITH PRINTED SERIAL NUMBER.

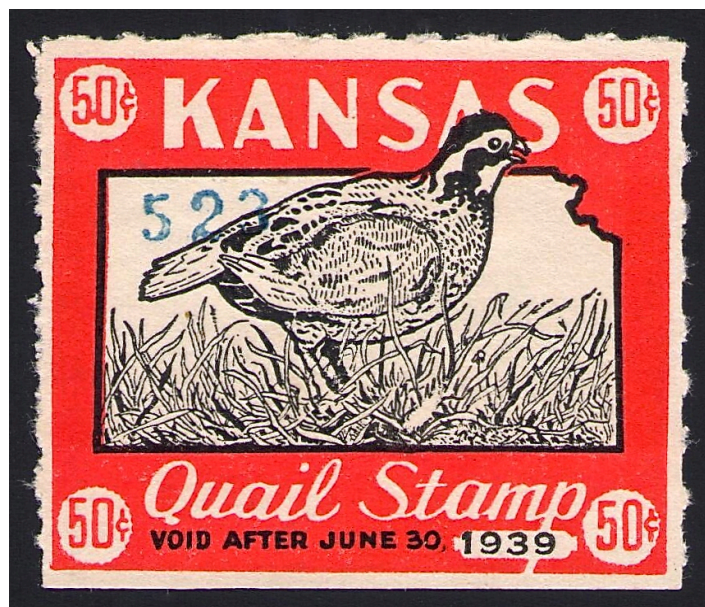


FIGURE 9. 1938-39 KANSAS QUAIL
SHOWING PLATE FLAW WITH SERIAL NUMBER.

At the end of the 1938 season, there was a shortage of quail stamps available to the county clerks. Howard Thorn, an enterprising clerk in Wyandott (eastern Kansas) subsequently created provisional quail stamps in early 1939 (see Figure 10).

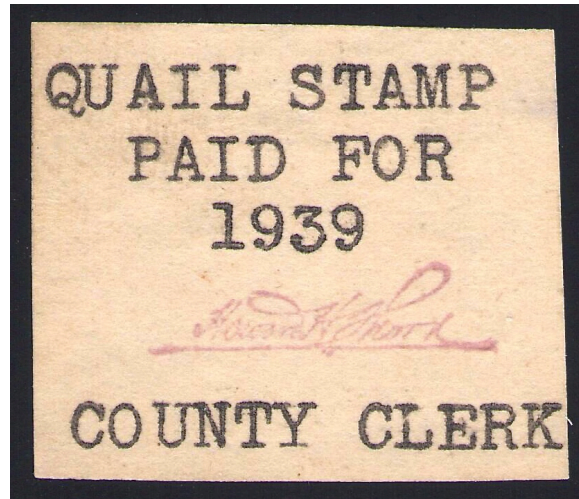


FIGURE 10. 1939 PROVISIONAL KANSAS QUAIL STAMP.

Starting with the third year (1939-40), the quail stamps were printed and issued in single-stamp booklet panes with a tab at the left side (see Figure 11). This practice continued through 1946-47. Acquiring these issues with the complete tab represents a challenge for collectors today.

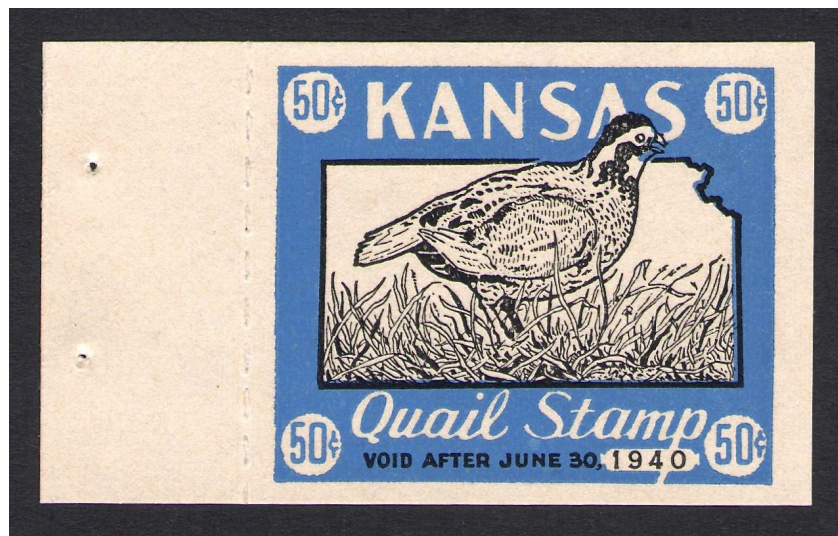


FIGURE 11. 1939-40 KANSAS QUAIL WITH TAB.

By this point in time, the plate flaw had grown to the point where the white feather was clearly visible (see Figure 12).

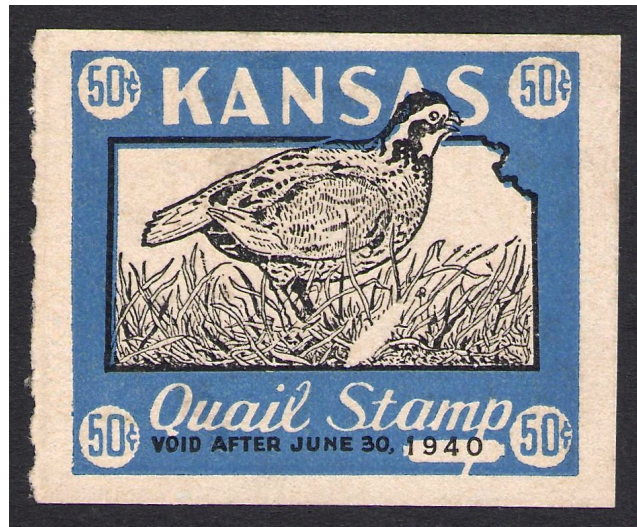


FIGURE 12. 1939-40 KANSAS QUAIL WITH WHITE FEATHER.

The broken frame line located along the right side has become more conspicuous (see Figure 13). This constant variety may be found on quail stamps for all years through 1961-62.

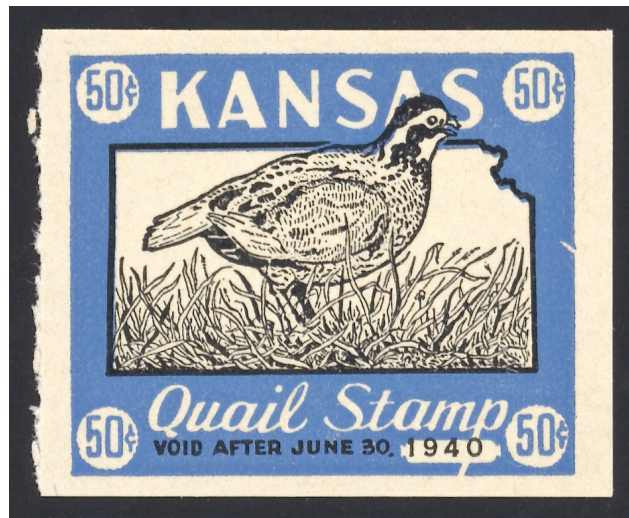


FIGURE 13. 1939-40 KANSAS QUAIL WITH NICK AT RIGHT BORDER.

I showed two proofs from the 1939-40 issue in the Joyce blog, including a white feather variety. Since then, I have acquired an exhibit page from Kansas specialist Neil Danielson which shows the largest recorded multiple of this proof (see Figure 14).

Printers Proof

1939-40 Printers Proof

From 1939-40 through 1946-47 Printers Proofs were printed. These printers proofs were printed the same as what was to become the standard issue for 1947-48 through 1961-62: panes of 10, 2 across 5 down, straight edge on all four sides. All were printed on plain wove paper a shade lighter in ink color than the regular issue. The exception is the 1945-46 which is on a dark wove paper.



The largest recorded multiple of the 1939-40 Printers Proof, which contains the 2nd recorded example of the 1939-40 Printers Proof White Feather.

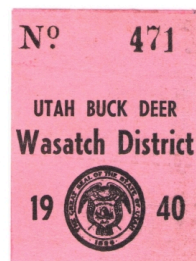
FIGURE 14. PAGE FROM NEIL DANIELSON'S KANSAS QUAIL EXHIBIT, SHOWING THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE OF THE 1939-40 PROOF.

The 1940-41 issue is the earliest I have encountered with a number printed on the *reverse* (see Figures 15, 16 and 17). This is relatively uncommon for the booklet type stamps.

State and Local Issues — 1940-1941

Utah Buck Deer and Kansas Quail Stamps

Very little is known about the buck deer stamp issued by Utah in 1940. Utah buck deer stamps have not been recorded for any other year. It is important in that it is the earliest recorded fish or game stamp issued by a western state or local government.



1940 Utah Buck Deer

The only recorded example



1940-41 Kansas quail



1940-41 Kansas Quail
with white feather



1940-41 Kansas Quail
with white feather and
serial number on reverse



1941-42 Kansas quail
proof that was put into use
Two recorded examples



1941-42 Kansas quail



1941-42 Kansas quail
with plate flaw along
right frameline



1941-42 Kansas quail
with white feather



1941-42 Kansas quail
with serial number
on reverse

FIGURE 15. PAGE FROM MY FIRST EXHIBIT INCLUDING 1940-41 AND 1941-42 QUAIL STAMPS AND VARIETIES.



FIGURE 16. 1941-42 KANSAS QUAIL W/O SERIAL NUMBER.



FIGURE 17. 1941-42 KANSAS QUAIL, NUMBERED ON THE REVERSE.

Starting with the 1947-48 issue, the quail stamps were printed in panes of ten (two across and five down). From this point on, quail stamps from most years have been recorded with numbers printed on the reverse.

In some cases you find one number (usually in red) that is in the hundreds. I believe these were pane numbers. In other cases, you find larger numbers (in the thousands). These larger numbers can be found in both red and black. These would be numbers for each individual stamp on the pane. An on occasion, you find both on the same stamp (see Figures 18 and 19).



FIGURE 18. 1947-48 KANSAS QUAIL PANE, REVERSE SHOWING ONLY PANE NUMBERS.

State and Local Issues —1948

Kansas Quail Stamps



1948-49 Kansas quail



1948-49 Kansas quail
with plate flaw



1948-49 Kansas quail
with white feather



1948-49 Kansas quail
with serial number



Complete sheet of 1948-49 Kansas quail showing
serial numbers applied to reverse of stamps
The red numbers are apparently sheet numbers.

FIGURE 19. PAGE FROM MY FIRST EXHIBIT SHOWING THE REVERSE OF A 1948-49 PANE WITH BOTH PANE AND INDIVIDUAL NUMBERS.

As promised earlier in part one of this series, the bi-colored nature of these stamps allowed for some collectible varieties in the form of dramatic shifts that occurred when trying to center the vignette within the outer border (see Figures 20 and 21).



FIGURE 20. 1953-54 KANSAS QUAIL WITH THE VIGNETTE AND VOID DATE SHIFTED LOW, ROULETTED ON ALL FOUR SIDES.



FIGURE 21. 1953-54 KANSAS QUAIL WITH THE VIGNETTE AND VOID DATE SHIFTED HIGH.

These are just some of the many varieties that can be found on the Kansas quail stamps. It is easy to see why this this series has been a favorite of philatelists since the day they were issued!

As stated by David Lucas, the primary purpose of the quail stamps was to fund the quail farms located throughout Kansas. In the 1950s, Kansas began closing down these farms. The final stamp in the series, 1961-62, was printed but never issued as the last of the quail farms had already closed (see Figure 22).

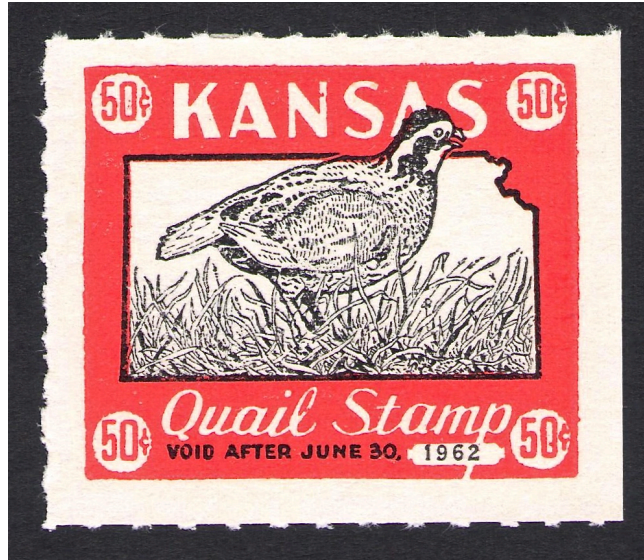


FIGURE 22 THE 1961-62 KANSAS QUAIL STAMP WAS PRINTED BUT NEVER ISSUED.

Part Three

In today's post we shall take a look at the Kansas upland game bird stamps which superseded the quail stamp series in 1961. The upland bird stamps had a more modern look than the classic quail stamps and were printed in a single color. However, starting with the third issue the stamps were printed with serial numbers on the face, sometimes in a different color of ink. The colors of ink used to print the numbers included red, blue and black. Of major interest to philatelists is the fact that stamps from several different years have been recorded *with the serial numbers missing*.

Introduction

At the end of the 1950s, quail populations decreased precipitously on farms across Kansas. In 1960, bag limits were greatly reduced and many farmers did not allow hunting on their farms at all. Quail hunting prospects were perceived as dismal, at best.

According to an article in the *Emporia Gazette* on Saturday, November 12, 1960, "The purchase of quail stamps is down in this county by better than 50 per cent. Many hunters say they are not going to hunt quail, therefore they will not purchase a stamp".

Such sentiments set off a debate among sportsmen. Those hunters that were conservation-minded purchased a stamp anyhow because the money was used for restocking purposes and, therefore, analogous in purpose to the federal waterfowl stamp (see Figure 1).

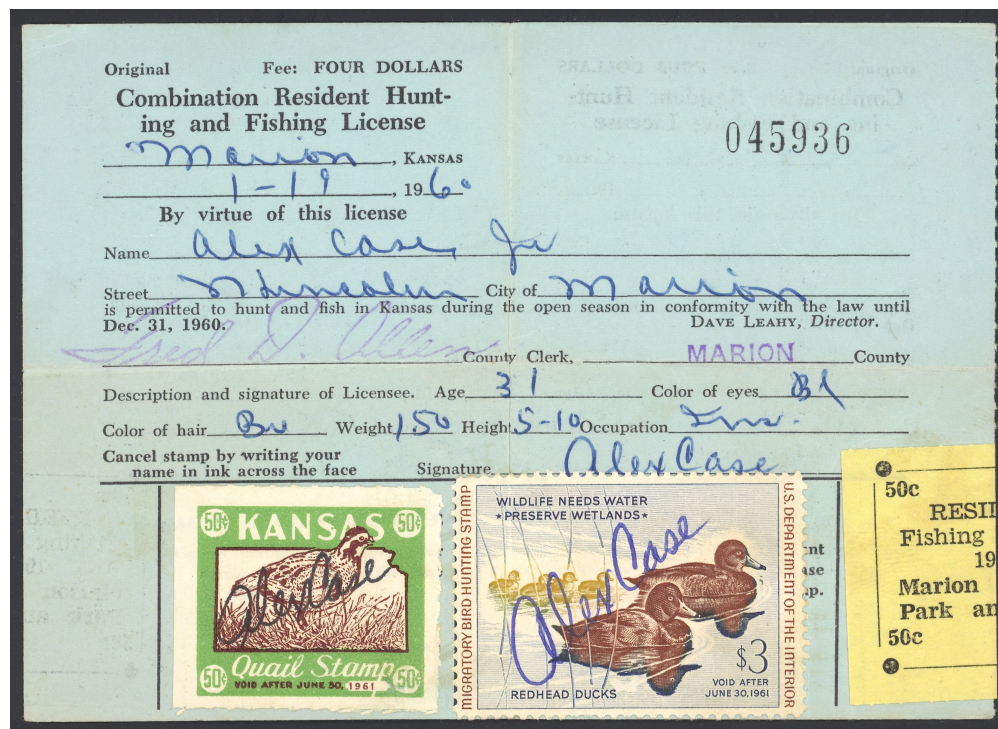


FIGURE 1. ONE OF THE LAST QUAIL STAMPS USED TO HUNT IN KANSAS.
NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMP,
A 1960 MARION COUNTY FISHING STAMP IS FOLDED-OVER THE RIGHT SIDE.

In other words, many hunters realized that continuing to support the program was in the best long-term interest of both quail populations and quail hunting. Unfortunately for the venerable quail stamp, the handwriting was on the wall.

Upland Game Bird Stamps Issued

In his catalog, Charles Bellinghausen stated: “During the first part of 1961, quail stamps bearing the expiration date of June 30, 1962, were printed and sent to County clerks and license vendors. However, the legislature, meeting at the same time as the distribution was being made abolished the quail stamp and instituted in its place the upland game bird stamp.”

Subsequently, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission withdrew the distribution of quail stamps and issued the upland game bird stamp bearing the expiration date of December 31, 1961. Persons who had already purchased the 50 cent quail stamp were allowed to trade in the stamps on the purchase of the \$1.00 upland stamps”.

In *Morton Dean Joyce: Fish and Game Stamp Hall of Famer – Part Two*, I explained that after the last of the state-funded quail farms closed down – the emphasis on Kansas game management switched to upland game birds *in general*.

The switch from a quail stamp to a general upland game bird stamp made it more likely sportsmen would purchase a stamp at all – it gave them more hunting options and more “bang for their buck”.

An article which appeared in the *Salina Journal* on Friday, November 10, 1961, informed sportsmen “This year hunters will have to have an Upland Game Bird stamp in their possession to hunt prairie chickens, pheasants and quail”.

The first three upland game bird stamps (1961 – 1963) were printed on different colors of paper and had a simple line border. Unlike the quail stamps, a *calendar year* expiration date was printed across the bottom. The subjects depicted on the stamps were pheasants, prairie chickens and wild turkeys, respectively. The 1963 stamp was the first to have a serial number printed on the face (see Figures 2, 3 and 4).



FIGURE 2. 1961 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.



FIGURE 3. 1962 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.



FIGURE 4. 1963 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.

In 1963, at least one pane of ten stamps (2 x 5) was printed with the serial numbers missing. The error was listed by Bellinghausen as "UGB3a... serial number omitted" and Curtis as "SHKAUB3a... Serial No. missing" (see Figure 5).



FIGURE 5. 1963 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD ERROR
– SERIAL NUMBER MISSING, EX BELLINGHAUSEN, SMILEY.

Beginning with the 1964 issue, all remaining stamps in the series were reduced in size, did not include a border and were printed on white paper (see Figures 6 and 7).



FIGURE 6. 1964 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.

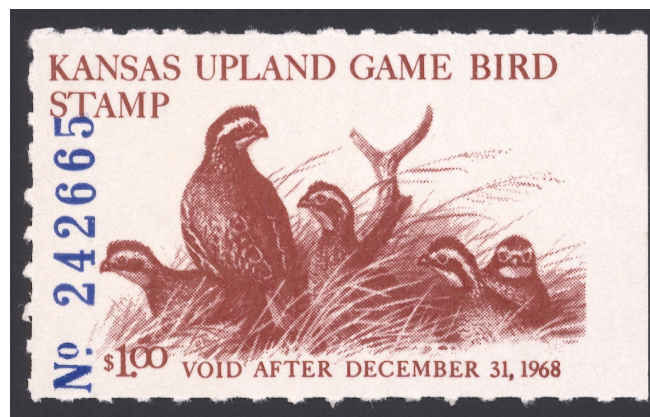


FIGURE 7. 1968 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.

In 1968 Kansas revenue specialist Hugh Smiley obtained an interesting variety on the 1968 stamp. On first glance it looks like the serial number is missing. However, upon closer inspection, the serial number was impressed into the stamp but the numbering device had run out of ink (see Figure 8). Philatelists often refer to this as an albino or "ghost" serial number.



FIGURE 8. GHOST SERIAL NUMBER ON 1968 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP, EX SMILEY.

A short time later, Fish and Game Hall of Farmer Charles Hermann came up with a second example. The Hermann example is even more striking, as it is from the left side of a pane (the same side as where the number is impressed) and includes an eye-catching blank space (see Figure 9).



FIGURE 9. GHOST SERIAL NUMBER ON 1968 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP, EX HERMANN.

In 1972, Hugh Smiley acquired an example of the last Kansas upland game stamp which has been recorded with a missing serial number (see Figures 10 and 11).

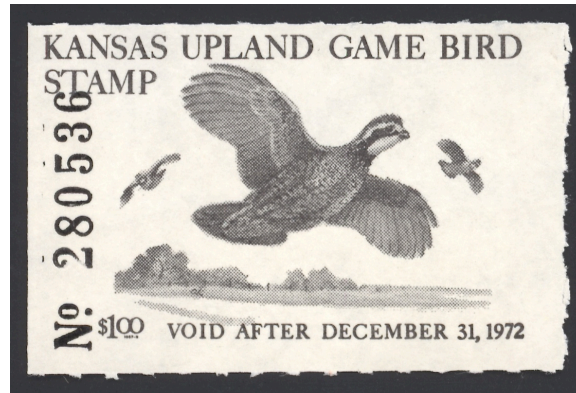


FIGURE 10. 1972 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP.



FIGURE 11. 1972 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD ERROR – SERIAL NUMBER MISSING, EX SMILEY.

This is the homemade album page where Hugh Smiley kept his three upland game bird stamps with serial number errors (Figure 12):

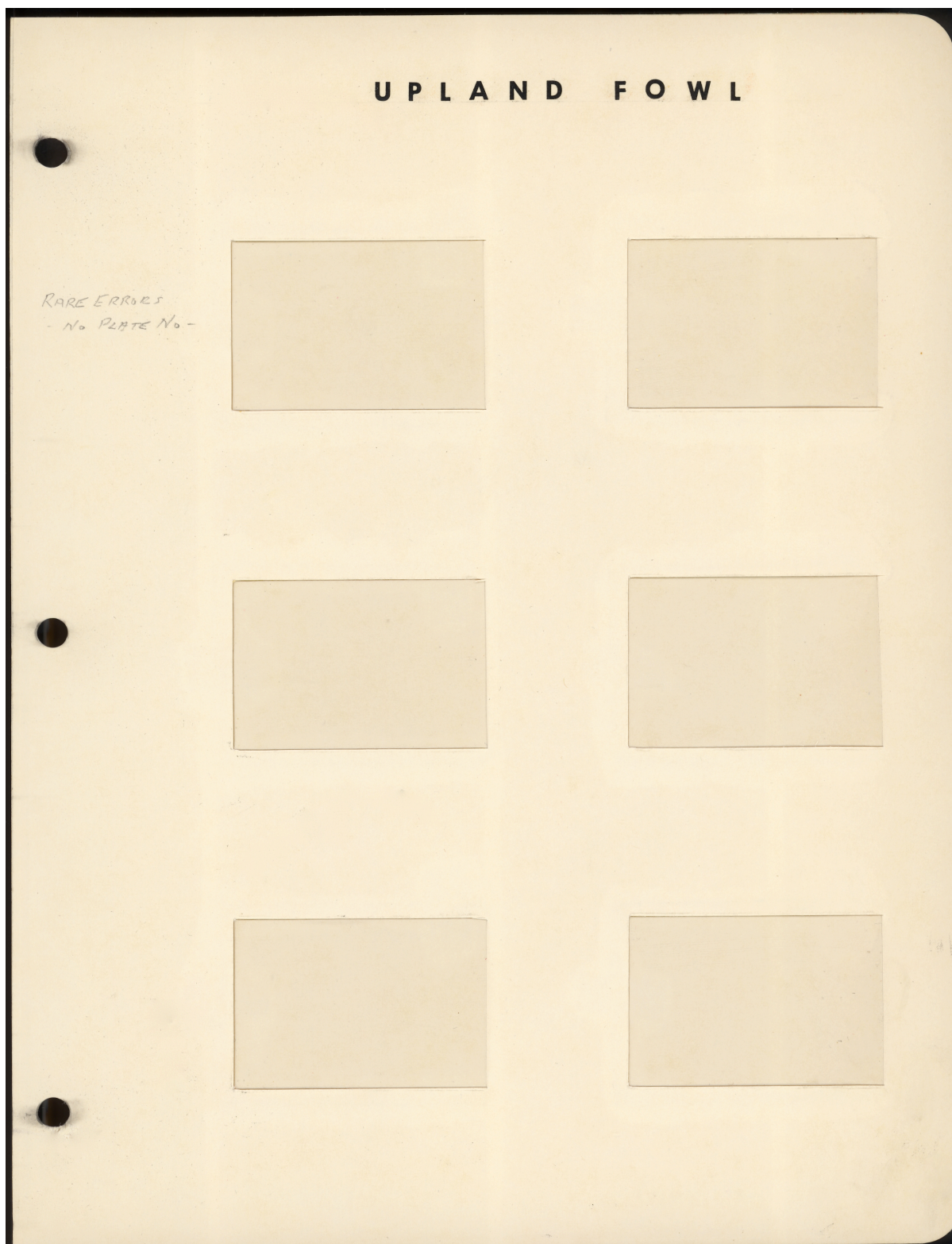


FIGURE 12. HUGH SMILEY'S HOMEMADE ALBUM PAGE FOR HIS KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD ERRORS.

The 1973 Invert

Late in December of 1972, the Sedgwick County Clerk's office received 3,000 panes of 1973 upland game bird stamps (30,000 stamps). Upon receipt, Deputy Clerk Joan Waring was assigned to count the stamps and record the serial numbers for bookkeeping and auditing purposes.

While counting the stamps, Waring found that one of the sheets looked "different". This was caused by a printing error. One pane of ten stamps became inverted after the design was printed and before the serial numbers and rouletting was applied. The preceding and following sheets were normal. Waring's invert discovery was widely reported – in the national philatelic press and in newspapers throughout Kansas.

The error was sold to Charles Bellinghausen, the Dean of Kansas Revenue Collectors. Shortly before his death, Bellinghausen sold it to his good friend, and fellow Kansas collector, Hugh Smiley. In 1990, when I was preparing my first exhibit, *Classic State and Local Fish and Game Stamps*, Hugh allowed me acquire it for the exhibit (see Figures 13, 14 and 15).



FIGURE 13. CHARLES BELLINGHAUSEN KEPT THIS ARTICLE IN HIS STAMP ALBUM.

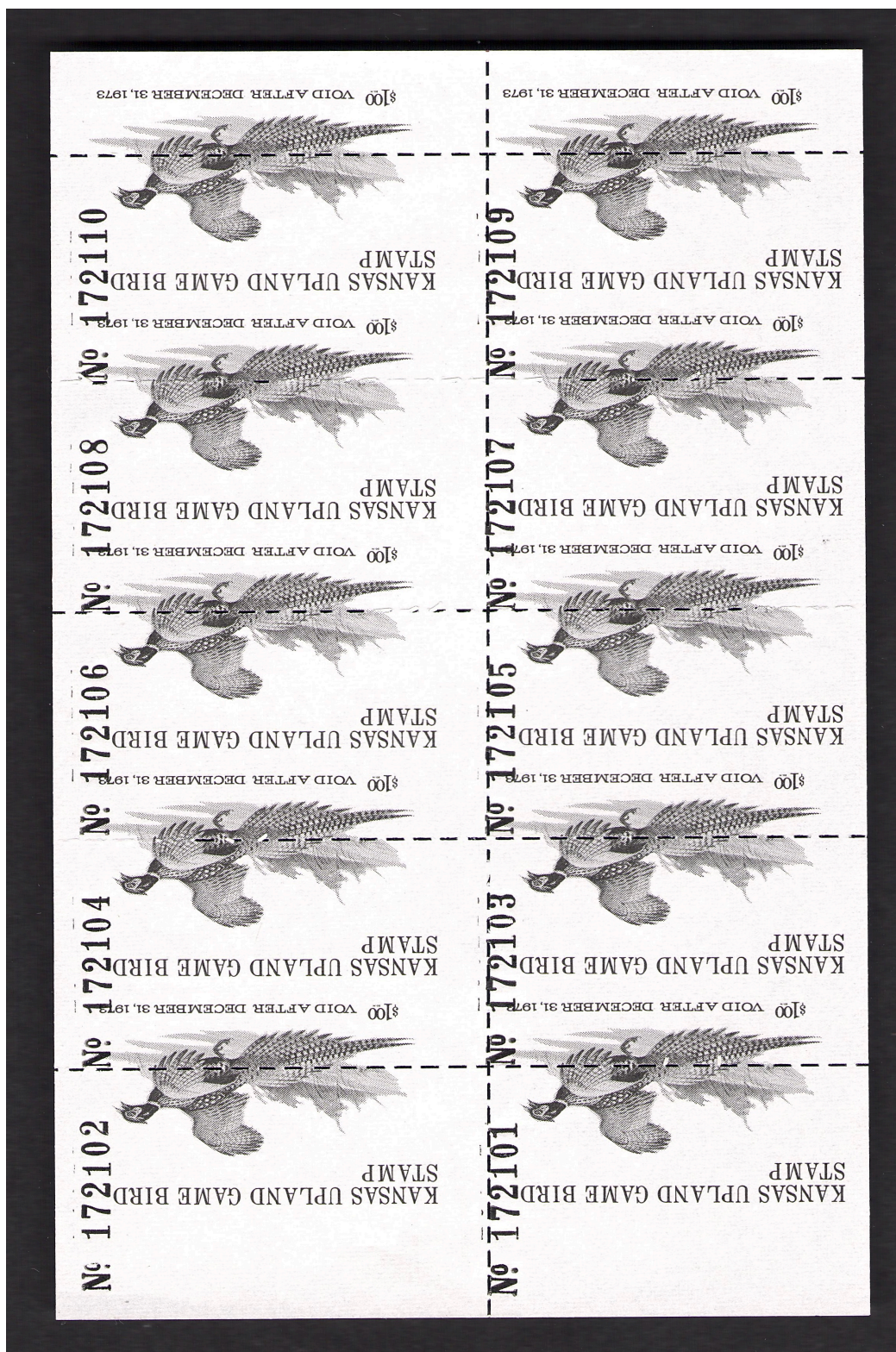


FIGURE 14. THE UNIQUE 1972-73 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD INVERTED PANE.
EX BELLINGHAUSEN, EX SMILEY.



FIGURE 15. THE PRECEDING AND FOLLOWING PANES, MOUNTED ON THE REVERSE OF MY EXHIBIT PAGE.

Following the 1973 seasons, the upland game bird stamps were discontinued – bringing to an end the combined Kansas quail-upland series that had started back *in the fall* of 1937.

To close out this series of posts, I would like to show images of the reverse *and the obverse* of the 1973 Kansas Combination Fish and Hunt License issued to John Waner, former Superintendent of Marion County Park and Lake.

The reverse of Waner's license (the side I always show) has one of the last five Marion County Duck stamps sold affixed to it. The obverse – as luck would have it – has one of the last Kansas Upland Game Bird stamps affixed, signed by John Waner (see figures 16 and 17).

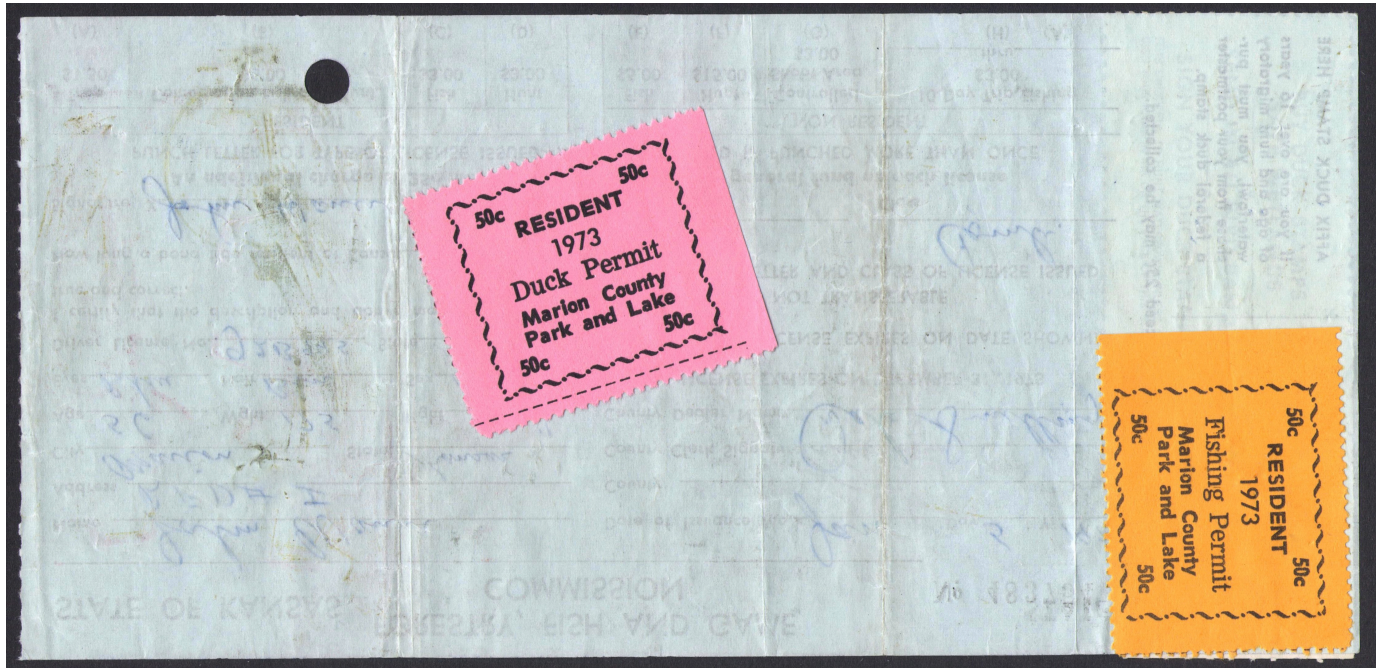


FIGURE 16. REVERSE OF JOHN WANER'S 1973 KANSAS COMBINATION FISH AND HUNT LICENSE.

STATE OF KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION No 483754

Name John Waner Date of Issuance Mo. Jan Day 5 Yr. 1973
 Address RFD # 1 County MARION
 City Marion State Kansas County Clerk Signature Charles C. Fowler
 Age 56 Wght. 175 Hght. 5'9" County Dealer Name Wade Snelling
 Eyes Blue Hair Brown Sex M
 Driver License No. 92B945 State Kansas
 I certify that the description and above matters stated are true and correct.
 How long a bona fide resident of Kansas 56
 Signature X John Waner

LICENSE EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 1973
 TRIP FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES ON DATE SHOWN.
 NOT TRANSFERABLE
 ENTER CODE LETTER AND CLASS OF LICENSE ISSUED
 Code B Class Comb.

An additional charge of 25¢ must be collected for county general fund on each license
 PUNCH LETTER FOR TYPE OF LICENSE ISSUED—NO LICENSE VALID IF PUNCHED MORE THAN ONCE

RESIDENT				NON RESIDENT			
Trap \$1.50	Combination Fish and Hunt \$6.00	Fish \$3.00	Hunt \$3.00	Fish \$5.00	Hunt \$15.00	Controlled Shoot Area \$3.00	10 Day Trip Fishing \$3.00 thru
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 \$5
 VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1974
 MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP
 KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP
 No 110701
 \$100 VOID AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1975

FIGURE 17. RARE VIEW OF THE OBERSE, SHOWING ONE OF THE LAST KANSAS UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMPS, SIGNED BY JOHN WANER.

In an article from the *Bellevue Telescope*, on Thursday, January 3, 1974, the sports editor informed his readers, "With 1973 at a close, Kansas sportsmen are reminded their hunting licenses expire. 1974 licenses are available from county clerks and local vendors. The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission notes that **an upland game bird stamp is no longer required in 1974...**"

I hope you have enjoyed learning about the Kansas Upland Game Bird stamps. I would like to thank Charles Bellinghausen and my old friend Hugh Smiley, pioneer fish and game collectors and also Neil Danielson and David Lucas, who followed in their footsteps, for making this blog series possible. As we approach the two year mark since our initial launch, all of us at Waterfowl stamps and More would like you all for your continued support – and Happy Collecting!