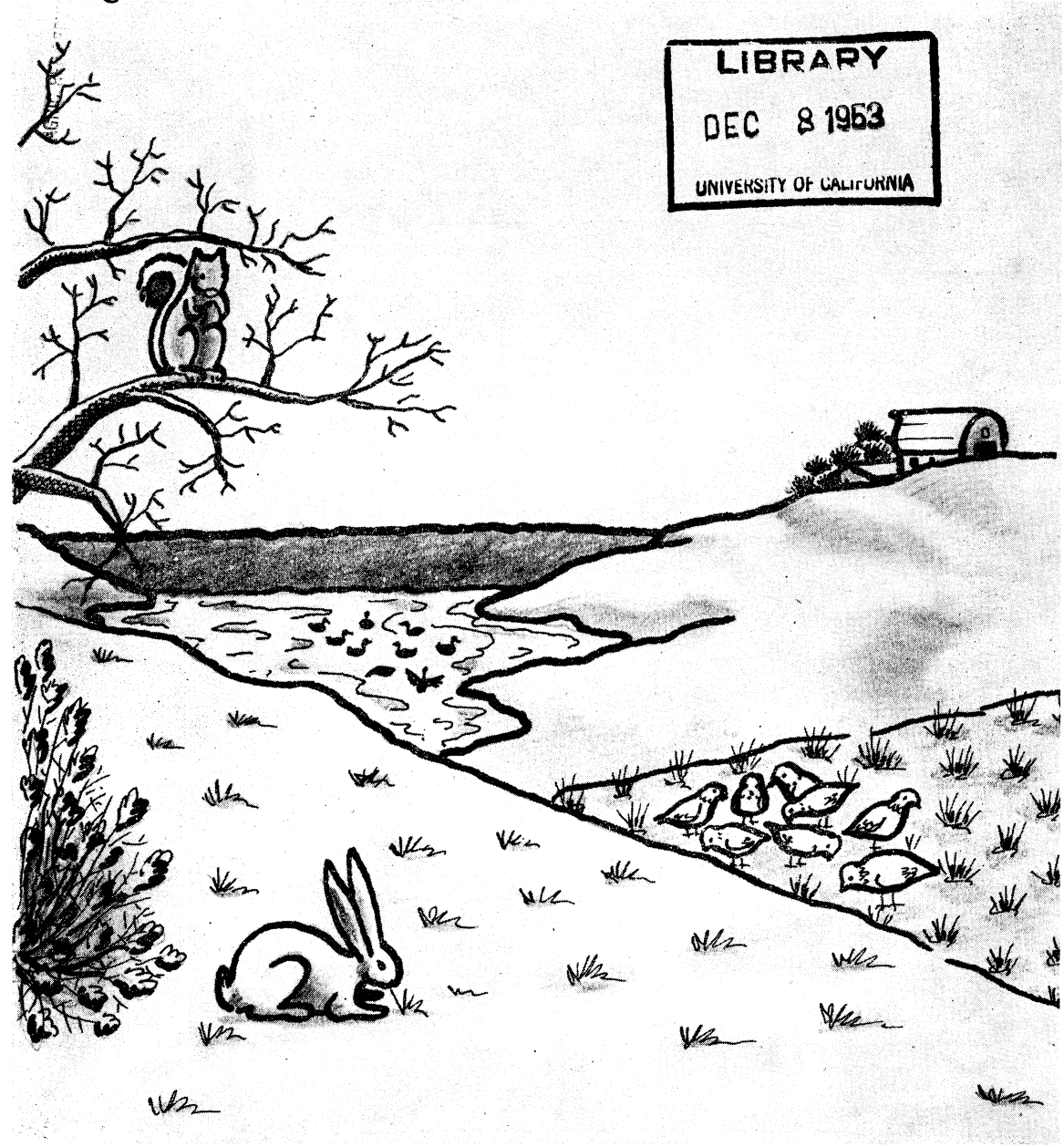


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4-H WILDLIFE MANUAL

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OKLAHOMA A. AND M. COLLEGE
SHAWNEE BROWN, *Director*
Stillwater, Oklahoma

4-H WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT OUTLINE

By FORD MERCER

Wildlife Conservation Defined. All material things on earth must be placed in one of the three following categories: plant, animal, or mineral. We are concerned only with those which are to be found in the plant and animal kingdom in this project and the relation of the plants to the animals and vice versa.

Purpose. The purpose of this 4-H Club Project is to give Oklahoma 4-H Club members an opportunity to do something in the way of conservation for wildlife which is found on the farms on which 4-H Club members live. Wildlife will include those species, both plant and animal, which are to be found throughout this state, and their relationship to each other. It is known when this country was opened for settlement that the homes of many species of wildlife were necessarily destroyed and as a result, the population of these species was either completely exterminated or the number greatly reduced. These things were unavoidable features of farming. People on the land could not produce crops and make a living from the soil without clearing, plowing and grazing. However, the wildlife which remains and with proper use of land, it is agreed that there is very definitely a place for the wildlife remaining, and that it should be encouraged to propagate its kind and be used according to the best known use.

Objectives. The aim of this project is to have 4-H Club members enrolled carry a continuous demonstration about wildlife management and habitat improvement on a small part of the farm devoted to wildlife conservation. Some of the ways this can be done are:

1. Setting aside a plot of land on the farm to be designated a 4-H Wildlife Management Plot. This plot may consist of one acre, or many acres. It should be fenced, if possible, and should not be grazed or burned. This plot may be a small thicket or area adjacent to a creek, draw of woodland or some other bit of land on the farm that can be obtained for a wildlife management plot. On farms where there are farm ponds, 4-H Club members may use the pond or ponds and surrounding area as a Wildlife Management Plot. If this area is fenced and protected, it makes a very desirable plot—or which much ground and water plant growth may be observed and studied, also one which will serve as a suitable habitat for many species of animal life.

2. Each year club members enrolled in this project will make a study of the plants and animals growing or living in this plot, and make a record in the Wildlife Conservation Report - Section II of

this outline. List these species and any increase from year to year, and make a record of the measures taken to improve this plot as a more suitable wildlife habitat. This record will constitute the Wildlife Conservation Report of the club members enrolled in this project.

3. The Oklahoma State Fairs offer cash awards to 4-H Club members on 4-H wildlife exhibits and this should be a part of every 4-H Club member's annual project work. This exhibit should be made each year according to the 4-H Wildlife Exhibit specifications contained in this outline.

How to Proceed. 4-H Club members who are enrolled in the 4-H Wildlife Conservation Project should, next, get the permission of the parents to select a given area on the farm to be used as the wildlife conservation area. This area may be any convenient size. It may be a small swale swamp, slough, creek, the area about the farm pond, or may include an area of several acres. This area is set aside for a farm wildlife refuge on which there should be no grazing or burning. The project on this area is to be continuous from year to year, with a well-kept record of the progress of the project. The club member's own initiative and ideas should be used in the development of the 4-H Wildlife Project.

The following outline is suggestive only and you will note the outline to accomplishment in the project is listed by years.

First Year:

1. Select the area for the Wildlife Conservation Project Plot. Fence the area, if possible, to exclude grazing. Make and place some suitable sign on the fence indicating the area as a 4-H Wildlife Management area.
2. Protect area from burning.
3. Start a Wildlife notebook—one page—for each animal or bird which you have studied and write a brief summary of your observations on each bird or animal.
4. Learn the name and uses of fifteen trees, shrubs and vines which provide shelter and food for wildlife which use the area.
5. Make a monthly count of the number and kinds of wildlife using the area. This census should include all the wildlife seen on the area, both game, non-game and fur-bearing animals.
6. To improve your wildlife plot, the planting of certain trees, shrubs and legumes will provide more food and cover. Some of these plants are sumac, persimmon, black haw, red haw, buckthorn (sometimes called chittam wood), buck brush, wild blackberry, partridge pea, wild pea and beans. The Division of Forestry, Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, State Capitol, Oklahoma City, are providing "Wildlife

Bundles for Habitat Improvement” at a nominal price, and may be obtained from them if you desire to make a planting for your plot.

7. Start a wildlife library by securing bulletins, leaflets, magazine articles, etc.
8. Make a wildlife exhibit at county and state fairs. (See specifications, back cover of this circular.)
9. Keep permanent Wildlife Conservation Reports from year to year.

Second Year:

1. Continue the protection of the area from fire, grazing, and burning.
2. Continue regular visits to the project for study and especially note what animals and birds are using the project area.
3. Decide, if possible, what you can do to make the area more desirable for use by wildlife by planting food patches, trees, shrubs, etc.
4. Be able to recognize 20 birds and 10 animals on the area or about the farm. Learn the difference between blue-darter hawks and other hawks. Learn to recognize three common hawks of the vicinity and study their food habits. Use your influence to protect beneficial hawks and owls from destruction. (Timley topics may be presented at local club meetings on the subject of hawks.)
5. From the records in your Permanent Wildlife Conservation Report, make a list of the game and fur-bearing species which are using your Wildlife Management Plot. Opposite the name of each write the names of their natural enemies. Then read about the life and food habits of all these animals in your Wildlife Library or other books. Observe them as much as possible in the field and make notes of what you see. Try to understand how, under natural conditions, they all live together on the same farm. If it seems that some of these birds or animals are doing real damage to your desirable species try to provide better shelter for these species, but do not start a campaign of destruction. Remember that losses from predators can sometimes be traced to inadequate shelter.
6. Learn what poisonous snakes occur in the state, how to recognize them at sight, and first-aid procedures for bites of poisonous snakes. Study the food habits of other snakes and use your influence to protect them from needless destruction.
7. To improve wildlife plots. (See number 6 under first year.)



8. Include in your Wildlife Conservation Report a separate page for each species of wildlife studied on which to copy a description of the species and notes about its habits. It may be desirable, if possible, to secure a good picture of each species and clip newspaper and magazine articles and paste them on the proper pages. Add additional pages, as needed, to hold the additional material about any animal.
9. Give Wildlife timely topics at local club meetings.
10. Watch for articles in magazines and farm papers on wildlife and related subjects.
11. Complete Wildlife Conservation Report at end of the club year.

Third to Tenth Year:

By this time the project should be well under way, and much progress should have been made. The club member will continue to enroll and carry the project, making such improvements as may be deemed advisable. Note listings of what can be done.

1. Build bird nesting houses and bird baths.
2. Maintain a bird feeding station on the farm, especially during severe winter weather and during late spring months.
3. Encourage leaving small areas of grain sorghum or corn unharvested near 4-H Wildlife Project, or on other plots about the farm.
4. Shoot or trap and destroy wild or night roaming house cats. As a community practice, encourage the killing of litters of unwanted kittens. This would prevent their being turned loose in the community.
5. Make a study of the hawks and owls of your community, as to where they live, what they feed on, etc.
6. Discourage the burning of pastures, woodlands, fence rows and roadsides in your community. These places provide splendid cover and feed for wildlife during the year. Note the effects of burning upon wildlife.
7. To improve wild life plots. (See number 6 under first year.)



8. Keep and fill out Wildlife Conservation Report each year project is carried.

WILDLIFE PROJECT EXHIBITS

Specifications for 4-H Club Wildlife Conservation Exhibits Oklahoma State Fairs: 4-H Club Wildlife Conservation Exhibits at state fairs are to be prepared and exhibited according to the following specifications. This is also a suggestive exhibit specification for local and county fairs. There are two classes of Wildlife Conservation exhibits at the state fairs:

Class I: Designed for 4-H Club members who have been enrolled and carrying 4-H Club Wildlife Conservation Projects for one or two years. Members enrolling this year may also make an exhibit. Exhibits to be accompanied by members' Wildlife Conservation Report, which will show a record of work done during the year.

Class II: Designed for 4-H Club members who have been carrying 4-H Wildlife Conservation Projects for more than two years. Exhibits should also be accompanied by members' Wildlife Conservation Report, which will show a record of work done during the year.

In each class it will be necessary for the exhibits to conform to specifications as set up, in order to qualify for the premiums as listed in the state fair catalogues.

No 4-H Club member will be permitted to make a 4-H Wildlife Conservation exhibit in both groups, and if it is found after checking the 4-H enrollment of the county from which the exhibit comes that a member exhibit in Class I has been enrolled more than two years, any premiums won will not be paid. (EXHIBITS IN CLASS II ARE TO BE MADE BY 4-H MEMBERS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN AT LEAST THE THIRD YEAR OF 4-H WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT WORK.)

IMPORTANT: READ CAREFULLY

CLASS I EXHIBITS:

Class 1 exhibits will consist of seed collection suitable as feed for farm wildlife (all and any species) mounted in holes drilled in a

wood block, 2"x6"x18". Holes containing seed are to be 1½" deep and 1" in diameter and must be covered with plate glass or other suitable cover to fit mounting block, and securely fastened with tape or other material so seed will not spill out of various compartments. Under each separate hole in block containing seed, a label must be prepared and pasted or glued giving the common name of seed or fruit.

There must be no more or less than 18 different and separate samples of seed in this exhibit.

Exhibit must be labelled and conform to specifications as shown on attached diagram on Class I exhibits.

Exhibits to be accompanied by member's Wildlife Conservation Report, which will show a record of work done during the year.

CLASS II EXHIBITS:

Class II exhibits will consist of leaf and stem mounts of plants furnishing food and cover for farm wildlife. This exhibit to be mounted on flat surface board (presswood, masonite, quarter-board, etc.) painted white, strong enough so it will not bend or break, 18"x30", and covered with a good quality clear cellophane.

There shall be not less than 24 separate and distinct mountings on this exhibit and no more than 26, and each leaf or stem mount shall be labelled by the common name and directly under the common name the scientific name in parenthesis. (Scientific names of trees and shrubs may be secured from Forest Trees of Oklahoma, Division of Forestry, Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, Oklahoma City; grass from Grasses for Oklahoma by H. I. Featherly, Technical Bulletin No. 3, Oklahoma Experiment Station Bulletin, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater. If there are any plants, i.e., grasses, weeds, etc., which club members or leaders cannot identify, identification can be had by sending flowering or fruited specimens to Dr. H. I. Featherly, Department of Botany, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater. No less than six separate specimens of the plant desired to be identified should be sent. Specimens **must be** in flowering or fruiting stage of development.)

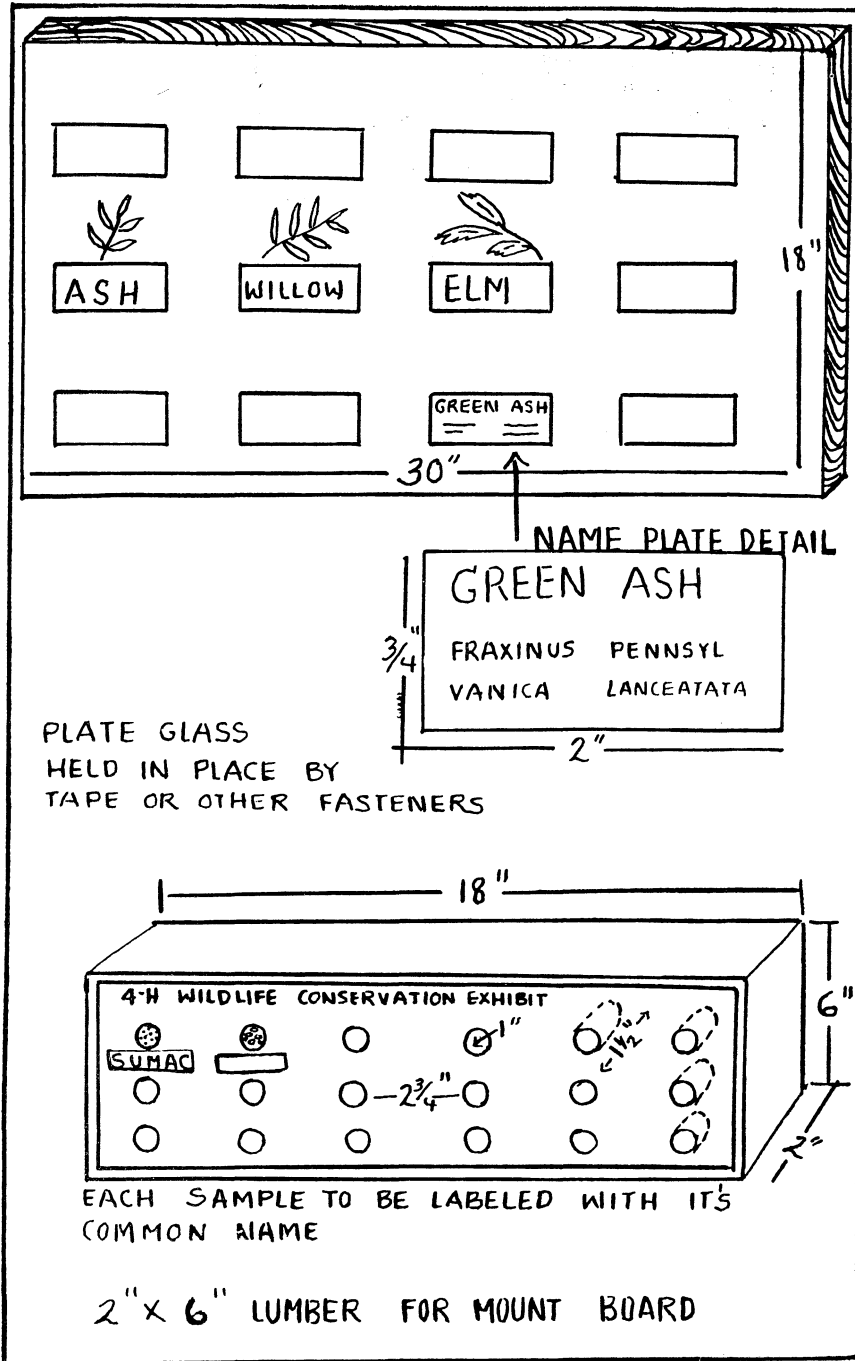
Exhibits in both Class I and II must be accompanied by member's Wildlife Conservation Report, which will show a record of work done during the year.

Class II 4-H Wildlife Exhibits must be properly labelled as shown by the following diagram.

Leaf and stem mounts will not be discriminated against if seed clusters, flowers, or fruits or acorns are attached.

An effort will be made to have well qualified judges determine the winners of these awards at the fairs.

Class II 4-H Wildlife Exhibits must be properly labelled as shown by the following diagram.



Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Oklahoma A. & M. College and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. Distributed in Furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.