

**Front Cover, Red-Tailed Hawk.** Making lazy circles in the sky, this soaring hunter is a common resident of Oklahoma. Distinguished by a broad reddish tail, it keeps a sharp eye for small prey below.

**Back Cover, Buffalo.** Over 60 million shaggy buffalo once roamed American prairies but by 1880 fewer than 500 remained. Now a herd of about 700 are in the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge and several small private herds dot the state.

**1. Bobcat.** Found throughout Oklahoma where woodlands and rocky terrain provide remote habitat. Primarily nocturnal, it lives mostly on small animals. Bobcats aren't commonly seen because of secretive habits.

**2. Raccoon.** One of Oklahoma's most intelligent and entertaining animals, it ranges across state where hardwood forests adjoin streams and lakes. Undisturbed woodlands are a favorite home.

**3. Prairie Rattlesnake.** Lives in rocky areas and grasslands in western Oklahoma and eats mostly small animals. Prefers escape rather than confrontation. Oklahoma has five rattlesnake species.

**4. Great Egret.** Found along state waterways, it nests in rookeries atop sturdy trees. Egrets eat small fishes primarily and migrate as far as South America in winter.

**5. Coyote.** The abundant predator feeds mostly on small rodents at night. Although it is sometimes called a wolf, no true wolves remain in Oklahoma.

**6. Wood Duck.** This year-round Oklahoma resident nests in hollow trees near water, and eats acorns and other nuts. Population is increasing due to good management.

**7. Bob White Quail.** This popular game bird thrives in open brushy areas and roadsides. In the spring, its call, "Bob White" can be heard across farm and woodlands.

**8. Armadillo.** Unique armorplating covers this native of Central and South America. The nocturnal mammal came north of the Rio Grande in late 1880s.

**9. Opossum.** An adaptable mammal which eats almost anything and thrives almost anywhere. Mostly nocturnal, this marsupial or pouched animal may wander along a woodland trail at midday.

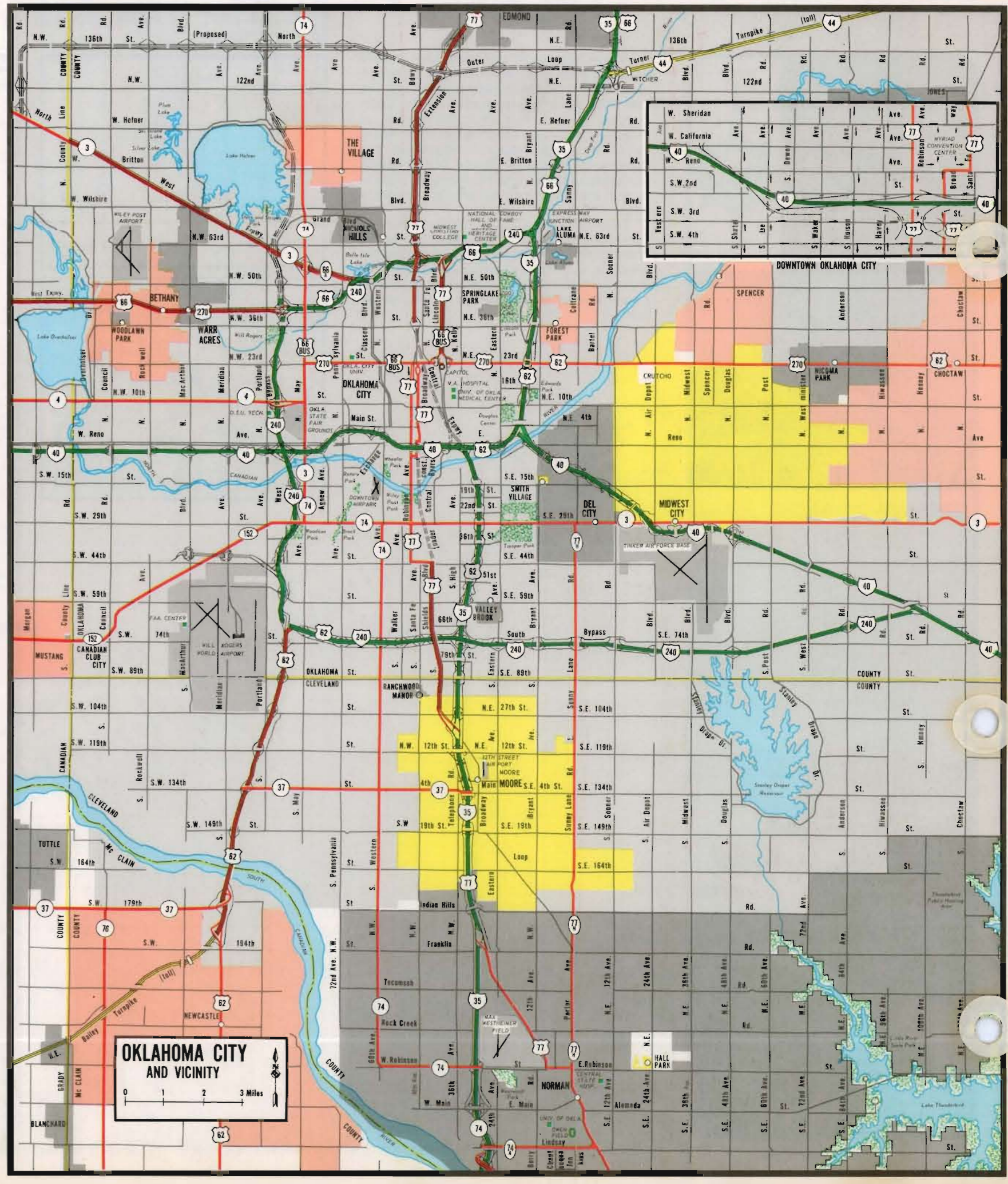
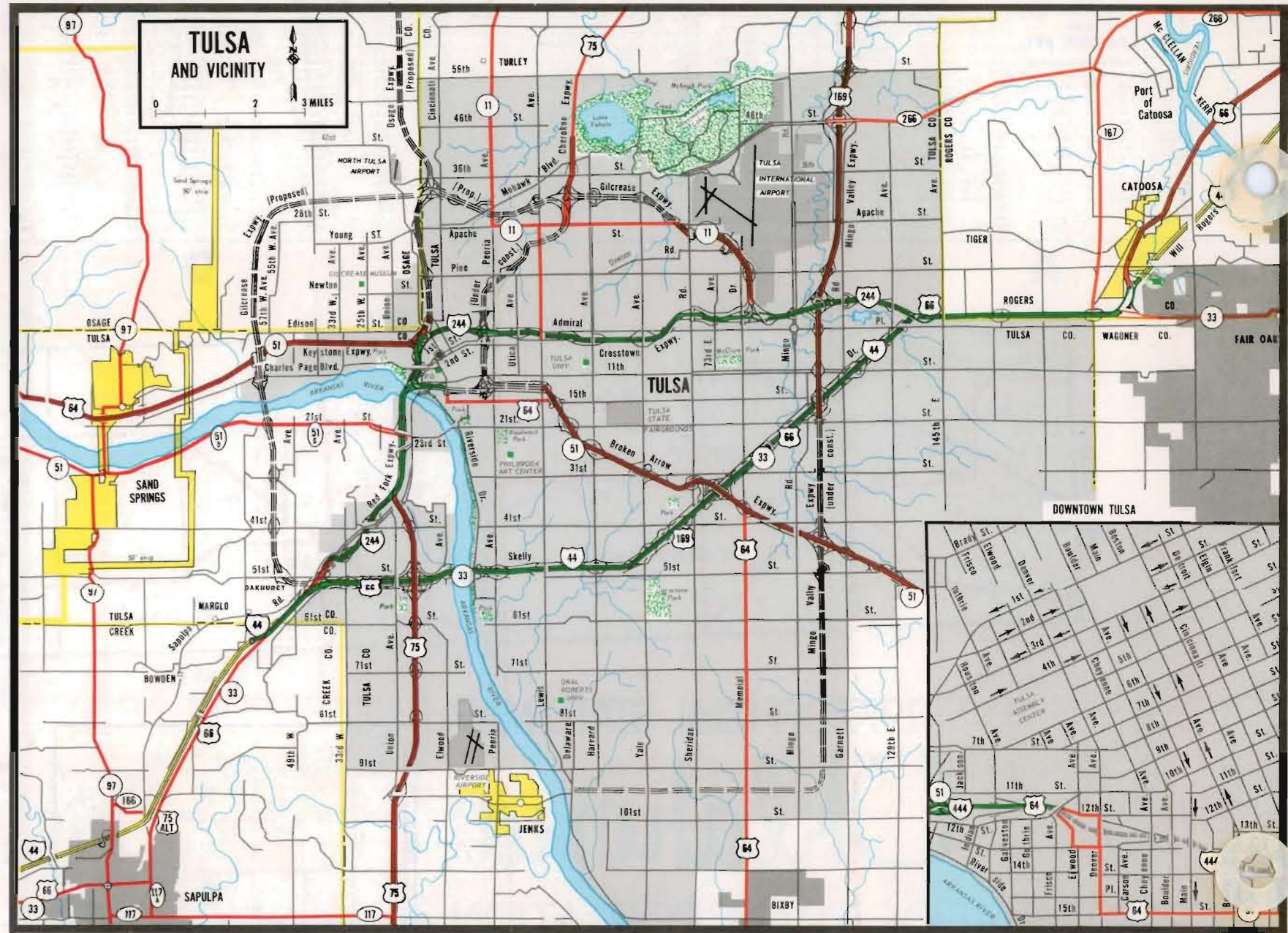
**10. Elk (or Wapiti).** They once ranged over state but now are restricted to the Wichita Mountains with a few transplanted herds in eastern Oklahoma. Horse-size elk are early morning and late evening grazers.

**11. Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher.** Oklahoma's state bird is a common summer resident. It has adapted well to man and can be seen catching flying insects in open areas.

**12. Eastern Collared Lizard or Mountain Boomer.** The official state reptile is found in rocky habitat statewide. It eats mostly insects, and sometimes runs on its hind legs resembling a mini-dinosaur. It makes no vocal noises.

**13. Prairie Dog.** Once millions scurried over the plains, but now numbers are declining. The small rodent lives in underground communities called towns in dry upland prairies. It "barks" when alarmed.

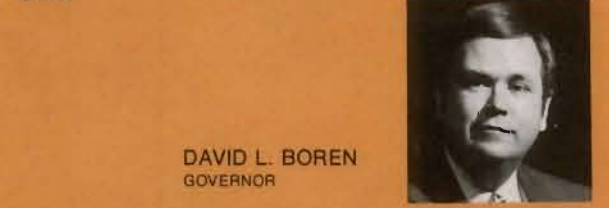
**14. Jack Rabbit.** Actually a hare, it is a familiar sight in open grasslands. It can run 35 mph but prefers to avoid danger by hiding.



Oklahoma  
1977 Map



Prairies, lakes, forested hills, and rich crop land make Oklahoma's environment unique. In the wilderness, in refuges and wildlife management areas throughout our state live many interesting wildlife species. Armadillos, prairie dogs and burraro thrives on our plains. Water oriented egrets, sea-gulls and bald eagles soar above our waterways. To help you recognize and enjoy them as you drive our highways, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation illustrates here 23 species commonly found in our state. All are part of Oklahoma's varied and exciting land.



DAVID L. BOREN  
GOVERNOR

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
J.C. Kennedy, Chairman  
William R. Nash, Vice-Chairman  
W. E. Allford, Secretary  
Martin Clark  
James H. Gungoll  
Mrs. Robert L. Parker  
Glenn C. Southall  
Stanton L. Young  
R. A. Ward, Director

OFFICIAL STATE TRANSPORTATION MAP FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION.

# Oklahoma's Wildlife



**15. Eastern Grey Tree Frog.** A summer night serenader, this 1 1/2 inch amphibian changes to green or brown depending on surroundings or activities. Its slender toes have adhesive discs permitting it to cling to leaves and bark.

**16. Beaver.** Being abundant, their destructive tree-cutting habits are sometimes considered a problem. A nocturnal mammal found in water areas across the state.

**17. White Tailed Deer.** The most extensively managed wildlife species has come back from 5,000 population in 1940 to 100,000 today. Deer browse on a variety of vegetation at dawn, dusk and on moonlit nights.

**18. Wild Turkey.** Common game bird in western Oklahoma and increasing in east, it can be seen at twilight feeding along woodland edges in west large cottonwood trees are essential for roosting.

**19. Great Horned Owl.** A common predator across the state, it lives largely on small rodents and hunts along woodland edges.

**20. Box Turtle.** This cereal-bowl sized animal is omnivorous. It is seen statewide but hibernates in cold weather. Some live over 50 years and never leave a 250 yard range.

**21. Golden Eagle.** A winter resident in Oklahoma, this golden brown bird has a wingspan over 7 1/2 feet. It preys mostly on small mammals and cannot carry easily anything over two pounds.

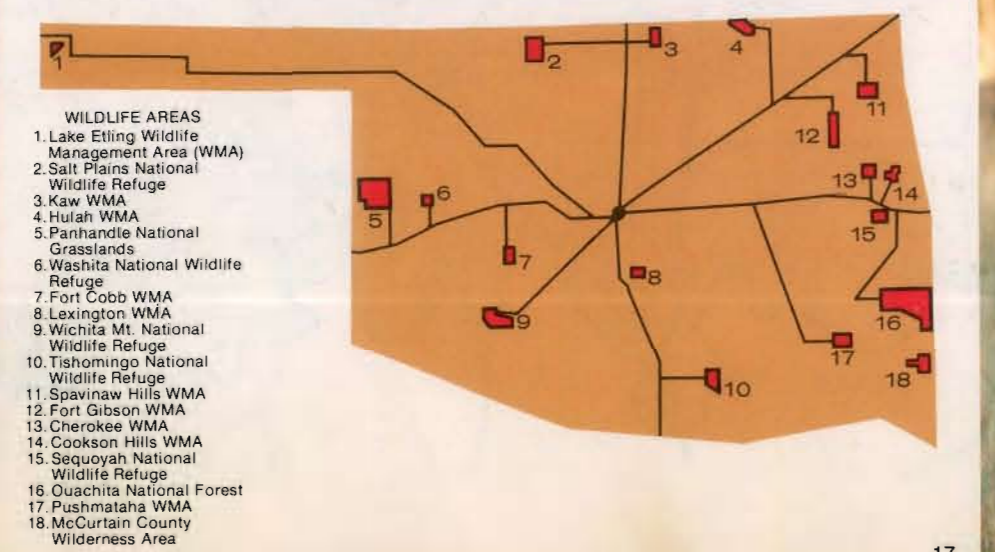


Photo Credits

Roger Artman, 9, 14; Department of Transportation, 7, 10, 13, Back Cover, Bob Jenks, 1, 3, Phil Norton, 21; Oklahoma Wildlife Department, 6, 15, 16, 20; Jack S. Roberts, Front Cover, 4, 12; Salt Plains Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 19; John Shackford, 11; Jerry Sturdy, 2; Glenn Titus, 5; Wichita Mt. Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 17, 18.