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# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

VOLUME I

DECEMBER 15, 1942

NUMBER 11

## Game and Edible, The Groundhog Proves His Worth

For a long time I have contended that the woodchuck, or marmot as I prefer to call this interesting animal, is a game animal and should receive protection at least during the period when the young are still with the mother. Fact is, in a number of our eastern states, Pennsylvania in particular, there is a woodchuck hunting season, or the other way around, there is a closed season on woodchuck. In other words the woodchuck, the finest and most popular rifle game in this nation, is recognized and protected as game along with deer, trout, grouse and the like. All of which is as it should be.

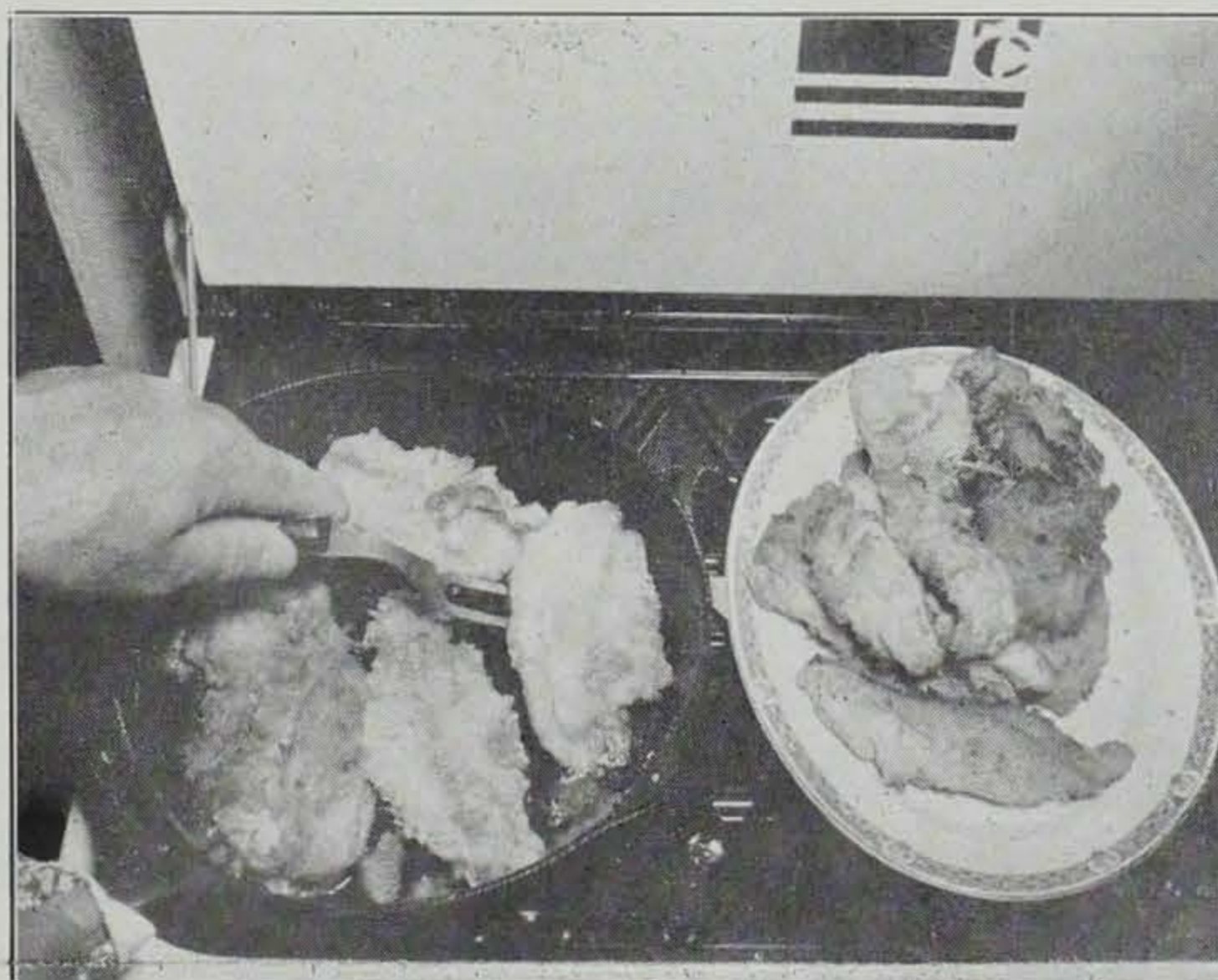
Of course I have met with the old, old story of how the woodchuck is a pest and should be treated as such. This is not true, at least in the West. There is no question but that once in a while a colony of woodchucks, ground hogs, rockchucks, marmots, or whatever you prefer to call them, does get in bad by damaging some grain or hay field. In such cases the animals should be controlled, a thing that is not hard to do.

But by and large the animal over its entire range, east and west, has a very high recreational and food value, far and away above the amount of damage that it can, or will do. The main obstacle that one faces in urging protection as game for the woodchuck, is the time-worn and disgraceful American trait of killing every living thing.

So that you may not get the idea that the woodchuck is not good eating, let me say that its flesh is very highly prized in Asia, as is its pelt. Over the United States many families include the meat of the woodchuck in their regular diet. I know of one ranch in particular where woodchuck

(Continued to Page 3, Column 2)

## Carp From Icy Winter Waters Can Be A Delicacy on Any Table



There are certain seasons of the year when the flesh of the carp is firm and tasty, and it can and should be utilized.

## Few Local Areas Enjoy Best Duck Hunting In Many Years

Duck hunters, that long-suffering portion of the population which takes its sport when the wind howls and the cold weather sneaks in from the north, after waiting patiently since 1934, have hit the duck jack pot.

Over last weekend, beginning on Friday, October 23, and continuing through Monday, October 26, the finest duck shooting this territory has had in 15 years was enjoyed. Limit bags were so common that it became a race to see which gunner in which blind

could bag the limit first.

This condition was not local. It extended up and down the Mississippi River, as far north as Lansing, Iowa, and down river to below Burlington. The Cedar river bottoms, the Iowa river bottoms, the Wapsie river bottoms, all were loaded with ducks. Every duck camp reported the finest shooting ever, and great was the rejoicing. The long duck drought had apparently ended.

From below Burlington, Ernie  
(Continued to Page 4, Column 2)

## Iowa's Coarse Fish Source Of Much Food

By E. B. SPEAKER  
Superintendent of Fisheries

The carp, like the ring-necked pheasant, is a native of Asia. It was introduced into the United States from Europe nearly a century ago. Undoubtedly there were many reasons for introducing this oriental into the New World. From the literature it is reasonable to assume that paramount among these reasons was the desire to find a fish to replace the rapidly diminishing native game species in certain waters, and to provide an adequate supply of cheap fish for food. Both of these purposes were successfully accomplished.

About 1875 Iowa and other midwestern states first became interested in this new species. In later years, virtually all of the suitable waters in the state were stocked. The Iowa Commissioner of Fisheries received the following letter from Mr. J. A. Poppe, who was one of the earliest breeders of carp in this country:

Sonoma, Cal.,  
Feb. 12th, 1876

Dear Sir:—I would respectfully call your attention to a possible, but as yet undeveloped, source of profit to farmers in the United States, viz., carp raising. In Germany thousands of pounds of this favorite fish are raised and sold every year. The farmers there who are engaged in pisciculture have from five to seven ponds. The smallest is the breeding pond,

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**Carp Can Be A Delicacy**

(Continued from Page One)

from which the others are stocked. The contents of one pond are sold every year. Large numbers of fish are floated down the rivers and canals in large boxes, pierced with holes, through which the water passes in and out, thus delivering the carp to the consumer alive and fresh. They are a fish that need but little attention, are hardy, prolific, and excellent on the continent.

Their food may consist of wheat, barley, corn, peas, bran, blood, sour milk, or in fact almost anything. When well fed they will grow one inch per week for the first two or three months, after which they will grow slower in length but increase rapidly in weight. It will not do to breed them in ponds where any game fish are kept, as the latter will eat the young carp.

In speaking of the growth and increase of these fish, I probably can do no better than give my individual experience. I arrived here direct from Reinfeldt, Holstein, in August, 1872, with five small carp six inches long. The

**Carp Fillet A-Plenty Here**



During the first year that coarse fish removal work was authorized, about a quarter of a million pounds of carp and buffalo were taken from Lost Island Lake.

fish were in a very precarious condition, one dying as I placed it in the water. In the following May the original carp had grown to 16 inches in length, and the young fish amounted to over 3,000. Every fish that I can possibly send to market here sells readily at one dollar per pound.

Farmers who have natural facilities on their places for making ponds, and who have access to canals or rivers communicating with large cities, can greatly increase their income with but small trouble and expense. There ought to be one person in every county who would raise choice carp as stock fish to sell to others to fatten for their own tables. It would be a cheap but sumptuous food and at the same time very convenient, as they are ready to be eaten at all times of the year.

(Signed) J. A. POPPE.

Sonoma, Sonoma Co., California.

About this time Iowa farmers were encouraged by the Commissioner of Fisheries to rear carp in specially prepared ponds, and seed stocks were furnished by the state and federal governments. Apparently the flesh was generally not considered to be as fine as the native species, and pond culture was later discontinued.

As early as 1900, these immigrants had become so firmly established and so abundant in their new homes that it became necessary to seek means of bringing their populations into check before they entirely supplanted the native and more desirable species. The warm, fertile waters of the Midwest proved to be a Utopia for them, and they multiplied until their numbers reached staggering millions. Alert and capable of adapting themselves to the most unattractive and adverse conditions, the carp was able to flourish where the more coveted game fish diminished and often entirely disappeared.

To combat the alarming rate of increase of carp, the Fish Commission authorized their removal

in certain of Iowa lakes in 1909. At that time there was still some question as to their value in our waters, and steps were taken to reduce their population rather than to eliminate them entirely. Carp removal was carried on by private interests under the supervision of the State Fish Commission. The first year this work was authorized about a quarter of a million pounds of carp and buffalo were taken from Lost Island Lake. This was the first lake in the state to receive attention, although commercial fishermen had been marketing these species on the Mississippi River prior to that time.

Conscientious efforts have been made since 1909 to keep carp populations in check and, where possible, to exterminate them. Early workers have said, and we are inclined to agree with them, that the carp, like the English sparrow, is here to stay. Although they perhaps will never be exterminated, they should at least be kept in balance so that the more desirable game species may survive and increase.

In 1913 Mr. Hinshaw, then State Warden, said, "It has been thoroughly demonstrated that lakes that have no outlet where fish can come and go at will are sure to become so filled with carp and buffalo that game fish do not propagate, and will in time become poor and sickly and not fit for food. Some objections to seining carp and buffalo have developed, and claims are made that nets do more damage than the soft fish. However, no proof has been furnished this Department which would lead to any other opinion than that to preserve the game fishes and the feed for waterfowl, soft fish must be controlled."

During the past two or three decades there has been a general shift in our fish fauna from the game species toward the rough fish in many sections of Iowa. Apparently this has taken place be-

cause of the general increase in the turbidity of the water of the state, which has favored the carp, which feeds by touch and taste, and worked a hardship on game fishes, which feed primarily by sight. The reasons for the increase in turbidity are manifold, but paramount among them is sheet erosion of hundreds of square miles of fertile agricultural land caused by intensive farming practices. Domestic and commercial waste, too, have been instrumental in the change of fish habitat, particularly in the vicinities of the large cities.

We have had several cases where large populations of carp have taken over entire lakes, destroying the environment for game fishes and their required foods. In one lake the coarse fish became so numerous their normal growth rate was impossible, and the fish, when removed, were five or six years old and weighed less than a quarter pound each. Every vestige of aquatic vegetation was gone, and the carp were actually starving.

The lake was rejuvenated by draining and subsequently dredging, and today it is one of the foremost fishing lakes of its size in the state. Immediately after the coarse fish population had been exterminated, emergent and submergent aquatic plants returned to the lake naturally. Food, both insectivorous and minnows, increased tremendously, and the game species, including crappies, bluegills, bass, and bullheads, have made unbelievable growth.

Carp are generally considered inferior in flavor to most of the native game species in this state. There are certain seasons, however, when its flesh is firm and tasty, and it can and should be utilized. The State of Iowa produces annually about four and one-half million pounds of carp, buffalo, and quillback, including the fish taken by commercial fishermen in the boundary waters.

The combined production of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa is in the neighborhood of 20 to 25 million pounds annually. At the present time, the greater percentage of fish taken from these states is shipped to large Eastern industrial centers, where they compete on the markets with marine species and in some cases command a higher price than the latter. With meat rationing near at hand and the season on game fish closed, our Department believes it economically advisable to encourage Iowans to utilize at least a portion of the fishes produced here.

It is not our intent to claim that carp are equal to our native fishes. From both an angling and a gastronomic standpoint our native fish are superior. We do feel, however, that the sporting and

(Continued to Page 3, Column 1)

food value of the carp has been grossly underrated by the majority of our anglers. When taken in the colder months of the year from clean waters, it is a good and economical fish when properly prepared.

We are herewith submitting a partial list of 23 recipes for cooking carp which have been taken from a circular issued a number of years ago by the United States Bureau of Fisheries, titled "The Carp, A Valuable Food Resource". This circular is now out of print and has been loaned to this Department by Mr. George Weaver, Fishery Supervisor of the Minnesota Conservation Department. An additional list of recipes will be furnished upon request by this Department.

The same recipes can also be applied to buffalo fish. In the estimation of many sportsmen the finest way to prepare carp and buffalo is to smoke them. When properly smoked they are excelled only by the finest marine species. An article on smoking fish will appear in a later issue of this publication.

#### Deep Fat Frying

1. Skin the carp and wash thoroughly in strong salt water. Allow the fillets to remain in the salt water for about two hours, drain and wash in clean water. Dry with a towel, roll in corn meal or flour. Fill frying pan with enough fat or cooking oil so fish when placed in the pan will be submerged. The fat should be very hot. Fry until golden brown.

#### Baked Carp

2. Take carp of 1 to 2 pounds; scale and clean well; rub inside and out with plenty of salt; let stand an hour or two. Wipe dry with a towel, roll in well-beaten eggs and bread crumbs or meal, and bake in plenty of butter till nicely brown. If desired, the body cavity of the fish may be filled with a stuffing prepared the same as for stuffing turkey. A quantity of dressing may also be packed around the fish.

#### Stewed Carp

3. Scale and clean the carp; dry with towel and season well with salt, pepper, and a little mace, which ought to be rubbed in thoroughly. Place in a sauce pan or stew kettle with some chopped parsley, sliced onion, celery tops, and a few potatoes and carrots if desired. Pour on sufficient water to cover and let stew until the flesh leaves the bones easily.

#### Pickled Carp

4. Clean the carp inside and out; split it the whole length; cut it in pieces; wash, and cook it in water with salt, spice, onions, and a few bay leaves. After it is cooked let it get cold in the cooking vessel. When cold put into a drainer or sieve to dry. Now pick to pieces, taking out all bones; mix with sauce consisting of Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, sugar, salt, ground black pepper, olive oil, and yellow mustard, according

## Gill Netting Helps Control Carp



Conscientious efforts have been made since 1909 to keep the population in check and where possible to exterminate them. Gill netting on Okoboji is one method of carp control in that lake.

to taste, all well beaten and mixed, olive oil and vinegar being in preponderance. Serve with capers, olives, and mixed pickles.

#### Fried Carp

5. Scale and clean the fish and make some slight incisions on both sides; if too large, cut in pieces. Wipe the fish dry, sprinkle slightly with flour, dip in beaten eggs, and roll in bread crumbs. Put the pieces in boiling lard, so as not to touch each other. When sufficiently brown, take them out and lay on a hot sieve to let the superfluous fat run off; sprinkle with salt and lay in a hot dish without cover. Serve very hot.

## Woodchuck

(Continued from Page One)

meat, variously prepared, contributes the main summer meat plate.

Bellmore H. Brown, in his book "Guns and Gunning", written many years ago, states: "In Northern British Columbia the writer often ate these 'rockbears', and their flesh roasted over an open fire is very palatable. Their skins are used by the Northern Indians in making blankets, and their fat makes a good gun or shoe-grease."

Again, Paul C. Estey, in his dandy little book, "The Woodchuck Hunter", says: "There is no reason why woodchucks should not be splendid eating because they are one of the cleanest animals. People who have once eaten them invariably like them and stick to such a diet when they can."

Colonel Townsend Whelen, the noted sportsman-rifleman, is a veteran woodchuck hunter. He wrote me that he gave most of his kill away to families who used all

of the meat for food. And as a side remark, he told me that a rifle of over 3,000 feet velocity causes a shock that affects the fine flavor of the meat. Those eating the meat much preferred the flesh of animals shot with bullets fired at the lower velocity. This is a point worth noting, especially for those hunters who do not wish to waste, but intend to use the product of their kill.

In the preparation of woodchuck all agree that the first thing to be done after skinning is to remove the two little red glands that will be found under the front legs. These animals generally

carry an excess of fat over the body, as well as within the body, especially late in the summer. Mrs. Tedmon has always removed much of this, and it is her habit to usually soak the meat for several hours in soda water, over night at times when the animal was old. There are innumerable ways of preparing woodchuck so that it will tickle the palate of the most particular epicure; fact is, anyone who knows how to cook game meats will not have the least bit of trouble.

For instance, Horace Kephart in his valuable book "Camping and Woodcraft" says: "I asked old Uncle Bob Flowers, one of my neighbors in the Smokies, 'Did you ever eat a woodchuck?'"

"O la! dozens of 'em. Man, they'd just make yer mouth water!"

"How do you cook them?"

"Cut the leetle red kernels out from under their forelegs; then bile 'em, and sage 'em, and put 'em in a pan, and bake 'em to a nice rich brown, and—then I don't want nobody there but me!"

This is good advice; we have found it best to parboil the meat before roasting or frying. However, the meat of the young is tender and generally needs no such preparation. The meat of the woodchuck is dark and the fibers are short, the muscles thick. The young ones, and also the old residents, make fine stew—woodchuck and dumplings and good old white gravy, such as Mother used to make, and like old Uncle Bob Flowers, "then I don't want nobody there but me".

As to seasoning, this is very much a matter of individual taste. Personally, I do not care for meat (Continued to Page 4, Column 1)

## Shadow Dodger Makes A Tasty Meal



—Photo by Register & Tribune.

Flesh of the woodchuck, or ground hog, is very highly prized in Asia, and over the United States many families include it in their regular diet.

## Iowa Parks Can Provide Winter Pleasure For All

By G. L. ZIEMER  
Acting Chief of Lands and Waters

For those who can muster the transportation in the coming months and are addicted to the outdoors, the parks and recreational areas of the state will offer varied entertainment possibilities throughout the winter. You will find the more active forms of park use especially inviting, including hiking, skiing, skating and tobogganing, which can be had in practically all of the park areas.

In a few parks heated lodges can be reserved for the use of your group for a nominal fee covering heating and janitorial costs. Try a picnic on some one of the more mild winter days, and find out how really tasty your hot-dog or steak can be when grilled over glowing coals, and when there is just enough tang of frost in the air to keep you near the outdoor fireplace.

And when you find you must move about to stimulate the circulation and dispel the cold, take a hike along the base of the bluffs and absorb the massiveness of nature witnessed by the palisade of rock so hidden by foliage that you did not realize it was there when you perspired up the same path during the summer. The same sites now present entirely new panoramas of nature to view, changing even now with each snowfall.

For those who dare, the ski and toboggan slides will take them down the hillsides in thrilling adventure. Nor should you forget the satisfaction of a difficult skating routine successfully negotiated. And when the time to leave the park arrives, you will find a glow of rugged satisfaction and relaxation envelop your person, and you will be all the more valuable to your war effort for this day spent in your park.

## Woodchuck

(Continued from Page Three)

highly seasoned, but you dope it up to suit yourself—but don't pass this meat by. To fry, it is best to parboil first and then fry in deep fat if possible, as recommended by Kephart. Meat of a large animal if fried had best be cut into strips so that it can and will cook through completely.

Fried, it may be rolled in cracker crumbs, cornmeal, or the like. Roasted, the meat should be the center of a well made dressing such as accompanies the Thanksgiving bird. I'm no cook, but just try roasted woodchuck before an open fire, on a drizzly night, and—well, just try it once and I'll bet you won't throw another one

## Winter Wonderland Thrills Park Visitors



For those who can muster the transportation during the coming months and are addicted to the outdoors, the parks and recreational areas of the state will offer varied entertainment possibilities throughout the winter.

## Duck Hunting

(Continued from Page One)

Arzberger brought home a two-day bag of 20 birds. Over on the Cedar river at Horseshoe lake, Carl Stutz and Jerry Fiedler accounted for bag limits and at Bill Feufel's duck spot, also on the Cedar, all shooters took a limit. Up and down the length of Andalusia island, south of Davenport, limits were common. Ben Pohlman and "Kitty" Beenck had a limit bag; at the Strohmeier spot on old Goose lake, Charles Dollerhide, V. O. Figge, Wells Strohmeier, and all the rest of the boys shot a limit. V. O. Figge told us that "It was the finest duck hunting I have ever had." At the Patterson lake club on Andalusia island limits were the order of the day.

In the Conesville marsh district shooting was splendid at all of the clubs. The Illinois river district is reporting millions of ducks with more coming in.

We caught the tail-end of the duck boom on Monday, shooting as the guest of Fred Hoener at one of the best little duck places on Andalusia island which Fred has under lease. The two of us downed 12 mallards and there wasn't a lean one among them. But it was cold, and we mean cold. The coldest place in the world, in our opinion, is a river island with the wind howling and the thermometer at freezing.

The amazing thing about all of this fine duck shooting is that 90 percent of the birds bagged are mallards. Just where this heavy flight of mallards came from and how it happened to descend on this area en masse is not ours to question. They were here. The boys got some of them, and that's what counts.

Shooting tapered off last Tuesday and has been hit and miss away.—Allyn H. Tedmon, Colorado Conservation Comments.

since. There will be another flight of birds along soon, however, if we can believe the weather signs. There is snow in the Dakotas, part of Minnesota, and part of Wisconsin. This spells ducks. This has all the earmarks of the year when the duck hunters ride the gravy train.—Nomad, Davenport Democrat.

## Call Pittman-Robertson Program Safe

Conservationists need have no fear that the Pittman-Robertson program will be wrecked by any government agency, according to a National Wildlife Federation News Letter just received. Although more than \$8,000,000 of the \$17,292,224.33 raised through excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and earmarked for wildlife restoration under the Pittman-Robertson Act has not yet been appropriated, this release quotes the Comptroller of the Treasury as saying that "these revenues cannot be spent for any other purposes than those provided in the act".

"Some conservationists were, and for that matter still are, alarmed over the fact that Congress has not appropriated each year all the money earmarked into this special fund," the release points out. "This year, for instance, the Congress appropriated \$1,250,000 out of this fund for projects set up by the states and approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service. This was a million and a half dollars less than that appropriated last year.

With the war effort at white heat and State Fish and Game Commissions curtailing all but the most essential work, the sum of \$1,250,000 is about all that can be wisely spent on projects which have been submitted. We have been informed by the Fish and

(Continued to Page 8, Column 1)

## Good Hunting Brings Many Game Shipping Inquiries

By REE M. BERRY

The State Conservation Commission received more requests for information about game shipments during the past season than ever before. Some of the questions and answers on the subject are:

**Question:** May I ship game taken under a resident license to a destination outside the state of Iowa?

**Answer:** No. It is unlawful to ship or transport game, except rabbits, out of the state under any circumstances, except in the case of a non-resident licensee, who may lawfully ship or transport game to his place of residence as indicated on his license.

**Question:** May I ship game to a destination inside the state?

**Answer:** Yes. Game lawfully taken may be shipped anywhere inside the state, provided it is not shipped for the purpose of sale.

**Question:** During what periods may game be shipped?

**Answer:** During open season and for a period of 10 days immediately following the open season.

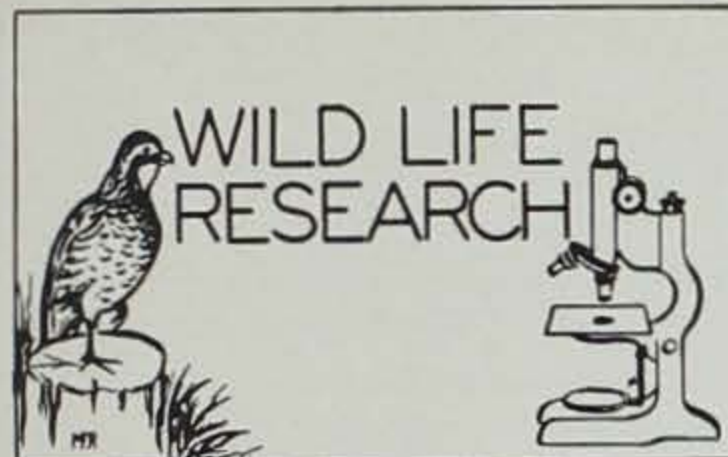
**Question:** If I ship game, is it still counted in my possession limit?

**Answer:** Yes, it is counted in your possession limit until it reaches its destination. If, for instance, a Des Moines hunter were hunting pheasants in the northern part of the state and wished to ship some pheasants to his home, the birds should be counted in his possession limit until they reach their destination. If they were addressed to himself, they would be counted in his possession limit even after they reached their destination. Possession is defined in the conservation laws as "both active and constructive possession and any control of things referred to."

**Question:** What procedure is required in making a shipment of game?

**Answer:** The shipper is required to deliver to the common carrier who is transporting the shipment, a statement under oath, in duplicate, showing the name and address of the shipper, the date and number of his license and where and by whom it was issued, the name and address of the consignee, the kinds and numbers of game in the shipment, and that it has not been unlawfully killed, bought, sold, or had in possession, and is not being shipped for the purpose of market or sale, and that the shipment does not contain a greater number of birds or animals than may be lawfully shipped in one day. One copy of the affidavit is to be retained by

(Continued to Page 5, Column 1)



Project No. 549, Iowa Co-operative Wildlife Research Unit  
Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa  
By GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON  
Project Leader

Wilfred D. Crabb, Research Assistant, has completed a three-year investigation of the ecology of the prairie spotted skunk, *Spilogale interrupta*, in the vicinity of Stockport, Van Buren County, southeast Iowa. The research area included 7.5 sections of woodland pasture and ten flat, intensively tilled sections. The 78 farms averaged 145 acres.

Of 161 skunks trapped, tagged and turned loose again, 45 were re-trapped at least once. One male was taken seven times and a female 10 times. The population was determined at 13 skunks a section in late winter and early spring, 1942. The sex ratio of 118 skunks trapped in the last year was 1.68 males to one female.

The animals were located largely around farmyards where they used as den sites a variety of situations: strawpiles, haystacks, hollow trees, hollow logs, firewood and board piles, junk piles, hollow tiles, drainage tiles, old wells, attics of houses, barns, and outbuildings. Ground dens dug by other species were seldom used and less often skunks dug their own dens. The farmyards averaged 13 semi-permanent and permanent den sites a yard. Each den site was used by several skunks, none apparently the property of a single animal.

Individual skunks travelled

## Shipping Inquiries

(Continued from Page Four)

the common carrier for a period of one year thereafter, and the other copy is to be attached securely to the package.

Any agent of any common carrier is authorized by law to administer the oath required on the affidavit.

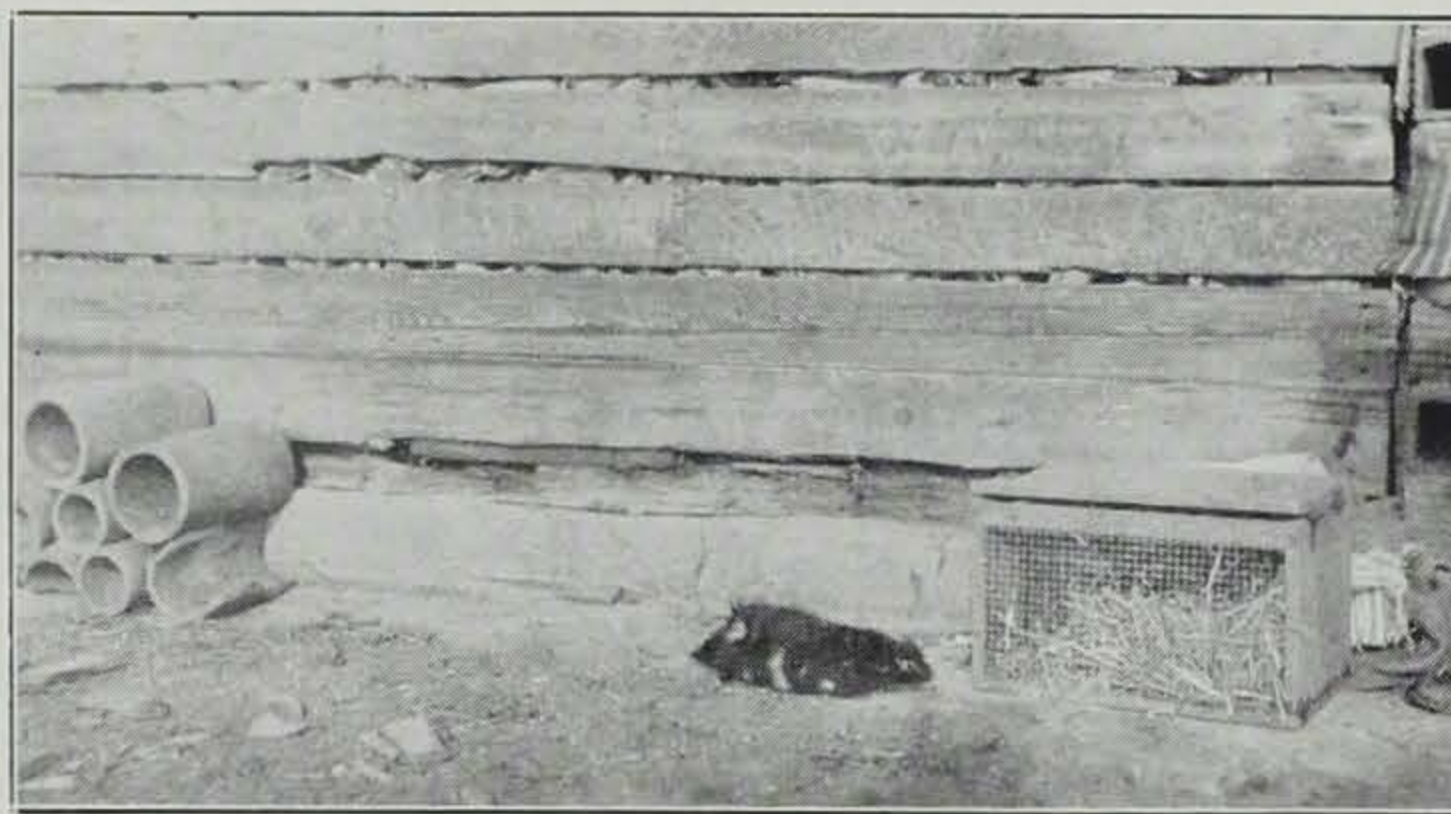
**Question:** How much game can I ship at one time?

**Answer:** No person shall ship, carry or transport in any one day any numbers in excess of the possession limit as established by law for each species of game.

**Question:** Is the shipment or transportation of rabbits regulated by the same laws applicable to other game?

**Answer:** No. There is a special exemption in the law permitting shipment or transportation of rabbits inside or outside of the state, and no affidavit is required. There is no possession limit on rabbits.

## Survey Reveals Skunk Habits



—Photo by Wilfred D. Crabb.

Spotted skunk trapped, tagged and released at a corncrib, the den site.

from a few yards to several miles on feeding trips, but seldom more than one-fourth mile from the central den. In winter both sexes confined their movements to about a quarter-section of living space to an individual, whereas in the spring the males ranged over two to four sections while the females kept to the winter ranges chiefly. So few were re-trapped in summer that definite statements cannot be made about summer living spaces.

Out of 151 skunks weighed, the females averaged 1 lb. 1 oz. and the males 1 lb. 9.5 oz.

Six skunks were transplanted at a distance from where they were caught first, and two were known to have remained at the new sites.

Of 77 skunks killed on the area, one-third were taken for fur and one-fourth were destroyed for being nuisances or for killing poultry. The remainder were killed by dogs and miscellaneous agents.

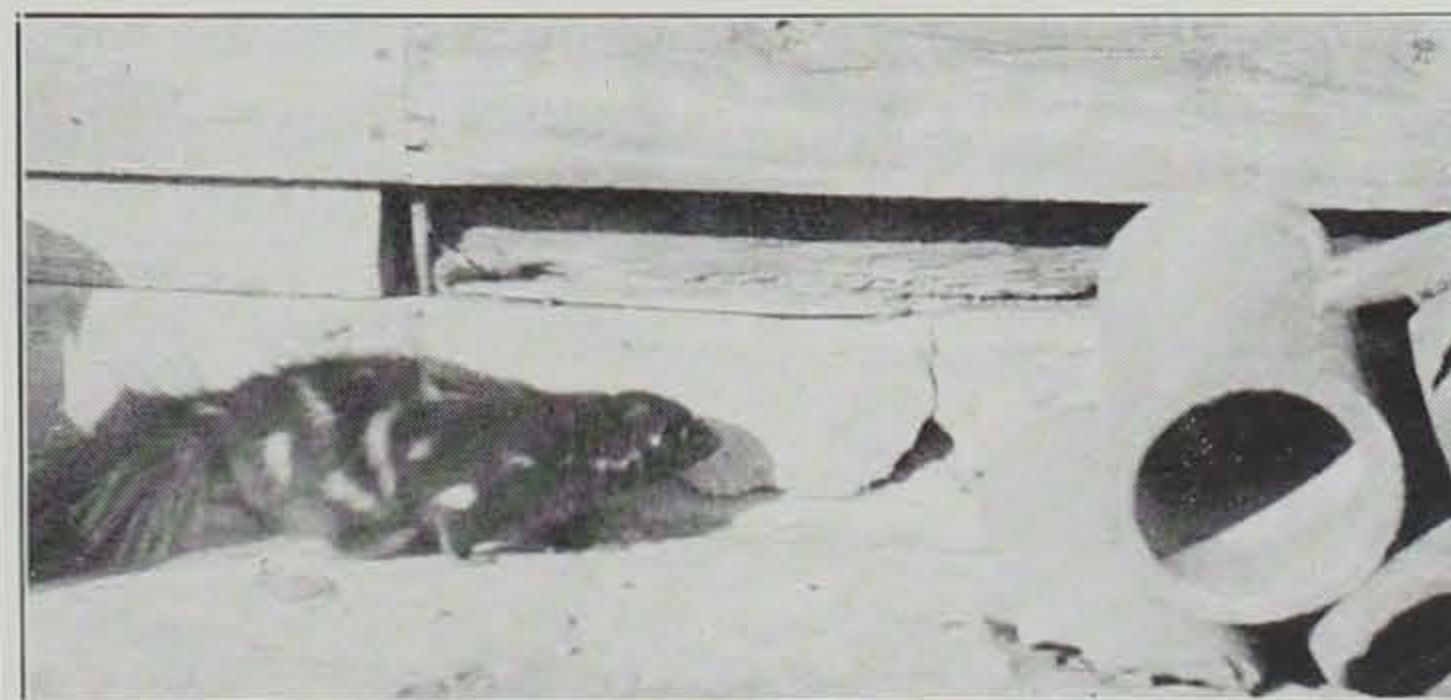
In a survey during the last year 85 percent of the farmers reported the spotted skunk at their farmyards, 34 percent had trouble with the animals, 21 percent tried to manage them, 28 percent encouraged the skunks to stay at the yards, 19 percent were definitely against having the skunks at the premises, and 50 percent paid little or no attention to the animals.

Wise management of the spotted skunk is coordinated with many good farm practices. Extremely littered and untidy farmyards, together with inadequate housing and poor general care of poultry, resulted in measurable loss of poultry to skunks at some farms. Orderly yards and well-kept buildings had some skunks, but with proper attention to the poultry, loss to skunks generally was not noticed or negligible.

Trapping in season held the numbers of skunks down to reasonable numbers at several farms. More trapping of the skunks extended to all the farms was advised to yield income to the farm family and to dispose of the yearly surplus.

## Won't Even Cry At Your Funeral

Every man to his own taste and we have no quarrel with those who sit around all morning in a tub sunk at the edge of some icy waters, keeping a date with a duck who usually ducks it, and calling it sport. What we do object to, though, is their feeling slighted when we forget to send any flowers around to the hospital where they are pulling through their bouts of pneumonia.—Burlington Hawkeye.



—Photo by Wilfred D. Crabb.

Trapped and tagged spotted skunk released at site of capture



By HAROLD B. BJORNSON  
Assistant State Forester

"To make a ton of steel for a cannon, a warship, or a tank requires more than a ton of coal. Transportation of fuel and raw materials for war industries, of food, clothing, and equipment for soldiers and sailors is vitally important and tremendously difficult. To supply homes and businesses with the quantities and kinds of fuel used in peacetime adds to the difficulty. Coal, for example, makes up about one-third of the total freight normally carried by railroads, and increasing amounts of fuel must now be delivered to munitions factories and power plants.

"If domestic consumers will use wood obtained nearby, instead of coal and oil brought from mines and wells hundreds of miles away, then ships and railroad cars can be released for hauling war materials." The foregoing statement, made in the United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 1912, gives a very good picture of the reasons why wood should be used for fuel, especially at this time.

In the state of Iowa we have an important supply of fuel wood in our farm woodlands. Because of the general practice in the past of cutting the best and letting the cull timber stand, there has accumulated a large number of trees unfit for any purpose except fuel. It is estimated that on an average, an acre of woodland bears at least a cord of this cull material.

Other sources of fuel wood are: the slabs and other so-called "waste material" around our increasing number of sawmills; the tops of trees used for posts, poles, or saw-logs; the dead and diseased trees and the trees which are undesirable in our woodlands either because they are inferior species or because the stand is too dense.

The people who can use wood to the best advantage are those who are nearest the source of supply. This, in Iowa, means the farmers and those living in the smaller towns.

Besides contributing to the war effort, the use of wood as fuel has certain advantages. It is clean and free from the disagreeable dust of coal; it produces but little soot or smoke when properly burned; and a cord of hardwood leaves only 60 pounds of ashes, while a ton of hard coal will make 200 to 300 pounds. Wood ashes,

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## Forestry Chips

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moreover, have fertilizing value, and important to all, it is comparatively inexpensive.

The most efficient fuel for a given species is that which has been thoroughly seasoned. Wood which contains moisture requires heat to raise the water in the wood to the boiling point in order to convert it to steam, and more heat is required in order to raise the steam to the temperature of the flue gases. Therefore, it is advisable to cut the wood so it may become air-dry before using.

The fuel value of the more common species of wood of Iowa may be roughly classified as follows:

(1) One cord of dry wood of each of the following has a heating value of approximately one ton of average coal: pignut hickory, mockernut hickory, shagbark hickory, ironwood, white oak, bitternut hickory, black cherry, osage orange, bur oak, black locust, hackberry, and green ash.

(2) One cord of dry wood of each of the following has a heating value of 1,500 to 1,800 pounds of average coal: white ash, red oak, white elm, red elm, pin oak, hard maple, honey locust, black walnut, soft maple, and sycamore.

(3) One cord of dry wood of each of the following has a heating value of 1,000-1,200 pounds of average coal: cottonwood, black willow, large-tooth aspen, quaking aspen, basswood, boxelder, catalpa, and butternut.

From these figures we can estimate that the average fuel value of one cord of dry wood in the state would be equal to approximately 1,800 pounds of coal. This, multiplied by the 2,312,000 acres of Iowa farm woodlands, each capable of producing about one cord of fuel wood, means that if we used our wood for fuel we could release the shipping or transportation necessary to transport 2,080,000 tons of coal.

This would be of immense aid in helping to solve the transportation problems brought on by the war, in addition to improving our woodlands if only the proper trees are utilized for fuel and the trees of higher quality are allowed to mature for other purposes.

## Will Rogers Prized His Dog Highly

Will Rogers says if his dog had known how well he was bred, he wouldn't have spoken to him.

"We have petted him and complained at him—called him a nuisance. But when we buried him yesterday, we couldn't think of a mean or wrong thing he had ever done, and his bravery was his undoing. He lost to a rattlesnake, but his face was toward it."

## Breed Names Have Interesting History



"The Llewellyn setter was created by R. Purcell-Llewellyn by crossing the Duke Rhobe strain of English setter with the Laverock strain. The present-day Llewellyn setter cannot be told by any physical characteristics from the English setter, but only by studying the blood lines."

## Know How Your Pup Got His Name?

Though there is ample evidence that dogs and men were companions as far back at least as the Stone Age, the exact origin of the dog has not been established; however, zoologists are reasonably certain that the domesticated dog sprang from a single wild source, such as the wolf. In fact, it is not even known how most breeds developed. The word **dog** itself is pretty much of a mystery, being derived from the Anglo-Saxon word **docga**, the origin of which so far has baffled etymologists.

When it comes to the names of modern breeds, we are on surer ground. Generally speaking, breed names may be divided into three groups: 1, breeds named for persons; 2, breeds named for places; 3, breeds named for the characteristics of the animals themselves. For example:

1. The **LLEWELLIN** setter was named for an English breeder, R. Purcell-Llewellyn. The **GORDON** setter was named for the dukes of Gordon. The **DOBERMAN PINSCHER** was named for a German breeder named Doberman. **PINSCHER** is the German word for "terrier". The **SAMOYED** was named for a Mongolian tribe of Siberia.

2. The **AIREDALE** was named for the dale of the Aire, Scotland. The **AFGHAN**, a very ancient breed, was named for Afghanistan. The **ALSATIAN**, the **DALMATIAN** (coach dog), the **NEWFOUNDLAND**, the **SCOTTY** and the **POMERANIAN** were named for countries. The **PE-**

blooded (purebred) hounds, and not for a "bloodthirsty" disposition, for it is one of the kindest and wisest of dogs.

The **BULLDOG** originally was bred for the cruel sport of bull-baiting. The flat nose and protruding lower jaw were developed so that the dog could secure an unbreakable grip on the muzzle of the unfortunate bull. The **CAIRN** was bred for entering rock piles in search of rats and other small pests. The word **cairn** is of Gaelic origin and means "a heap of stones". The name **COLLIE** has its origin in the word "coaly", for original collies were coal black.

**DACHSHUND** is German for "badger hound". The curious little dogs were bred with inordinately long bodies and short legs so that they could make their way into badger and fox holes. The **GREYHOUND** originally was of a solid gray color. The name **MASTIFF** comes from the French word **matis** (with a circumflex accent over the "a"), meaning "a large and disagreeable person".

**PAPILLON** is the French word for "butterfly". The papillon, a tiny European dog, has large, silky ears suggesting butterflies. The **POINTER**, of course, is a pointing dog. The **POODLE** at first was a water dog for retrieving. The name is from the Low German **pudeln**, "to splash in a puddle". **SCHNAUZER** is a German word meaning "snarler; growler". The **SETTER** originally was trained to "set" birds by crouching, belly to the ground.

The **SPITZ** was not named for the Norwegian city of Spitzbergen. **Spitz** is a German word meaning "sharp and pointed", referring, of course, to the long, sharp nose of the breed. The **TERRIER** is named for its fondness for digging in the earth. The name is from the French phrase "**chien terrier**", "the burrowing dog". The **WHIPPET** is named

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**KINGESE** was named for Peking, China. The **SKYE** terrier was named for the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

The **SEALYHAM** terrier was named for the estate of the Welshman Captain Tucker - Edwards. The **SALUKI** was named for Saluq, an ancient city of Arabia. The **GREAT DANE** was named for Denmark, although it is believed that the breed originated in Germany. The **ST. BERNARD** was named for the famous hospice in the Alps. The name **SPANIEL** is a corruption of the French word **espagnol**, pronounced **esspan-YOLE** and meaning "Spanish".

3. The **BEAGLE**. This perhaps is a corruption of the old French word **beegueule**, meaning "open throat; clamorous". The **BLOODHOUND** is so called for the reason that it was one of the first



The pointer receives its name from its characteristic pointing.

## "Jim" Crow, Sioux Rapids Pet, Is Dead

"Jim" Crow, well known to everyone in Sioux Rapids, is dead, apparently the victim of an assassin's bullet. As the word was quickly passed around, the townspeople expressed sorrow over the loss of Jim and many children shed tears.

To a stranger, Jim was no more than just a large black crow. But to most people of the town he was a three-year-old community pet. Jim was a smart bird. Why shouldn't he be? He went to school regularly, sitting on the window sills. He was always visiting someone—first in one part of town, then another. He was very tame and craved human company. He sat in open windows, sometimes entering buildings. Several could hold him perched on their fingers—but he usually kept his distance about four to eight feet. Often he would follow one on his way to town. He was very popular in the business district.

Jim's most unusual ability and the one that caused the greatest comment was his ability to "talk". His voice was strikingly similar to a high-pitched human voice. Common expressions were "Hello there—Hi, Kid—Oh Boy" and so on. In the morning shortly after dawn his voice carried quite a distance. In the quiet of the morning many were fooled into thinking that two or three boys a block or two away were hollering at each other.

Jim was full of pranks, too. He had been known to pick up bright objects and carry them off. Monday was the day he usually got into the most trouble with housewives—washday. He had been caught many times pulling out clothespins and letting the washing drop to the ground—then walking on it, usually after first walking in some mud. One woman who caught him in the act of pulling clothespins chased him away with a broom. He flew a safe distance and hollered, "Oh boy, oh boy!"

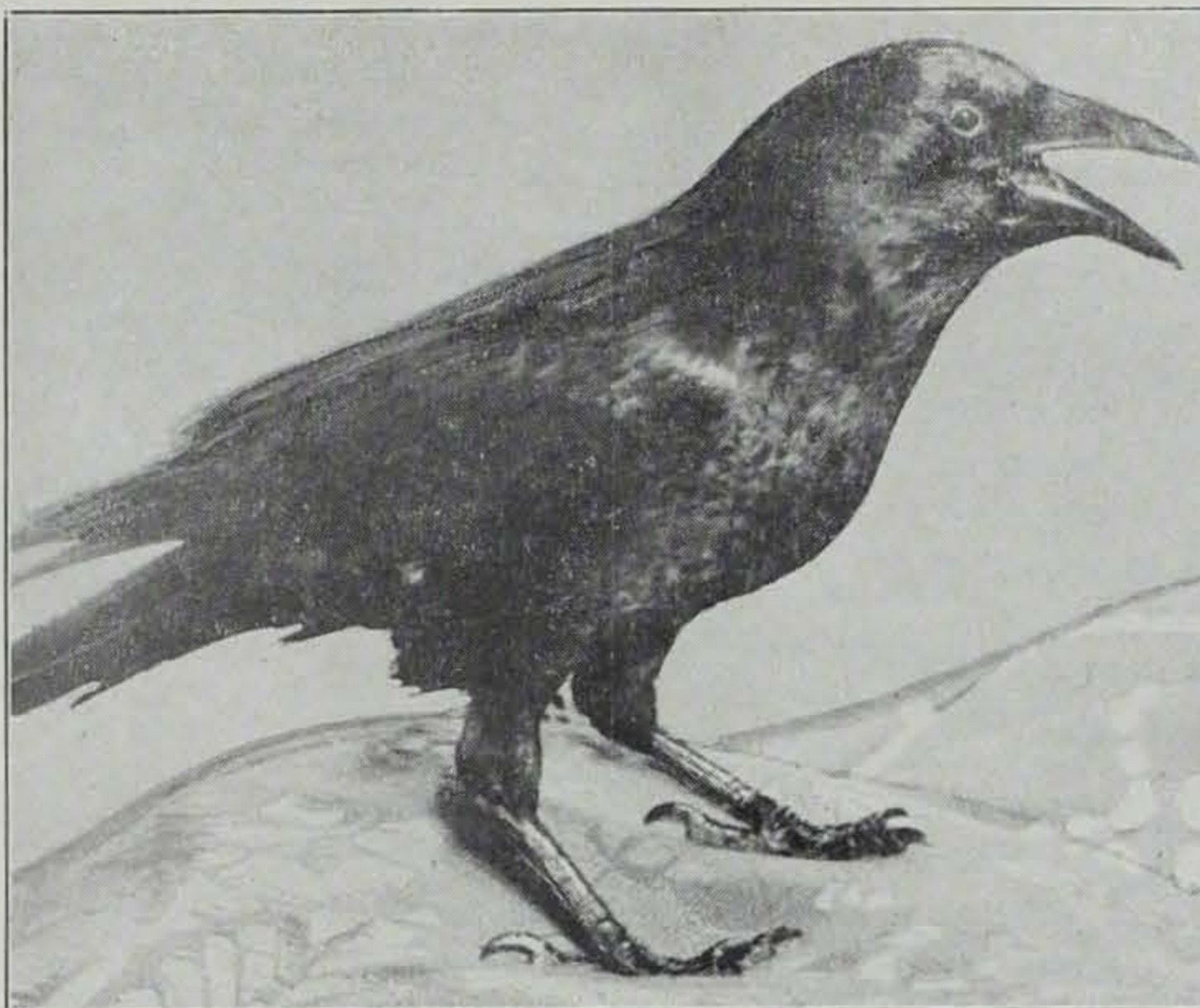
Jim attended church a little more regularly than some members. He has perched in open church windows during services and made more than one choir uneasy. But he usually kept quiet at such times. This religious influence probably accounts for the fact that he was never known to "cuss" such as some talking parrots.

Jim Crow was probably the best known bird in the state as he has been pointed out to so many visitors in the town. Sales-

## Dog Names

(Continued from Page Six)

for its rapid, whip-like movements.—Frank Colby, Columbus Dispatch.



—Register & Tribune Photo.

"Jim" Crow, three-year-old community pet of Sioux Rapids and probably the best known bird in the state, caused much comment by his unusual ability to "talk."

men of the area all knew him. He has been featured in news columns of many large papers and pictured in oddity cartoons.—Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune.



Believing that the fundamental problems involved in the restoration and preservation of wildlife are inseparably linked with those of pure water, perpetual forests and productive soil, the National Wildlife Federation has published four books to bring dramatically and entertainingly the story of our national existence to the school children of America.

"My Land and Your Land" is the general title of these books. They provide basic conservation information, and each one is written with a special appeal to a particular age group or grade in our public schools. Six years of research by leaders in the educational field were devoted to the preparation of the 160 pages of text. Illustrations, both in color and black and white, giving life to the text, are found on every page.

"Would You Like To Have Lived When?" is the first title in the series and is adapted for children in the third, fourth and fifth grades. It is a graphic, interesting tale of what our forefathers found here when our country was young. Virgin forests and soil, pure, clear lakes and rivers, wildlife of all species in abundance greeted the early settlers.

It paints the picture of our expanding country, of the movement westward over the mountains of New York, Pennsylvania and the Virginias into the valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi by ox-carts, flat boats and covered wagon. Cutting down forests to make farm land, plowing up the prairie for more farm land, killing off much of nature's store house of wildlife made problems for the generations of people who followed these pioneers in the frontiers.

"Raindrops and Muddy Rivers" is the second title in the series of conservation books. It is adapted

for grades four, five and six. In it the student is shown in simple words, pictures and examples how dependent all life is on pure, clean water. The interrelationship of water, soil and life is a story of absorbing interest. Drought, erosion and floods mean either too much or too little water. The wise control and use of our streams, lakes and other waters are pointed out by illustration which prints in the mind of the student the morals to be learned.

The third title in this series of instructive conservation books is "Plants and Animals Live Together". Plants are the only natural food factories. All animal life, including man, is depending upon them in one form or another. This intricate relationship is beautifully told and brings into the mind of the student the need for careful management and use of these bountiful warehouses of nature. The harmful insects, plants and animals are brought to the attention of the reader and he is able to weigh their values in his own existence.

The fourth and last title is "Nature's Bank—The Soil", adapted for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Step by step through the first three books the authors have brought to the student the story of water, forests, plants and animals, and the value and importance of each in our own life. In this last book the riches of the soil are brought into bold relief. Everything that lives and breathes comes from the soil, either directly or by several steps. These steps are delightfully told and become fixtures in the student's mind. Nature's Bank is the richest and

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LIVED WHEN-?



### School

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the oldest bank in the world. How to extract these riches without robbing the bank is the theme of this book.

Emphasis throughout the four books is placed on the relationship and interdependence of water, soil, forests and wildlife. The authors are all able educators in our schools and colleges, and are familiar with the student's psychology and reactions to the things in nature. Nowhere has there ever been focused in such a series of booklets as much vital information about conservation as in these four books.

The National Wildlife Federation has as its chief objective an educational program to bring home to child and adult the vital importance of preserving our soil, our water, our trees and our wildlife, so that future generations may enjoy and use it to its fullest and richest extent.

These books are sold on a non-profit cooperative basis to schools throughout the country and may be secured by writing directly to the National Wildlife Federation, 1212 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

### Program Safe

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Wildlife administrators that this amount will cover the real needs of federal aid during this year.

"There is another viewpoint which has not been brought out into the spotlight. It is that during the war the manufacture of sporting arms and ammunition is being definitely slowed down. This means that for this season most of the shotgun and rifle shells will be purchased out of stock manufactured prior to June 30, 1942, on which the 10 percent excise tax had already been paid by the manufacturer. Accretions to this special earmarked fund during the war may fall materially, and it is important that there be a substantial balance in the fund to take care of next year and the next and next, if the war lasts that long.

"After the war there will be a great impetus given to wildlife management. State Fish and Game authorities will go into an expansion program and many new Pittman-Robertson projects will be set up. Wildlife will once again come into its own and reach for the sunlife of activity.

"Conservationists", the release concludes, "need have no fear that their hard worked for program will be upset by any ruling of the Treasury or other agency of the government. It is safe. Congress will give heed to the merited needs of this program, and when the post-war period comes there will be a real nest egg to provide adequate and needed funds."

## Study of Water Levels Made Here



Permanent structure housing water-stage recording gage, located on the Iowa River near Coralville. The upper part contains instruments and controls. The lower part forms a well, in which a float actuates the recording mechanism.

There are many sizeable ponds and lakes in Iowa, including 65 publicly-owned lakes. Some 800 miles of Iowa's streams are also publicly-owned and are for the use and enjoyment of the public. These natural resources, together with the land, can be preserved only through intelligent attention and husbandry.

Reliable measurements of water levels on at least a few of these lakes, as well as the collection of supplementary related basic data, are of the utmost importance in a conservation program. With the lowering of the water table due to droughts or other causes, as well as increased demands on water supply, the records of lake levels provide accurate, positive, and accessible facts for the consideration of the attendant problems.

During the present emergency the importance of natural resources—lands and waters in Iowa—has been demonstrated in the war effort. Only through conservation and wise use will it be possible to insure the heritage of such resources for oncoming

## Iowa Lake Level Records Prove Vital

In 1933 the conservation interests recognized the need for some continuous and systematic records of lake levels in Iowa. Prior to that time comparatively little positive data were available concerning water surface elevations on natural state-owned lakes in this state. Such information is, of course, essential for the proper consideration of not only new lake developments, but property lines, silting, fish and wildlife propagation, and control structures on natural lakes or existing artificial lakes.

Certain phases of fish propagation and wildlife management are contingent upon satisfactory lake and water-table elevations. Some local organizations have recognized the value of records by making intermittent observations in order to be prepared to protect their conservation interests.

At the present time the Iowa State Conservation Commission is cooperating on a program of regular observations of lake levels with the Water Resources Branch of the United States Geological Survey, which maintains a district office at Iowa City for work with municipal, state, and educational agencies in Iowa. Stream flow data are also obtained in addition to other related miscellaneous observations such as rainfall and temperature, through the facilities at state parks and fish hatcheries. Lake gages are now maintained at the following lakes:

### ARTIFICIAL LAKES

Name	Observer
Lake Ahquabi State Park near Indianola	W. E. Myers
Lake Keomah near Oskaloosa	W. B. Bayless
Lower Pine Lake at Eldora	W. R. Chastain
Lake MacBride near Solon	L. F. Keed
Springbrook Lake at Guthrie Center	W. K. Garrard
Upper Pine Lake at Eldora	W. R. Chastain
Lake Wapello near Drakesville	J. A. Babcock

### NATURAL LAKES

Name	Observer
Clear Lake Hatchery at Clear Lake	L. G. Thomas
Lake Okoboji at Lakeside Laboratory	A. C. McKinstrey
Spirit Lake Hatchery at Orleans	Ray Butler

At a few of these lakes automatic water - stage recording gages are installed in permanent structures. These houses of concrete construction enable the operation of an instrument which automatically records a continuous trace of lake or river levels.

Such instruments and records on either lakes or rivers definitely establish among other technical facts the water surface elevation at any time. The courts hold that the State of Iowa owns the soil in the beds of all meandered and navigable streams and lakes and that an individual's riparian rights extend only to the high-water mark. The determination and recording of high and low water marks in lakes and streams may thus be considered a part of the land records which are kept in every county courthouse in Iowa.

generations.

A summary of extremes from a typical lake gage record taken on Lake Okoboji at Lakeside Laboratory near Milford from 1933 to date shows that the lake level was 9.06 feet on September 2, 1942. This stage was higher than at any time since September 17, 1938, when the lake stage was 9.88 feet and at the highest level during the period 1933 to date.

The datum of this gage is 94.51 feet above Iowa Lake Survey datum and 1,391.76 feet above mean sea level (general adjustment of 1929). In order to convert the readings to Iowa Lake Survey datum add 90 feet to each reading.

It has been estimated that more than 60,000,000 Americans are interested in wildlife activities of one form or another.

### WEST OKOBOJI LAKE

Calendar Year	High	Date	Low	Date
1933	8.04	May 16	6.65	Nov. 30-Dec. 1
1934	6.91	Apr. 6-16	5.89	Nov. 17-25
1935	7.29	July 2	5.89	Jan. 27
1936	7.79	June 8	6.11	Jan. 1
1937	8.85	Aug. 21, 27	6.41	Jan. 4-Feb. 6
1938	9.88	Sept. 17	8.18	Jan. 5
1939	9.00	March 16, 17	7.17	Dec. 26
1940	7.77	June 7	6.44	Oct. 26
1941	7.71	July 10	6.60	Jan. 6-10
to date	9.06	Sept. 2	7.35	Jan. 12-23