IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Service Men Don't Want Sob Stuff--They Have Enough

Allen Green Tells A "Smelly" One That Gets a Laugh

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Allen Green, custodian of the Allen Green Refuge at Oakville, knows that to soldiers away from home nothing is more welcome than a letter. He says, "I spend much of my time writing the boys in service, and I always endeavor to illustrate these letters with pictures taken on the refuge. I have tried all sorts of letters, and those like the one enclosed they seem to enjoy most. In fact, they inform me that they pass them around camp until they are nearly worn out. They want to laugh. Sob stuff doesn't go with them.")

Allen Green Refuge
Oakville, Iowa
November 15, 1943

Dear Bob,

This letter contains a tale that smells, so before reading it make sure your gas mask is properly adjusted.

Recently we had quite a trying experience which we do not care to have repeated. Anyway, it's the first of its kind for us and it took some little figuring before we were able to cope with it.

The neighboring farmers had shelled out corn from their cribs to make room for the new corn they were to pick. Many of these cribs were infested with rats, and when the corn was removed, the rats searched for a new home and decided that they would try our place. We caught several of them, but one in particular ran about our porch every night in its attempt to gain entrance to the

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When the Flight Comes In

By Conservation Officer Pvt. M. E. STEMPEL,
c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

While you crouch in the blind
As the birds come in,
And you hear the dog's low whine,
When icy fingers—thrill on thrill—
Tingle along your spine,
You mentally hoard your precious shells
As dawn-tinged wings swish by;
You wait for the flock to come in range
Against the morn's pink sky.
After the blocks have brought them in
I thought you might recall
Your buddy—the guy in uniform,
Who won't be there this fall.

Soil and Wildlife Conservation Progresses Jointly In Iowa

Farmer-Sportsman Co-op Program Has Been Helpful

By WARREN W. CHASE

Chief, Regional Biology Division, Soil Conservation Service, Upper Mississippi Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Iowa wildlife has been an abundant and valuable resource. It has not always been managed for both the present and future use of hunters, fishermen, trappers, and other recreation seekers.

There was no need felt for management in the early days. The need then was for the food and pelts wildlife provided, and for the reduction in kinds that were overabundant. As the land was being settled deer, bear, elk, antelope, and buffalo, as well as small game, were taken by anyone hunting for market or pleasure. There were no restrictions on amounts, seasons, nor hunting lands. Iowa was the happy hunting grounds for red and white men alike, without the handicaps of trespass permits and bag limits.

Game, however, was not the big prize that brought settlers to live in the territory of Iowa. Gently rolling farmland, level upland prairies, and flat bottomlands with deep, black soil were the real prize. Farming of this rich resource in a climate favorable to good health as well as abundant crops has brought to the state the wealth and good government for which it is famous today.

Even though farming is **the**

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Farmers on game management areas increase the winter carrying capacity on their farms by feeding wild birds and animals when snow and ice make the normal food supplies unavailable. —S. C. S. Photo.

Signs notify the hunter and trapper that the fur and game "take" is being managed on game management areas.

Soil and Wildlife

(Continued from Page 81)

big industry, there are thousands of acres of public land in every part of the state that continue to produce wild furs and food valued in millions of dollars. The Iowa State Conservation Commission is responsible for administration of these lands and the wildlife they produce. Everything possible is being done to manage them for sustained production.

Because the Conservation Commission has charge of all wildlife resources, it also has a very real interest in the private lands that are suitable and can be used for the production and harvest of game. Its game management program for private lands and its fine attitude toward farmers have given it an opportunity to do an outstanding job with farm game. It has worked with all agencies that are interested in agriculture, and every conservation officer cooperates closely with local land and water conservation programs that influence wildlife in his counties. Many years ago this interest in land and the farmer became traditional in Iowa, and it has been sponsored and encouraged continuously by commissioners, directors, and their staffs.

The problem of assisting farmers and sportsmen alike through the posting of farms as game management areas was difficult to start and slow to progress. Hunting and trapping by permission of the landowner was new and quite empty unless there was game or the possibility of developing game. It was well known that game could not be kept abundant by artificial stocking alone. It was early recognized that special but simple practices to improve game food, cover and water, **farm by farm,** were necessary to prepare a suitable place for stocking birds from the game farms.

Fortunately the CCC camp program to assist farmers in erosion control furnished an opportunity for further help to farmers by the Commission.

It was not until 1937, however, that fairly complete farm plans were common enough in several counties to allow a trial to be attempted. Arrangements were then made with the Soil Conservation Service for the joint posting of certain farms being developed as erosion control demonstrations. By 1941, 168 farms, largely in southwestern and northeastern Iowa, were considered good enough game management areas to receive joint approval.

Erosion control features improving these farms for wildlife were: tree and shrub plantings in gullies and around farm ponds, grassed waterways, vegetated fence rows, protected marshes and woodlands, controlled stream, ditch, and lake banks, better crop rotations and meadows, leaving of crop residues, and reduction of running fires. **Although most of these things were done by the farmer for the good of the farm, they were understood by him to be important for wildlife also.**

As it became evident that farmers wanted to do soil conservation work in more counties than were served by CCC camps, the Commission realized that their farm game program could be expanded beyond the demonstrational stage. With the formation of soil conservation districts by farmers in 1941 and the loss of CCC camps, it looked as though there would be an opportunity to work with farmers directly in their own districts. **The same erosion control features would help prepare still more places for wildlife increase.** The same technical help by the Soil Conservation Service would be available through districts in many more counties. The Commission, therefore, trained still more conservation officers to assist in this job of land and water as well as wildlife improvements. **Partly as a result of this training and this work on the land the 1942 small game crop was the greatest ever recorded in the modern history of the State of Iowa.**

The Commission then made arrangements to furnish posters so that all soil conservation districts could help farmers post their lands, providing their farms were brought to an acceptable standard. The farmer must:

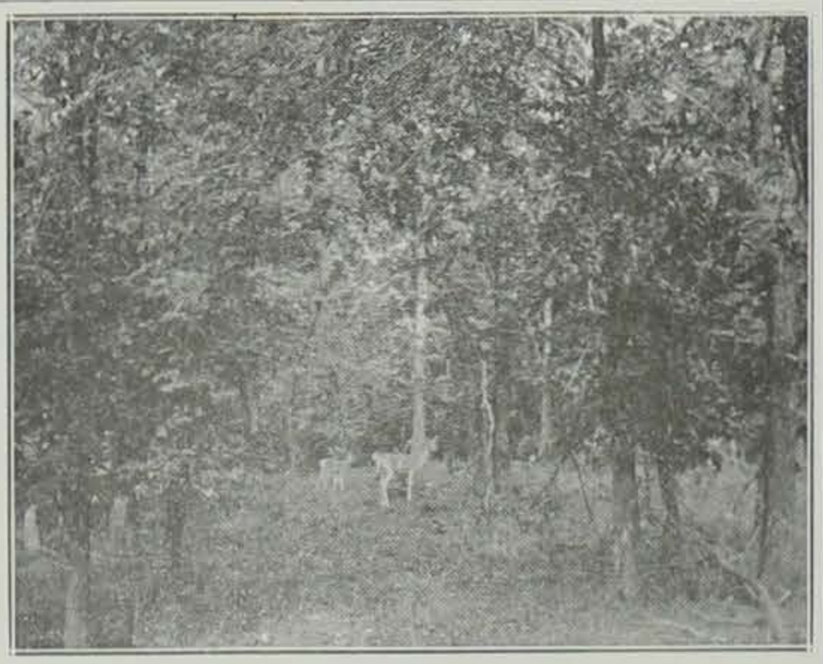
(1) Desire to include a wildlife program in this farm plan.

(2) Include a standard wildlife clause in his plan. The standard wildlife clause reads as follows: "Wildlife will be protected and its propagation encouraged by leaving grass nesting areas in fence corners and along fence rows. Feed and gravel will be provided when necessary during the winter months. The farms will be posted and hunting controlled in cooperation with the Iowa State Conservation Commission to the extent that **seed-stocks of game on the farms will be protected until a shootable surplus of game has been produced, and then hunting will be permitted to the extent of harvesting the surplus game crop."**

(3) Have his farm recommended for posting by the Soil Conservation District commissioners.

State conservation officers and Soil Conservation Service farm planners work jointly to see that acceptable standards are maintained. With the district commissioners, they have been instrumental in greatly improving the farmer interest **in posting his land on a positive and permanent basis so that the responsible hunter has a chance to hunt in his own community.**

This modern wildlife program of the Iowa State Conservation Commission and the soil conservation work of districts and assisting federal and state agencies have proved that food can be increased from game as well as agricultural crops. **Local participation in local problems with the help of governmental agencies is laying the foundation for the conservation programs of the future.**



As Iowa was being settled, deer, bear, elk, antelope, and buffalo were needed for the food and pelts they provided, and there was no need felt for game management in those early days.

The Little Flea

I think that I shall never see
A thing as lively as a flea;
A flea that skips about all day
In nimble frolicking and play;
A flea that snuggles in your hair,
And when you nip, it isn't there;
A flea that lays its eggs to hatch
Some place you can't get at to
scratch,
So that you have to furnish food
And lodging for the whole dang
brood—
Rabbits are caught by pups like
me,
But danged if I can catch a flea!
—The Forest Log,
Salem, Oregon.

"Please send to the Carroll Public Library a copy of 'Waterfowl in Iowa'."—Carroll, Iowa.

Iowa Conservationist

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Service Men

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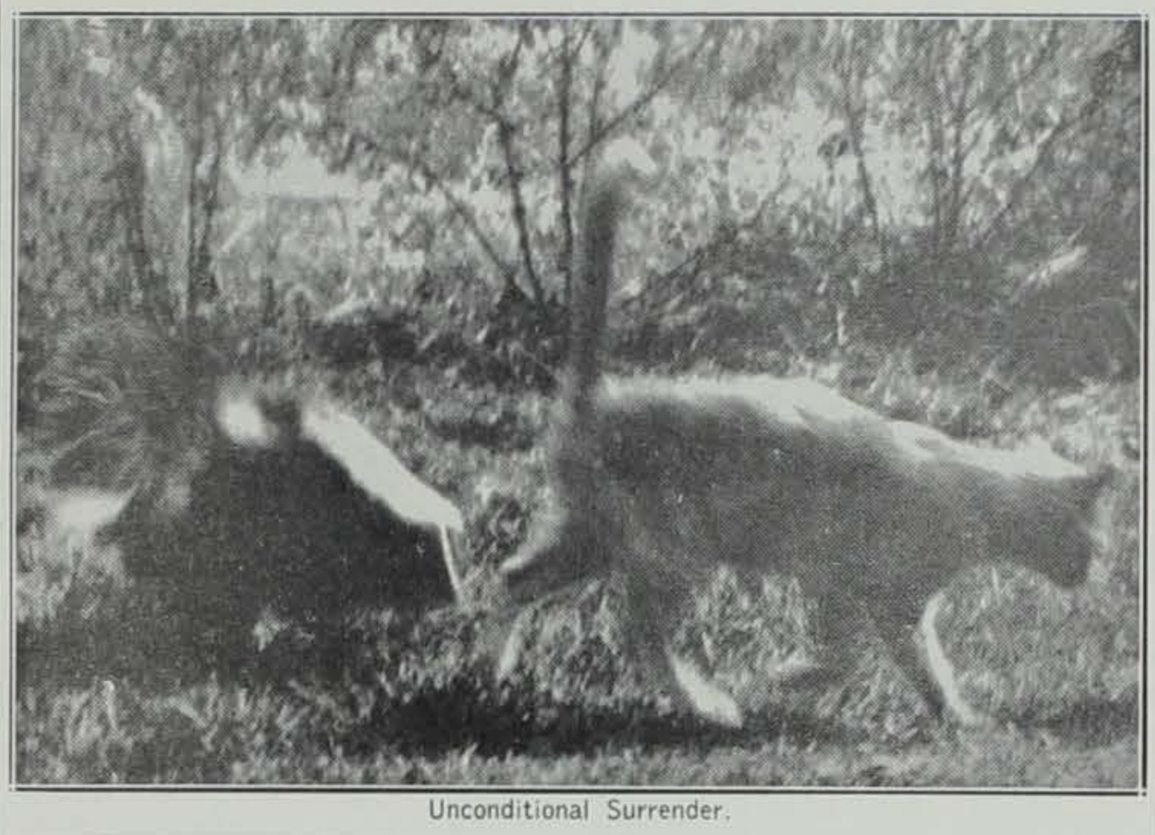
house. We did not care to make use of our jump traps because they might catch some of our songbirds, so we decided to resort to our large steel box trap, which will capture almost anything alive.

Bert baited the box trap and placed it on the front porch. Several nights elapsed—then, in the middle of the fateful night, we heard the snap of the door which told us we had our prisoner.

We did not get up that night,

The house cat braced its legs.



Unconditional Surrender.

for we decided that the intruder was safe in the escape-proof trap.

After breakfast on the following morning, Bert decided to take a look at the trap. His first peek around the corner of the house was accompanied with a loud yelp of warning to me. He came back in, and I was excitedly informed that we now had a sadder proposition than the trapping of the rat, for a beautiful skunk sat calmly in the iron cage and dared anyone to interfere with his little metal house.

This truly was a problem, for the kitty must be released.

After consultation we decided to open up a new front—we knew that we could not successfully attack from the rear without defeat plus staring us in the face, because the enemy was so well entrenched with his poison gas defense. Bert finally solved the problem of the second front.

He insisted that a skunk wouldn't use poison gas unless attacked. So he obtained an old gunny sack, placed it on the end of a fish pole, and slowly lowered the sack over the cage until the trap was covered. Then, with more nerve than I had, he quietly approached, picked up the covered cage with his hands, and carried the LIVE BOMB a quarter of a mile from the house.

He then raised the trap door under cover of the sack and made his way back home much faster than he had transported the pest.

Well, we thought we were rid of the skunk, but the "kitty" came back. A little later we glanced out of the window and saw our old friend walking about the yard as if it had enjoyed the free ride Bert had given it in the box trap, and by the way it acted it seemed as though he was anticipating another ride. But this was not all. As the animal strolled about the lawn there suddenly appeared another cat of a different color and of a different scent. The newcomer was a stray house cat, and when it spied the skunk it took a look at its head and said:

"Pardon me, stranger, but why the prominent V in white on your coal black cap?"

"Victory, victory!" exclaimed the skunk, "and I'm backing it up with concealed gas bombs!" Whereupon he made a pass at the house cat.

The house cat braced its legs, arched its tail over its back, and prepared for the worst. The skunk made a run at the intruder and the cat backed up.

"Whew!" exclaimed the cat. "Victory is right! That's what I get for leaving my gas mask at home under the barn! It's unconditional surrender for me!"

The house cat sheepishly surrendered by holding its tail high in the air and slowly making its way back home.

The skunk followed and cried, "You can't get away as easily as that. Before I let you off for intruding on my territory, I'm going to require you to recite a proverb. I love proverbs. They calm me down when I go into a rage. Recite, please!"

The house cat pulled his whiskers with his paw, thought for a moment, then declaimed:

"It's hard to tell
The depth of a well
By the length
Of the handle
On a pump."

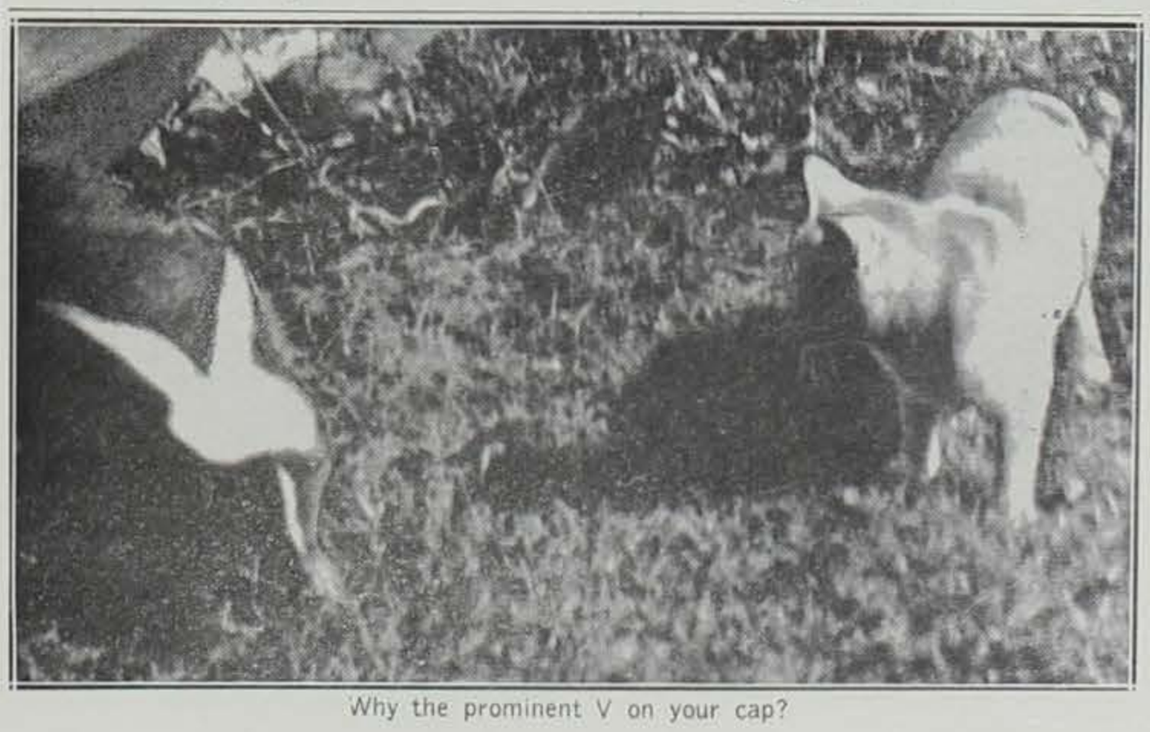
"You're wrong!" said the skunk in an indignant voice. "It goes this way:

You never can tell
The strength of the smell
By the length
Of the tail
On a skunk."

As the house cat started to leave, the skunk called out:

"Go your way, but remember this—if you want to avoid my gas bombs in the future, BUY BONDS NOW!"

Sincerely,
(Signed) Allen Green.



Why the prominent V on your cap?

Did Bear Eat Man?

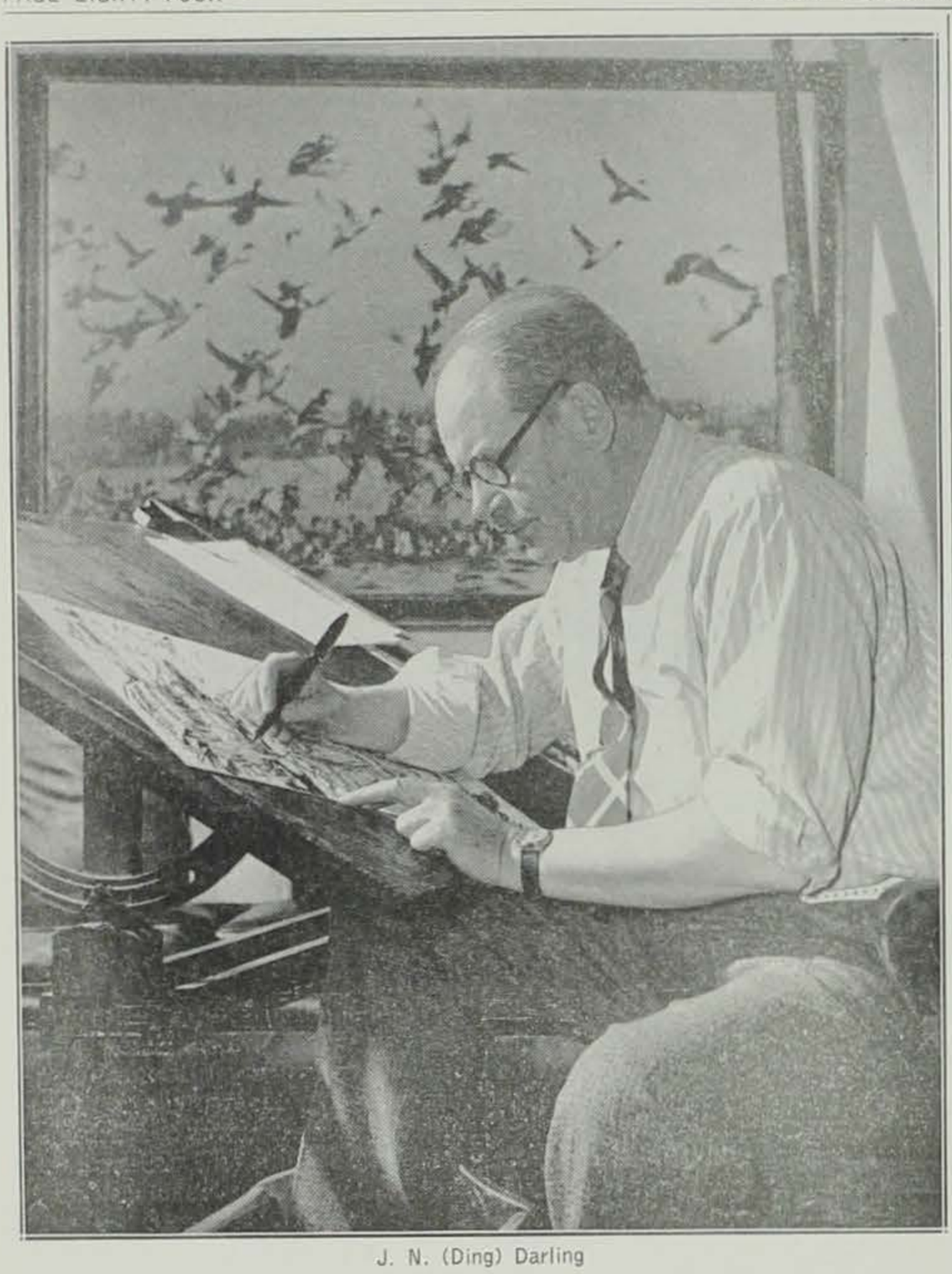
Suffolk, Va. (AP)—Things were fairly peaceful around the office of Sheriff Frank Culpeper until he opened a letter from Chicago and began to read:

"Kind and respected sir:

"I see in a paper that a man named John Sipes was attacked and et up by a bare whose cubs he was trying to get. When the she bare came up and stopped him by eating him up in the woods near your town. What I want to know is did it kill him or was he onlie partlie et up and is he from this place and all about the bare. I don't know but what he is a distant husband of mine. My first husband was by that name and I suppose he was killed in the war, but the name of the man the bare et being the same I thot it might be him after all and I ought to know if he was killed by the bare or in the war for I have been married twice since then and there ought to be divorce papers got out by me or him if the bare did not eat him all up.

"If it is him you will know it by him having six toes on the left foot. He also sings bass and has a spread eagle tatoo on his right arm which you will know him by if the bare ain't et up these sines of being him."—N. Y. Times. — Pennsylvania Game News.

"I am enclosing two dollars and wish you would send me two ccpies of 'Waterfowl in Iowa'."—Boston, Massachusetts.



J. N. (Ding) Darling

We join with those who will congratulate J. N. Darling because his long-time labor in behalf of the conservation of wildlife has been recognized in an award of a medal for distinguished service as a private citizen, made by the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association.

Many years ago he saw that wildlife was being destroyed rapidly, and he began to use the skill and power of his cartoons to awaken the people of his own state of Iowa to an understanding of what was happening. Largely through his effort Iowa adopted the present plan for the conservation of wildlife and its environment; later his influence extended widely and reached its height when he was asked to serve as director of the United States Biological Survey. He served two years—long enough to give encouragement to scientists who were struggling to secure recognition for their conservation aims and to aid them in getting substantial financial help.

We are sometimes a bit uncertain as to which of the Jay Darlings we know has wielded a more beneficial influence in the nation—the cartoonist or the conservationist. And then we turn to our liking for the plain man "Ding", who is highest in our esteem.—Knoxville Journal.

Observations Reveal Pheasant Damage to Spring Corn Trivial

By GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON
and L. F. TELLIER

Despite a lengthened 1942 fall open season and eight days of spring shooting, a large breeding stock of ring-necked pheasants remained in northern counties this spring. The pheasant's abundance aroused fears for the welfare of corn, Iowa's most valuable crop.

For 20 years some observers have contended that the pheasant pulls sprouting corn in large quantities, whereas many others have asserted firmly that the bird commits little or no damage in spring cornfields. This year, in which all-out agricultural production is under way and the pheasant is numerous, the work of that bird in cornfields in spring became the subject of thorough investigation by state conservation officers and the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. The aid of farmers in reporting suspected pheasant damage was requested. A total of hundreds of hours in the mornings and evenings was spent by the investigators watching pheasants through field glasses in several thousand fields of some 50 northern counties.

Briefly, the damage to the 1943 Iowa corn crop was a small fraction of one percent. The value of the pheasant's consumption of insects harmful to corn and other crops, and the two million or more pounds of pheasants which may be taken for human food this fall, repay many times over for the slight damage they do. Further, about nine-tenths of the damage blamed to the pheasant this year was caused by Franklin and thirteen-striped ground squirrels.

We made our observations in Winnebago and Worth Counties, known to have some of the highest late winter concentrations of pheasants. Also, in these counties farmers had expressed greatest fears of pheasant damage to the new corn.

The first report of damage took us to an early planted cornfield adjacent to the Rice Lake State Wildlife Area about two and one-half miles southeast of Lake Mills. There a male pheasant was seen to pick out a hill with its bill. Figure 1 shows the results of this pecking. In the same field the destructive work of a Franklin ground squirrel was noted and photographed for Figure 2. In several visits to this 18-acre field in the first two weeks of June, we estimated that pheasants took about 0.02 acre and the squirrels about 0.2 acre of new corn, mostly at the north and east sides, which are farthest from the farm buildings. Chickens dug about 0.25 acre of new corn plants at the south side adjacent to the buildings, or 12½ times as much as the pheasants.

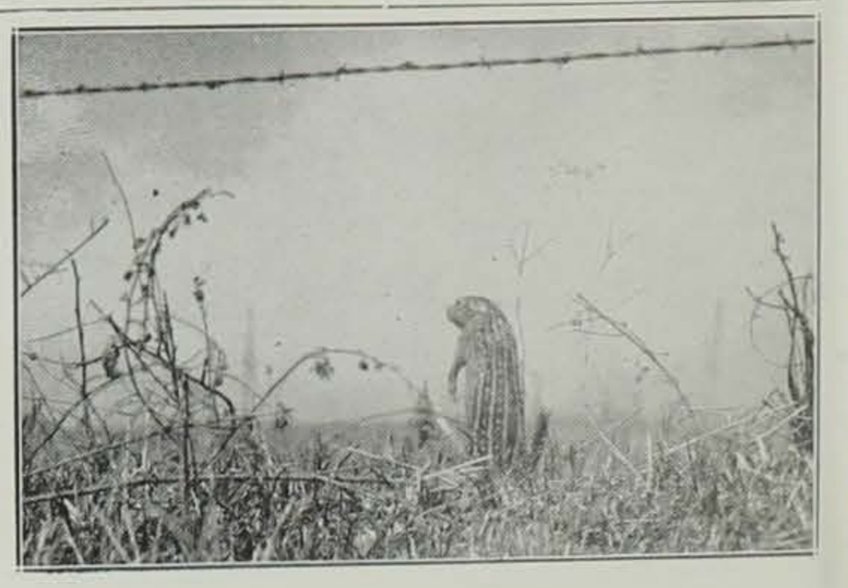
By mid-June the corn was 6-10 inches tall, the kernels mostly used up and the plants quite safe from pheasant and ground squirrel harm. A small amount of damage by cutworms, equal at least to the combined pheasant and ground squirrel damage, was noted in this 18-acre field.

The next report took us to a 20-acre early planted field, also adjacent to the Rice Lake State Wildlife Area. In a conversation with the farmer previous to entering the field we learned that he had taken a second look at the damage and decided that ground squirrels were responsible for nearly all of the loss. We found nearly all of the damage at one side of the field within two rods of an adjacent grassy cattle lane where some 20 ground squirrel holes, chiefly those of the Franklin, were seen. In the several visits to this field by mid-June a total of about 0.3 of an acre was estimated as taken by ground squirrels and 0.02 acre by pheasants.

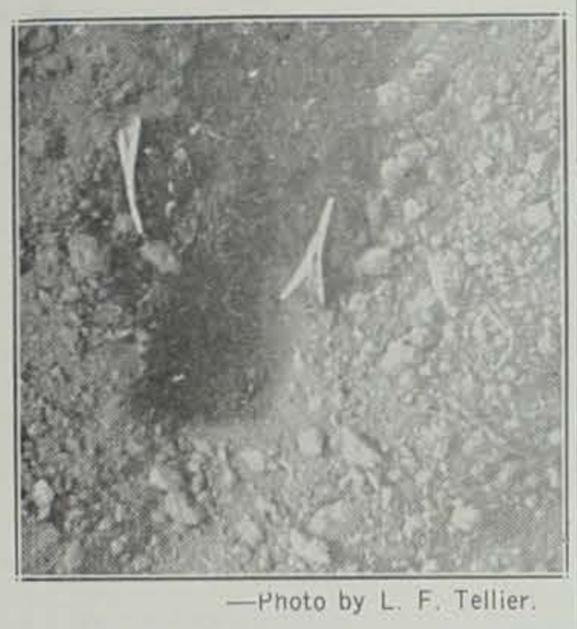
The third report took us to a farm five miles from the Rice Lake Wildlife Area. On this farm several groves of natural oak woods and an adjacent wooded pasture harbored a heavy population of fox squirrels. In three fields totaling near 160 acres, about 0.04 acre was lost to fox squirrels and ground squirrels and about one-sixth as much to pheasants.

Continued observations at some 30 fields, most of them within a few miles of the Rice Lake Wildlife Area, pointed out that the pheasant damage was slight and that the squirrel damage was much greater. But we did find a field in which the pheasant damage was far above the average. In a 15-acre field, five miles south of Lake Mills, we noted one acre on which three-fourths of the hills showed that pheasants had pecked out one or more kernels at a hill. As many as 10-15 hills in line were missing. At about three-fourths of the damaged hills all the stalks were pulled and cast aside as the pheasant ate only the kernels. At the remainder of the hills only one or two stalks had been pulled, while one or more stalks remained unharmed, or only one or two kernels had been taken and the attached stalks remained rooted in the ground. The farmer disced this badly injured acre and an additional half-acre at each end to "even the rows", as he put it, and replanted the two acres. Early in August this replanting showed a good stand,

(Continued to Page 85, Column 1)



Many farmers in the area of heaviest pheasant concentrations thanked us for calling their attention to the need of ground squirrel control.



—Photo by L. F. Tellier.

Fig. 1. Hill of corn pecked out by a male ring-necked pheasant. Note soil thrown to the right of the hole, the discarded stalks, and wedge-shaped outline of the hole.

Observations Reveal

(Continued from Page 84)

except on about one-fourth acre drowned out, and appeared as far along as the remainder of the field, the first planting. The approximate six percent damage to the 15-acre field was the greatest pheasant corn injury we encountered.

This 15-acre field is part of an 80-acre marshy, poorly drained farm. About one-fourth of the soil in the field is peaty and the higher parts are quite sandy. Apparently pecking in the soil was easy for the pheasant in this field. We immediately began a study of neighboring fields and compared the findings and those of other fields with similar conditions. Once the pheasants had started pulling corn and found easy pickings they continued, we conjectured. One-half mile west a replanted 15-acre field of corn was visited. The soil of this second field was like that of the first 15-acre field. Although the farmer blamed the pheasant for a part of the loss, he pointed out that probably he had planted weak seed and too early, and that consequently he might expect a poor stand during the cool, wet 1943 spring on low ground.

Within a mile north of the first 15-acre field a 60-acre field, two-thirds low and peaty and about one-third higher and sandy, was visited several times. A total of six hills was pulled, possibly by crows which we saw in the field several times, though not pulling corn. Crow tracks were seen near the pulled hills, and the few pheasant tracks seen in the field were not near the damage. We expected pheasant damage to occur in this field for several reasons. The field was distant from farm buildings, the soil loose, and pheasants were concentrated along a drainage ditch nearby at the north. Across the fence to the west of the field, 10 acres of the 1943 corn crop were left all winter because the corn was soft and access impossible because of mud and snow. This spring the land was too wet to till.

Five other cornfields of various sizes within two miles of the first mentioned 15-acre field were investigated. Each has much peaty and gravelly or sandy soil, but practically no pheasant damage was detected in those five fields. Missing hills were as numerous as eight in 100, selected in line at random in various parts of the fields. Various agents, such as mud-clogged planter shoes, covering by the cultivator, cutworms, wireworms, seed-corn maggots, weak seed, deep planting, and ground squirrels were held responsible for nearly all of the loss in hills.

At the seriously damaged 15-acre field we learned of the farmer's attitude toward the pheasant and attempts at relief. He pointed out that chickens had destroyed an acre at an end of the field near the buildings, which was not replanted. At some length he spoke about his yearly enjoyment with city hunters now long-time friends, and reported a reasonable monetary return was involved. This farmer told of sending his dog out to the field morning and evening to chase pheasants out of the new corn, and apologetically mentioned the old age of the dog and his own neglect for not sending the dog out more frequently and farther into the field to decrease damage.

Our offer to come to drive pheasants from the field by shooting was not accepted. In fact, at one of our visits the farmer came to meet us with a pheasant hen under his arm, just caught at her nest in the pasture. As we felt of the corn kernels in her crop, the farmer stated this hen fed frequently at his corn crib and urged us to turn her loose. On release she flew immediately toward her nest as the farmer was pleased to point out to us.

Evidently this farmer was not greatly opposed to the pheasant but rather on a whole enjoyed them. Nor was he greatly upset by the loss to his corn, but was pleased with our visit and confirmation of his own findings. We asked him about the value of shelled corn or ears strung around field edges to avoid pheasant and ground squirrel damage and were told that it had been of little value in his experience.

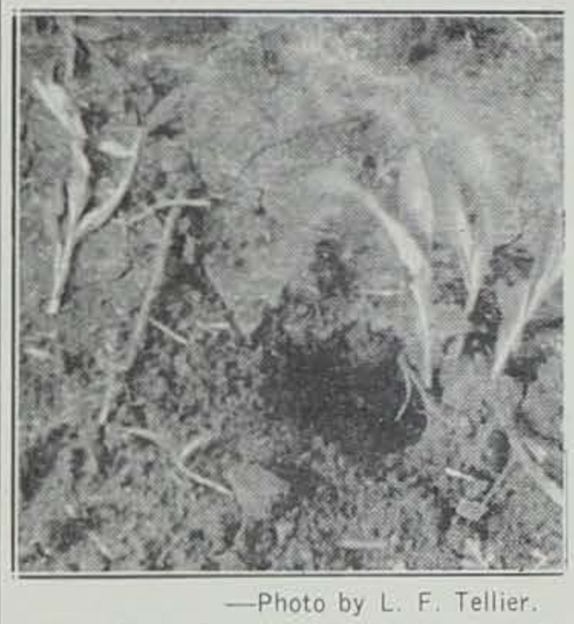
At two of a dozen fields with ears of corn around the edge apparently pheasant and squirrel damage was decreased by furnishing the supplementary food. At a 20-acre field we saw some 100 hills injured by ground squirrels and pheasants and observed a male pheasant at a distance peck out two hills. On the same day the farmer placed ears of corn a rod or two apart along one edge of the field. A male pheasant taken in a clover-timothy field close to the cornfield later in the day had 44 fresh yellow corn kernels evidently from the edge-ears, and two kernels of dug sprouted seed corn in the crop. In the gizzard were grit, four fresh edge-ear kernels, some ground fresh corn, and six smartweed seeds. At several later visits to the field no additional pheasant and very little additional ground squirrel damage was noted. However, much of the corn at edges had been taken by pheasants and by squirrels, which left the starchy parts minus the germs.

The above-mentioned field of timothy and clover lay between two cornfields across the fence from the 20-acre field. The earliest planted of the three fields showed no pheasant damage and a slight ground squirrel injury along the edges. On June 9 the corn was six to 10 inches tall in that field, about four to six inches tall in the 20-acre field, and two to four inches tall in the third field.

For about 15 minutes around 8 p m. June 9, while looking over these three fields with field glasses, we observed several pheasants of a flock of three males and eight hens peck out corn in the field of shortest stalks. We noted later that 67 stalks and kernels had been pulled and from about as many stalks left rooted in position the kernels had been taken, all within an acre of loose, peaty soil. Because we saw the 11 pheasants go into the adjacent timothy and clover, we collected four males and one hen within the next hour. We got but one of the culprits because there was no sprouted corn in four of the crops. Instead they had fed on waste field corn, beans, oats and barley, fresh corn from ears along edges of the 20-acre field, leaves of clover, foxtail seeds, clover - leafworms, ground beetles and flies. The crop of one male contained two soiled sprouted kernels, each showing the opening at the front

—Photo by L. F. Tellier.

Fig. 2. A Franklin ground squirrel dug into this hill. Note soil is not thrown back and the hole has a neat circular outline. The husk of a kernel and a partly rooted stalk are left in the hole.



—Photo by L. F. Tellier.

Fig. 3. A pheasant hen pecked a stalk from this hill, left undamaged three corn plants, swallowed the kernel of corn from the stalk, pulled and discarded the damaged plant at the left of the illustration.

of the germ which one would expect to see after a kernel has been torn from the rooted stalk.

At a visit to these three fields a week later no additional damage was noted. Soil had washed into the holes around the stalks from which kernels had been removed and those stalks appeared as tall, strong and green as nearby stalks which retained their kernels.

The above-noted early planted field, in small grain in 1942 and fall-plowed, had firmly packed soil this spring, whereas the soil of other two fields in soybeans in 1942 and spring-plowed, was loose. We believe the ears of corn strung along the edge between the three fields offered some protection to the fields planted late on loose spring-plowed soil.

So far we had not seen a pheasant pecking out corn except at a distance of 40 or more rods. In addition to making observations in fields to which we were called, we cruised the roads several hours in the morning and evening looking for pheasants in cornfields. In some 100 fields of both counties we saw as many as 30 pheasants at a time in a field without harm occurring to corn and without readily noticeable damage having occurred previously.

One evening we saw two hens, judged to be setting because of their rapid movements on entering a cornfield, peck at the ground and turn over small clods for about 15 minutes as they walked along quite rapidly. Then they dusted and wallowed in the earth about 10 minutes. After feeding again about 10 minutes, while 20 rods from us as we sat in the car and watched through field glasses, one hen pecked three times in quick succession at the base of a hill and tossed a stalk to one side. The second hen ran to the hill but did no pecking. We did not watch longer, for we rushed out with cameras and tripod to photograph

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Last Installment of History of Iowa Wildlife Legislation

By BRUCE F. STILES
Chief, Division of Fish and Game

(Editor's Note: This is the last of three articles relative to legislation and events affecting wildlife in the State of Iowa. The first two parts, in the September and October issues of the Iowa Conservationist, briefed legislation and events from 1838, when Iowa became a territory, through the Thirty-third General Assembly in 1909, when the first legislation requiring resident hunters to have a license was passed.)

1911—Thirty-fourth G. A.

A bill was passed increasing the salary of the State Fish and Game Warden from $1,200 to $1,600.

The scope of law enacted in 1906 declaring the ownership of wild birds to be in the state was enlarged to include "all wild game, animals and birds except deer in parks and public and private preserves the ownership of which was acquired prior to April 19, 1911, and all fish in any public waters of the state including all ponds, sloughs, bayous or other waters adjacent to any public waters which ponds, sloughs, bayous and other waters are stocked with fish by overflow of public waters."

This session enacted a law empowering the State Game Warden to **capture deer that were causing damage** and to distribute them to persons throughout the state. The expenses of such work were to be paid by the person receiving the deer.

1913—Thirty-fifth G. A.

In April of this year a game farm was established on the State Fair Grounds in Des Moines. Charles Howard was the first game keeper.

Important in national legislation was the passage of the **Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which abolished spring duck hunting.** It became effective in October, 1913. The United States Department of Agriculture assigned Mr. E. A. Cleasby to the district comprising Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota to enforce the law.

George A. Lincoln was succeeded by E. C. Hinshaw as State Game Warden on April 1 of this year.

The fish hatchery at Spirit Lake was remodeled in the fall of 1913.

1915—Thirty-sixth G. A.

This session passed a law **requiring trappers to first procure a license.**

1917—Thirty-seventh G. A.

In this year non-resident males over 18 years of age were required to have a fishing license.

This same Thirty - seventh General Assembly **created the first Board of Conservation.**

Shortly after the legislature convened in February, 1917, Representative Arch W. McFarlane of Waterloo, who still serves the interest of conservation in the House, introduced a bill establishing a five-year closed season on prairie chickens. The bill passed the House by a vote of 69 to 33; and on April 5 it passed the Senate by 43 to 1. At the same time a **bill for a five-year closed season on quail** was introduced in the House by Representative Fred G. Turner of North English. This passed the House by a vote of 61 to 32.

A public hearing was held on these two bills on March 20 by the Fish and Game Committee in the Senate. The members of this Committee were Holdoegel, Chairman, and Gibson, Adams, Price, Lytle, Van Alstine, Fellows, Kingland, Grout, Frailley, and Vorrhees. The Committee Chairman, Senator Holdoegel, divided the time equally with one speaker for and one speaker against each of the two bills, and each was allotted 20 minutes. On the McFarlane prairie chicken bill, Mr. Vernon R. Seaburger spoke against and Professor B. H. Bailey of Cedar Rapids spoke for. On the Turner quail bill, State Game Warden E. C. Hinshaw spoke against the measure and Dr. T. C. Stephens of Morningside College, Sioux City, spoke for it. It was decided that Senator Byington should introduce the Turner bill. He made a masterful speech lasting an hour.

At that time Senator Chase of Webster City arose and delivered what was said to be the most eloquent speech heard by that session of the legislature. Chase had served in the Senate for 24 years, was an outstanding conservationist, and he spoke in favor of the bill. After one of the hottest sessions on record and the defeat of numerous amendments, the bill finally passed the Senate by a vote of 35 to 14.

This marked the turning point of public sentiment in favor of wildlife conservation in Iowa, and the bill received national attention and was commented on by Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt; the great naturalist, John Burroughs; Honorable George P. McLean, United States Senator from Connecticut and co-author of the Weeks-McLean Bill; and many others.

This bill served its purpose of bringing the need for conservation out into the light and paved the way for research, study, and the introduction of sound policies of game management. Outstanding in this fight for wildlife and the man who was most responsible for swinging the tide in favor of wildlife conservation was Dr. T. C. Stephens of Morningside College, who later received the gold medal award from the Permanent Wildlife Protection Foundation for his work.

1919—Thirty-eighth G. A.

Mr. W. E. Albert of Lansing was appointed State Fish and Game Warden in the spring of 1919, succeeding E. C. Hinshaw.

1923—Fortieth G. A.

A law prohibiting the use of duck blinds that had been in effect since 1897 was repealed.

1925—Forty-first G. A.

Legislation was enacted by this session limiting the number of deputy game wardens to 40.

1927—Forty-second G. A.

During this session, the State Fish and Game Warden received petitions from 150 farmers or landowners requesting that permits be issued to farmers to kill not more than 12 pheasants in any one day and to pay them $1.00 each for those captured alive.

1929—Forty-third G. A.

A bill passed in this session on April 16 requiring all **male residents of the state over 18 years of age to have a license to fish in any of the waters of the state.**

This same session passed a bill prohibiting the spearing of muskrats.

DR. T. C. STEPHENS,
Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa
Dr. Stephens was outstanding in the fight for wildlife conservation in the 37th General Assembly of the State of Iowa, later receiving the gold medal award from the Permanent Wildlife Protection Foundation for his work.

1931—Forty-fourth G. A.

By legislative act, a commission of five men was created to be known as the State Fish and Game Commission, Dr. William C. Boone of Ottumwa, Chairman; Arthur E. Rapp of Council Bluffs, Secretary; J. N. Darling of Des Moines; Dennis H. Goeders of Algona; Dr. J. F. Walter of McGregor.

1932—During the Term of the Forty-fourth G. A.

State Game Warden W. E. Albert of Lansing passed away on June 25, 1932.

1933—Forty-fifth G. A.

Under the direction of the legislature the former Fish and Game Commission and the Board of Conservation with their own funds employed a planning consultant who **in 1933 completed what is known as the Twenty-Five Year Conservation Plan Report.** This report summarized the ideas of many individuals, set forth a general plan and fundamental principles pertaining to the conservation of natural resources including soil, water, woodlands, wildlife, game and fisheries, and made recommendations pertaining to recreational, archaeological, historical, and geological phases. **This report was a pioneer report. No other state in the Union had ever heretofore made such a study of its natural resources and incorporated it into a general plan for the conservation thereof.**

1934—During the Term of the Forty-fifth G. A.

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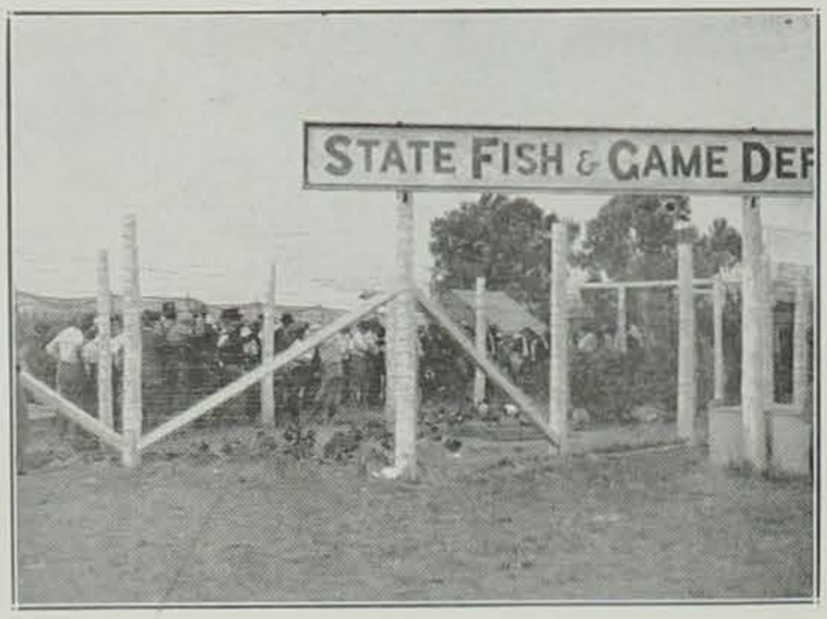

In 1913 a game farm was established on the state fair grounds in Des Moines. The farm was abandoned as impractical after a few years. However, the annual fish and game exhibit at the fair has since that time developed from a "tent show" into one of the finest formal exhibits at the exposition.

Let's Be Careful Let's Be Considerate Let's Be Sportsmen

While we probably won't shoulder a gun and go out after any ducks or other waterfowl this fall, because we couldn't hit the side of a barn with a tommygun, we're going to deal in some unsolicited advice to those who do.

In the first place, boys, be careful. Remember that a firearm fundamentally was designed and manufactured to kill something. That's why they're using so many of them in the war. A gun can kill or maim a man just as quickly as it can a duck, a pheasant, or a fox.

The most detailed attention to habits of utmost safety is none too much. Even so, before the hunting season is over, this newspaper will carry stories about the accidental shooting of some person. In fact, it already has. The next one may be you.

And don't violate the rights of farmers. It's no wonder so many of them don't like to have city hunters on their premises. We know a farmer who lost a valuable steer because of a careless marksman, and another who had a horse maimed for life. It isn't smart to shoot a farmer's game without his specific permission, and it's worse than thievery to raid his orchard or to bag one of his tame ducks when you didn't get any wild ones.

And don't try to hog all the wild game. Observe the rules. Don't be tempted to kill game out of season or that is restricted. There's an abundance of wild game this fall—more than there has been in many years—but there won't be long if you're a game hog.

And now, having delivered our soul of that treatise, if there are any sportsmen still on speaking terms with us who would like to present us a brace of ducks, we'll accept them. That's the only way we'll ever get any because we demonstrated to the recent Rotary picnic that we barely know how to fire a shotgun or to aim it.

We should add, however, that such gift won't secure you immunity from publicity in case a game warden arrests you for violating the rules. — Burlington Hawkeye Gazette.

There is an abundance of wild game this fall—more than there has been in many years, but don't be tempted to exceed the legal bag limits.

The Kentucky Coffee Tree

In the days of the Civil War, when commodities were scarce and the blockade on coffee prevented many Americans from having their morning cup, a great many substitutes were tried in the search for something to take the place of coffee. There was an old-time brew made of burnt bread and water, which at least looked like coffee, and there were bitter chickory coffees which many people became so accustomed to using, especially in the south, that many never returned to the more expensive true coffees of South America. There were many other more or less futile attempts at coffee substitution, for in those days, as it may be soon again, shipments of coffee could not pass through the war zone. Here in the middle west the pioneer families that lived in cabins out on the prairie, or at the edge of forest land bordering the rivers, had little money but much ingenuity. From the forest, source of much of their livelihood, they found a coffee which, though it probably tasted little like the real thing, nevertheless formed a substitute during the hard war years.

In the river forests were tall, rough-hewn trees that were like pioneers in appearance — stern, straight, and earnest. The bark was flaky and rough, in hard, curved plates firmly attached at one point to the trunk. The twigs were stiff and blunt, not tapering or feathery like elms or hackberries. When a twig was broken, a bright salmon-orange pith lay in chambered sections to further identify the tree. For months—all winter and far into the spring—this tree stood stark and leafless, as if it were dead of the too rigorous prairie winter. But suddenly from the blunt twigs in spring came buds concealed in the bark, from which grew large compound leaves almost a yard long. They had a long central stem and side branches, all bearing small oval leaves. When the tree was in leaf it was a ferny, airy thing which now showed its relationship to the locusts. There were clusters of greenish-white flowers, followed by a pod or two in each cluster which developed and grew, until in autumn there were heavy, hard, thick pods of polished mahogany color. As the leaves turned yellow and dropped early in the autumn, the clusters of fat pods here and there on the tree hung black against the sky. By and by the pods fell, and when they were pried open, inside there was a sticky, greenish-yellow substance with a sweet taste, and imbedded in it were several marble-sized brown seeds of utmost hardness.

Somehow, a few of the coffee-hungry pioneers contrived to mash or grind these rock-like seeds and brewed coffee from the resultant grains. What it tasted like we do not know, nor how widespread was its use. There was probably no cane sugar in the house for sweetening; not only a war blockade but the pinch of circumstance allowed none of the luxury of refined white sugar in any but houses of the well-to-do. Coffee was sweetened with sorghum, perhaps with maple sugar. It was a day of substitutes, a time when a man might not be able to buy the things he wanted or needed, but by means of his alert brain he could contrive to find substitutes in his wood lot, in his fields, in the skill of the gnarled fingers of his frontier wife.

Today the coffee tree still grows in woods and forest lands along the rivers, and the pods, long untouched as a source of a doubtfully flavorsome beverage, ripen and fall, a silent reminder of the privations of the past.—The Living Museum, Springfield, Ill.

Observations Reveal

(Continued from Page 85)

the damage (Fig. 3). We walked over this field for a half-hour and noted no other pheasant corn injury.

One morning at a distance of 60 rods we saw a male pheasant peck at the base of a hill and a hen ran to him. In the fields the males clucked and called frequently as a chicken rooster does and frequently hens gave attention and ran to the pheasant males as chicken hens do to roosters. Several times pheasant hens called from a distance were seen apparently to pick up food at the feet of males.

To get an idea about what pheasants might be picking up in cornfields we analyzed the contents of a handful of debris washed to the edge of a temporary cornfield pond. The debris contained several hundred weed seeds, chiefly foxtail, barnyard grass, pigweed and smartweed, which, scattered on the ground, are pheasant food. In the cool hours cutworms occasionally appear in morning and evening, and ground beetles come out from hiding under clods and in the soil. Of course there are many small rock particles, too, picked up as grit.

To gain a more complete opinion on the food of pheasants during the early part of the corn season, 14 pheasants, 10 males and four hens, were collected at fields of reported injury. The crops and gizzards of those birds contained 1,133 recognizable food items: 439 cloverleaf worms, 289 waste corn kernels, 236 corn kernels from ears scattered as food for pheasants and ground squirrels, 34 waste soybeans, 34 wireworms, 20 snail shells, 19 ground beetles, 10 smartweed seeds, 8 waste oats, 6 cutworms, 5 flies, 4 earthworms, 4 sprouted corn kernels, 4 clover leaves. 3 green grass leaves, 3 leaf-eating beetles, 2 young grasshoppers, 2 waste barley kernels, and 1 each of the following: millipede, corn billbug (beetle), June beetle, grain weevil, soybean sprout, dandelion seed head, dandelion flower stalk, dandelion leaf, great ragweed seed, foxtail seed, wild rose seed. In summary, of the 1,133 food items, 569 were waste grain and corn fed to pheasants, 492 insects harmful to farm crops, and 16 weed items. The remainder of the food items were helpful or of neutral value on the farms.

We were received courteously at all farms and frequently farmers walked over the fields with us and took turns with us at watching the pheasants through our field glasses. We believe all these farmers were in agreement with us in our findings. Many thanked us for calling their attention to the need of ground squirrel control. And several farmers asked us to send them more pheasants because they believe the birds are very useful.

Conservation laws are not designed by the state to deprive people of their right to hunt and fish. These regulations are merely rules necessary to the management of our game and fish supply for the benefit of the sportsman. — Mississippi Game and Fish.

"Send me a copy of your very fine book 'Waterfowl in Iowa'."—Seattle, Washington.

Your Sportsman Pal Will Appreciate "Waterfowl In Iowa"

The new book "Waterfowl in Iowa" is still available from the State Conservation Commission for one dollar postpaid. Supported by the following comments, the Commission unhesitatingly recommends this book as a Christmas gift for your sportsman pal, in place of other articles that you in normal times are able to buy and place in his Christmas stocking.

"It is the sort of book that will be of use to the public and understood by the people who want to know something about birds. It is surely a splendid thing for the Conservation Commission, and I am glad that they could see the value of such a publication in their department."—Homer R. Dill, State University of Iowa, Museum of Natural History.

"I am extremely pleased with your new book 'Waterfowl in Iowa'. It is a real contribution toward better acquaintance with perhaps the most popular group of birds, and certainly it will be welcomed by all wildlife managers, bird students, and hunters."—Philip A. DuMont, Senior Administrative Assistant, Division of Public Relations, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"I have just finished careful perusal of your book 'Waterfowl in Iowa', and I want to tell you at once that I think it a very fine and worthwhile volume. When I first heard that there was to be another duck book so soon after Kortright's elaborate work, I wondered a bit, but now that I have it I see plainly that it is a book better suited for the use of the sportsman than the larger work. I like the way you have divided up the reading matter, especially the terse, clear section on the Iowa status. The illustrations are satisfactory and informative, showing just what they should to assist the sportsman and the amateur in identification of birds in the eclipse and juvenile plumages. I feel that you have done a very good job and that the book should take its place widely as a valuable guide for sportsmen and students of waterfowl."—Thomas S. Roberts, Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, and author of "Birds of Minnesota".

" 'Waterfowl in Iowa' is brief enough to be read by people in a hurry, and yet a wonderful amount of information is packed in it. The color plates are splendid. The coloring is good. Altogether I think it is very fine and a credit to the state." — T. C. Stephens, Department of Biology, Morningside College.

" 'Waterfowl in Iowa' is a very attractive book in its makeup, and the contents should be extremely useful, especially within the state. You are fortunate in having an artist able to do so beautifully the illustrations which make such a book more helpful. Let me compliment you again upon the excellence of your publication." — Stanley C. Ball, Curator, Yale University Museum of Natural History.

Wildlife Legislation

(Continued from Page 86)

In March of this year, J. N. ("Ding") Darling of Des Moines, Iowa, was made Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. Mr. Darling was responsible for the establishment of the first federal migratory waterfowl production area in the United States. More than one million acres were so established that year.

1935—Forty-sixth G. A.

As recommended in the Twenty-Five Year Plan, a law creating the State Conservation Commission and merging the duties of the Board of Conservation and the Fish and Game Commission became effective on May 17, 1935. Appointed to this Commission were Mrs. Henry Frankel, Des Moines, Chairman, (Board of Conservation); Arthur E. Rapp, Council Bluffs, (Fish hand Game Commission); Dr. Frank J. Colby, Forest City; Dr. William C. Boone, Ottumwa, (Fish and Game Commission); Dr. E. E. Speaker, Lake View; Logan Blizzard, McGregor; and W. A. Burhans, Burlington.

Thus, a much abridged outline follows conservation into the present decade where it assumes a highly important place in activities of the state. From a single law in 1856, our conservation laws have increased until now they cover 239 sections and occupy 29 pages of the current code. From a single little wooden fish hatchery at Anamosa in 1874, the property under the administration of the State Conservation Commission has increased until at the present time it is valued at $7,300,000. In trust for the people of Iowa, the Commission holds title to more than 143,000 acres of land with $5,734,000 worth of improvements on it. They have over $27,000 worth of automotive equipment including 54 trucks. The State Game Farm equipment is valued at $58,107. Equipment of the State Fisheries Department is valued at $600,000, and the equipment of the state conservation officers is valued at more than $20,000.

Thirteen thousand five hundred and forty-one acres of land are maintained for game-producing purposes, of which 2,263 acres are farmed. The Commission has 86 state parks, one state forest nursery, has control of 65 meandered lakes, 11 meandered streams approximating 800 miles, 18 artifical lakes, 91 wildlife refuges comprising 49,408 acres, 86 public shooting grounds comprising 60,227 acres, one game bird hatchery, 42 fish-producing units, and two fish rescue stations.

During the past biennium, the game bird hatchery near Boone produced and distributed 95,456 game birds. The Commission supervises the annual harvest of a million-dollar fur crop and approximately 26,000,000 pounds of fish and game. State fisheries crews during the past biennium removed 3,400,000 pounds of rough fish from our streams and lakes and stocked 245,831,000 fish.

Here the kaleidoscope of events pauses briefly, and we see Iowa once again emerging to take its place among the best hunting and fishing states in the Middle West.

It's Difficult To Conceal Quality

My favorite duck hunting story is about the woman who carried an old fur coat along with her every time she went duck hunting with her husband. When a visiting hunter happened to notice the coat (then very old, muddy and hard-worn), he asked if he couldn't send it to a Canadian furrier for appraisal, cleaning and remodeling. The owner was embarrassed to have such an ancient model go to the well-known furrier but boxed it up and sent it, only to discover that her former hunting coat was valuable still, being a full-length beaver model, relatively undamaged by its maltreatment and capable of being made over into a stylish and valuable garment. She never wore it to the duck blind again.—Waverly Journal.

Well, the Poor Fish Was Suffering!

The pity of the sweet young thing who discovered a large catfish stranded on the Third Avenue bridge recently was nearly complete. Flopping about on the sidewalk, the fish was suffering and about to die. No one seemed to own it, so the girl, unable to bear the sight of its suffering, picked it up gingerly and tossed it back into the drink. The fish was still enroute toward the water when the fisherman who had landed it reappeared on the bridge.

The newspaper code of ethics prohibits us from printing what he said. The girl established a new record for the course from the bridge to Welch-Cook-Beals, where she is employed.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

This Group of People Talked Good Sense

A group of people interested in conservation met in Des Moines to talk over practices that are beneficial. They were opposed to the government project of building extensive dams in the rivers to control floods. The Mississippi expenditures have been made. But the Missouri is coming. The idea these practical men had was that the money would be far better spent to keep the water in the soil and control erosion rather than to build these big dams after the run-off damage has been done.

The Missouri carries an immense amount of silt. Dams would in time fill up. Then the floods would do more damage than ever. Contour farming encouragement, building of controls at the source, and promotion of soil practices that will retain the water will help the farmer and the nation.

It is this kind of practices that the soil conservation districts proposed for Appanoose county will promote.—Centerville Iowegian.

"I am enclosing my personal check for $1.40 for which please send me the magazine 'Iowa Conservationist' for one year and also the book advertised in your August issue, 'Waterfowl in Iowa'." —Sibley, Iowa.

And Nary An Offense

It is surely an index to the great American sport to see the conglomeration of human flesh that will go fishing. I cast a glance at the shoreline and I behold a sight something like this: a retired railroad man, a mail carrier, a dentist, a Presbyterian minister, a farm machinery dealer, a clothing merchant, a buttermaker, a Ford mechanic, a nurse, a housewife, a breeder of Holstein cattle, a grain and feed man, a feeder of cattle, an insurance man, a hardware merchant, a machinist, a high school professor, a lawyer, and many more of a stripe that miss my attention at this moment.

Add to this scene a conservation officer who (nonchalantly) parks his car along the road and then without much ado begins at the end of the line and carefully wends his way along checking licenses and bag limits as he goes. Nary an offender. Say, that's fine, isn't it?—Bellevue Leader.

"Here's my buck, for one of the books 'Waterfowl in Iowa'."—Lake Park, Iowa.

"I have seen a copy of this book and will say that it is tops." —Maquoketa, Iowa.