

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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Number 13

CHANNEL CAT OPEN APRIL 15th

FISHING — NOT WISHING — PUTS KING CAT ON THE STRINGER

IOWA HAS FISH TO BE CAUGHT

By Kenneth D. Carlander
Iowa State College

Iowa has lots of fish even though your luck may not be good. An over abundance of fish in many waters of the state is frequently reported in the studies of the Iowa Cooperative Fishery Research Unit and the Biology and Fisheries sections of the Iowa Conservation Commission. In fact, if we pick out a conclusion that is commonly reached in the various biological investigations, it would be that the fish are there but the anglers do not always catch them. (This should not be taken as a one-sentence summary of the research findings. It is merely one of the most recurring comments.)

In a study of small streams in eastern Iowa, Mr. William Tate of the Research Unit found small-mouth bass in unsuspected numbers. In a 2½-mile section of Coffin Creek, he caught 67 bass on a fly rod in the summer of 1947. Last summer, he caught, marked and released 168 legal or near-legal smallmouth bass in streams around Oelwein. In addition he caught almost 200 other bass too small to tag. Few fishermen try their luck in these small streams and most people do not realize that the fish are there. Probably the main reason that these small streams are not heavily fished is that most people do not know how to catch the bass in them. Of course, some fishermen are probably deterred by the fact that fly fishing in these streams is hard work.

In a study of Red Haw Hill Lake and other reservoirs near Chariton, Mr. William Lewis found several species of fish to be much more abundant than one would suspect from the reports of anglers. In the early part of the season good catches of bullheads and crappies were made because the average fisherman knew how to catch bullheads and crappies. As the season

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It won't be long now. Jim Sherman Photo.

By Harry M. Harrison
Fisheries Biologist

As there are many more ways of killing a cat than by choking it to death with cream, so are there many ways of catching catfish. One method, of course, is to sprinkle salt on King Cat's tail, but because of the obstacles encountered in handling salt in water we will concern ourselves here with catching catfish on a hook and line.

The information following comes from three years' work on the river during which time a large number of anglers have been watched and interviewed while fishing. Admittedly, this article is by no means a complete thesis on the subject of catching catfish; but it does record the technique of many successful catfishermen who have been observed to catch fish under the same fishing conditions and the same place where others have failed.

The expert will find little here that he does not already know and practice, but the beginner or unsuccessful catfisherman should pick up a few pointers which, if he follows, will most assuredly guarantee him more fish.

The first thing to be considered is a little something on catfish psychology. Remember the catfish is no third class moron. He is as sharp as his pointed whiskers. When it comes to being alert, the catfish stands second to none in the waters of Iowa. He is equipped with very delicate sensory organs which enable him to know of your presence before you can possibly know of his.

In short, a catfish will out-hear a woman on a party line, out-nose a reporter on a scandal case, and come very near out-seeing a sailor on shore leave. So by all means when you fish for catfish be sure not to make unnecessary racket.

You can talk, but DO NOT disturb the water, bang around on your bait can, stamp the ground, or smash at the water with a ten-pound sinker. A good way to keep

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NATIONAL LAND POLICY

Adopted by the Soil Conservation
Society of America at Its Annual
Meeting in December, 1948.

The conservation and wise utilization of natural resources is fundamental to the economic and social welfare of all people.

Land, including soil, water and the dependent living resources (cultivated crops, forests, wildlife, range lands, etc.), is recognized as basic wealth and it must be treated in such a way that it will be made secure for permanent high productivity.

It is essential, therefore, that a National Land Policy be developed and supported by the American people, and the Soil Conservation Society of America recommends that such a policy be declared as:

ALL LANDS SHOULD BE USED IN A MANNER WHICH WILL INSURE THE CONTINUED AND PERMANENT MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY AND VALUES.

To adopt and effect such a policy, the following requirements must be

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THE ANTICIPATION OF ANTON

By Carl Stempel

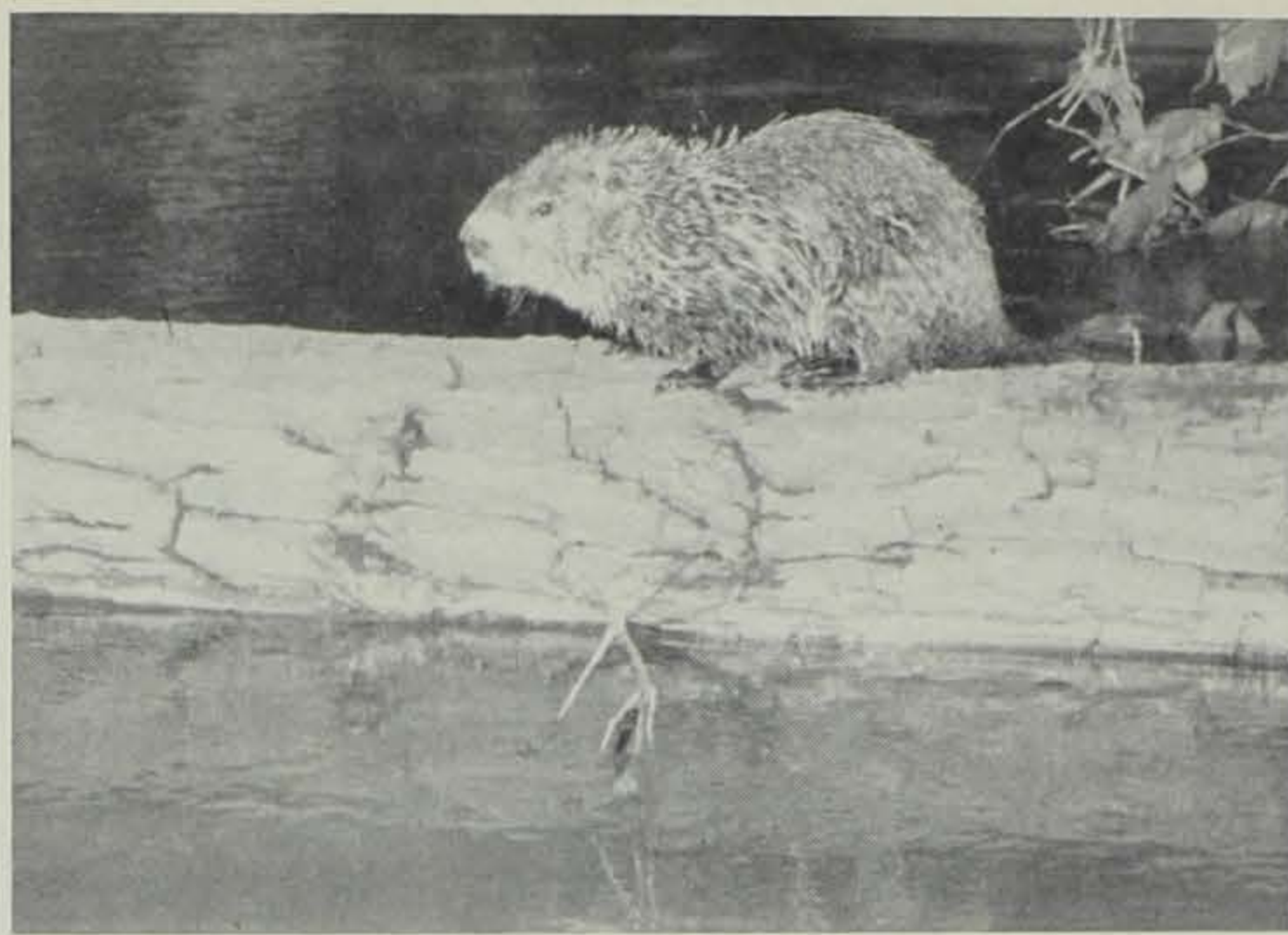
The joy of fishing is ninety per cent anticipation. I am reminded of old Anton Spiegel. He is eighty-six and still pegging away—and you can take this literally because he is a shoemaker.

Anton likes to fish. The other morning I stopped at his little shop to leave a pair of shoes to be soled. "Well, Mr. Stempel, it is Friday again," he said in his precise English. "I like Friday because then I can say, 'day after tomorrow I can go fishing again'." "Then why wouldn't Saturday be still better?" I suggested, "for then you can say 'tomorrow I can go fishing again'." "No-o-o," he said, "on Saturday I worry so much because I am afraid it will rain tomorrow." "Well, then, how about Sunday? Sunday is the day you go fishing. It seems to me that would be your favorite day." "Yes, I suppose so," he said, "but then you see it is always so disappointing."

* * * * *



The joy of fishing is 90 per cent anticipation. Jim Sherman Photo.



The lowly groundhog is beset by countless hazards, including flooding of the lowlands. This one has found sanctuary on a floating cottonwood after having been drowned out of its river bottom den.

DEN PALS

Iowa's rabbit hunting season came to an end on January 31. From the hunter's standpoint it could hardly be classed as a shooting success. There was a definite lack of bunnies in many sections of the state in direct contradiction to pre-season reports that the bunny crop looked better.

The lack of good rabbit hunting poses a problem. Year in and year out, there is more shot thrown at the lowly cottontail than any other species of game. All ages pursue the leaping bunnies and when the rabbit crop is down the best game animal for the boy just learning to hunt is removed from the scene.

There has been much study given to the rabbit question in Iowa. All of these studies have not produced rabbits. We read much of cycles, the ups and downs of the rabbit population, how they sink to a low point on the population graph and how they rebound to a high point on the same graph, but there are still no rabbits in the cornfields and swales.

From where we sit it begins to look like the rabbit question has resolved itself into two parts; first, hunting pressure, and second, lack of cover. Hunting pressure is admitted and accepted as a fact. We have more hunters in the field than ever before.

The cover question is the stumbling block. And before any of the boys in the back room take pot shots at us, we are not inclined to blame the lack of rabbits entirely on the depredations of the fox, because by cover we mean both above ground and below ground, and if there was adequate below ground shelter the rabbit would do very well on his own.

Just the other day was "groundhog" day. The groundhog, or woodchuck, was, and is, the number

one pal of the rabbit. But groundhogs around Scott County have become almost extinct, and in other counties the numbers have been reduced, so that where 10 "chucks" existed 10 years ago, only one may be found today. With the vanishing groundhog also went the abandoned dens, or false dens, many of which were dug by the woodchucks, never used, and appropriated by the cottontail for the carrying out of domestic chores and as a place of refuge when pursued. As the groundhog went, so went the rabbit.

Cover above ground is equally scarce. A drive out in the country will prove that to you in an hour. You will find few spots which could offer real shelter to a rabbit, much less a flock of pheasants or a covey of quail. So it seems that if we would restore the rabbit to a place in the hunting picture the first essential is cover.

—Davenport Democrat.

BLIND STAGGER TIME FOR WILDLIFE

In the spring a young man's fancy turns . . . and so does that of all species of wildlife. Timid and shy throughout most of the year, the creatures of the woods and fields shed much of their wildness and good judgment when the mating season comes along.

During spring losses become very great along our roads and highways because of the failure of motorists to give wildlife a break. The next time you see a cottontail or a gorgeous ringnecked rooster on the road where you have a perfect right to be, won't you slow down, sound your horn, and let the creature reach safety?

NORTHEAST IOWA'S MEANEST MAN

Conservationists and hunters from this area agree that northeast Iowa's meanest man is the fellow who takes advantage of the "out of season" situation and the tameness of the pheasants these days to shoot them down mercilessly.

Yes, that's going on right now. We couldn't believe it either, but it's true.

Everyone who loves hunting and enjoys the great outdoors wants to protect that priceless heritage which was almost destroyed by some of our ancestors until the need of conservation aroused the country to what was going on.

If the people who sneak out for a little easy but illegal hunting these days are permitted to continue and get away with it, more and more may try it. The more pheasants that are shot out of season, the poorer the legitimate hunting from year to year.

And for that matter there's the idea of good sportsmanship, too, which should be taken into consideration.

So anyone who sees a hunter shooting pheasants now should not feel the slightest hesitancy to drive right up and identify him if possible, or take his car number and report it to any peace officer.

Actually the pheasants are so tame now (they seem to know the law protects them) that to shoot them is almost like shooting one's own pet. Shooting them now is merciless and unsportsmanlike as well as illegal.—Oelwein Register.



One danger in establishing winter pheasant feeding stations where large numbers of pheasants concentrate is their vulnerability to poachers.



The muzzle loaders, both flint and percussion locks, have a host of friends, many shooters still using the front-enders for sport.

MUZZLE LOADER STILL HAS FRIENDS

At the venison dinner of muzzle loader fans in Jack Jackson's clubhouse the other night, we learned Andy Adams holds the local record of achievement with the Kentucky rifle.

Andy has been good enough to bag two red fox, one of them on the run, with his long-barreled gun. Now, if you think that isn't so much, just figure out what Andy had to do.

He had only one shot at his disposal on each fox, and that load he had loaded himself with a ramrod through the muzzle. He had to know well the right charge of black powder to pour down the barrel and what it would do at a variable range. We would rather be able to connect with one fox that way than shoot a dozen with a shotgun. So far we have done neither.

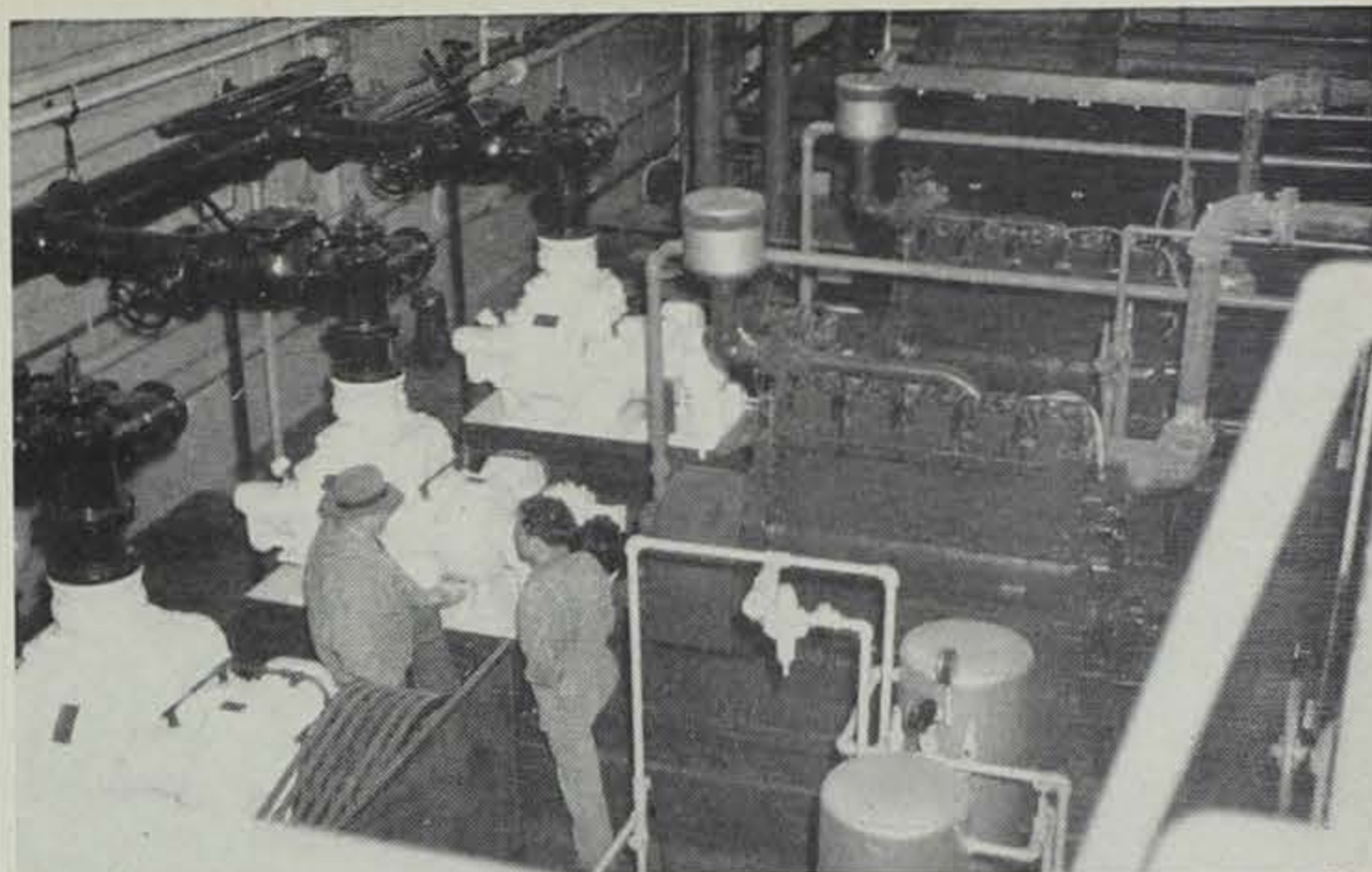
There are a lot of things to remember in shooting these muzzle-loaders. One of them is to pour in the powder. Don Hughes tells us that every member of the club has had the experience of sighting in on a target, easing off the hair trigger and having nothing happen because the powder was forgotten.

You can also forget the ramrod in the muzzle. Cliff Moses was hunting squirrels with Jack one day when Jack fired, Cliff recalled, and a shower of splintered wood poured out of the gun.

Andy and Cliff are experts at fixing up these old muzzle loaders, many of which haven't been shot for many years and are in pretty bad shape when they reach their hands. For a nice piece of work take a look sometime at the graceful trigger guard Andy fashioned out of brass and fitted to one of these guns.

Mike Altman, the crack Livermore rifle marksman, who attended the dinner, had a bit of advice for any target shooter wanting to improve his scores, either with modern or muzzle loading rifles.

"When you're on the range, set a time for starting your scoring," he said. "Then, no matter how many bad shots you make, count them until you have completed the shots prescribed for that shoot. You are only kidding yourself if



The heart of a modern sewage disposal unit, the engine room of Marshalltown's Municipal Plant.

THE GOVERNORS SPEAK UP ON POLLUTION

Both Governor Lee Knous of Colorado and Governor A. G. Crane of Wyoming included in their messages to the convening legislatures a sharp warning to the law makers that the state governments must find ways and means to stop the pollution of our waters by state institutions. Governor Crane, long active in Izaak Walton League circles, said that the polluting of Wyoming streams and lakes by the state was an unpardonable offense against the people and the wildlife of Wyoming.—**Rocky Mountain Sportsman.**

"... Pollution, soil erosion and health are closely related to our you keep starting over until you get a good run of points."—**Emmetsburg Democrat.**

social and economic future. Recreation, fish and wildlife, industry and hydroelectric power are contenders for priorities in the use of our water resources.

"We cannot maintain pure streams to meet these needs unless legislation is enacted to prevent the dumping of sewage and other elements of pollution into our streams. In the future, in addition to providing pure water, the rivers of the state must provide a greater share of fishing and other recreational facilities. Such a program should be, insofar as is possible, integrated with sound soil conservation programs on adjoining lands if maximum values are to be obtained..."—**From the Inaugural Address of the Honorable Williams S. Beardsley, Governor of Iowa.**

1949 FISHING SEASONS SET BY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE		Daily Catch Limit	Possession Limit*	Minimum Length or Weight	BOUNDARY WATERS Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and inland waters of Lee County
Kind of Fish	Open Season				
Bullheads, Sheepshead, Red Horse Suckers, Gizzard Shad, Mooneye, Goldeye, Carp, Buffalo, Quillback, Carpsuckers, Gar, Dogfish, Eel, Burbot, Chubs	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters.
Sand Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	1 lb.	Same as inland waters.
Catfish—except bullhead	April 15—Nov. 30	8	16	12"	Continuous open season with no catch or possession limit. Size limit same as inland waters.
Trout—all species	May 1—Nov. 30 5 a.m.—9 p.m. daily	8	8	None	Same as inland waters.
Minnows	Continuous Closed in all state-owned lakes and other areas designated (Trout Streams)	None	None	None	Same as inland waters.
Frogs—no exceptions	May 12—Nov. 30	12	12	None	Same as inland waters.
Walleye (Yellow Pike-Perch) or Sauger	May 15—Nov. 30	5	10	12"	Same as inland waters except season May 1—March 1 next.
Crappie	Continuous	15	30	None	Same as inland waters.
Perch	May 15—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
White or Silver Bass	May 15—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Yellow Bass	May 15—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Northern Pike	May 15—Nov. 30	5	10	15"	Same as inland waters except season May 1—March 1 next.
Smallmouth Bass	June 1—Nov. 30	5	10	10"	Same as inland waters except season June 1—March 1 next.
Largemouth Bass	June 1—Nov. 30	5	10	10"	Same as inland waters except season June 1—March 1 next.
Warmouth Bass	June 1—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Sunfish	June 1—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Bluegill	June 1—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Rock Bass	June 1—Nov. 30	15	30	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Rock Sturgeon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed.
Paddlefish	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed.

*Not to exceed more than thirty (30) fish of all kinds in the aggregate, except that this aggregate possession limit shall not apply to fish named in this table on which there is no daily catch limit.

No fishing in any designated trout waters except during open season for trout.

Where waters are located within the confines of state, city, municipal parks, etc., fishing is permitted only when such areas are open to the public.

CATFISH KILLER— CHICKEN guts

One of the best and most frequently misused catfish catchers is chicken gut bait. Properly prepared it is a real killer and neither messy nor offensive to use.

Make no mistake, chicken intestines, if allowed to spoil, will smell a strong man down and the gases formed by decomposition will explode a sealed bait jar. To rank in the top bracket of catfish baits they must be fresh.

Here's how to catch more catfish.

Have your poultry man save the inner mechanism of several fat hens. Take them home and remove the white intestines beginning at the gizzard outlet. This intestine is odorless and about 45 inches of it is suitable for bait. Discard all of the rest of the innards, including the dark lower 15 or 20 inches of the intestine containing solid matter. Cut the white gut into ten-inch lengths and strip them out clean in running water, being careful not to remove the yellow fat attached. Drain and remove surplus water on a cloth.

Put a one-half inch layer of cornmeal in the bottom of a half-pint large-mouthed screw-cap jar. Put in four or five ten-inch lengths of bait. Add a layer of meal and continue this procedure until the jar is almost filled, capping it with a layer of cornmeal.

Some experts add a teaspoon of walnut or vanilla flavor extract or a few drops of anise oil to the topping of cornmeal. Put on a jar rubber and screw the lid tight.

This bait may be used immediately or (if you wear the pants) put in the freezing compartment of the icebox where it will keep fresh indefinitely.

One of the most important secrets of fishing success with



Properly prepared and kept fresh, chicken intestines is a real catfish killer. Neither messy nor offensive to use, it is the favorite bait of many topnotch catfishermen. Jim Sherman Photo.

chicken gut bait is **KEEP IT FRESH.**

It should be baited on a sharp, long-shank hook, number two to four. Take one of the ten-inch pieces out of the jar, hook the two ends over the barb, then hook the intestine every half inch, leaving no trailing bait. Slide the bait up the shank to the eye of the hook. Now take the fish line and make a single half hitch around the top of the bait just below the eye of the hook. The bait will be about thumb size and will slide down the shank, being held at the top by the half hitch, the lower part of the bait stopping at the barb, leaving the hook point exposed.—**Extract from the forthcoming book, "Iowa Fish and Fishing."**

IT'S THE LAW

(Editor's Note: For the next few months, under the above head we will carry sections of the state law under which the State Conservation Commission operates. Readers who wish to have sections interpreted may write to the Conservation Commission, 914 Grand, Des Moines.)

Section 107.10—Organization and Meetings. Said (conservation) commission shall organize annually by the election of a chairman. The commission shall meet annually at the seat of government on the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October and at such other times and places as it may deem necessary. Meetings may be called by the chairman, and shall be called by the chairman on the request of two members of the commission. (Code of 1946.)

Section 107.11—Conservation director. The commission shall employ an administrative head who shall be known as state conservation director and be responsible to the commission for the execution of its policies. He shall be a person of executive ability and possess special knowledge relative to the duties herein imposed on the commission. (Code of 1946.)

Section 107.12—Term and salary. Said director shall serve during the pleasure of the commission and shall receive an annual salary, not to exceed five thousand dollars, to be fixed by the commission. (Code of 1946.)

Section 107.13—Officers and employees. Said director shall, with the consent of the commission and at such salary as the commission shall fix, employ such assistants, including a professionally trained state forester of recognized standing, as may be necessary to carry out the duties imposed by this chapter on the commission; also and under the same conditions, said director shall appoint such officers as may be necessary to enforce the laws, rules and regulations, the enforcement of which are herein imposed on said commission. Said officers shall be known as state conservation officers. The salaries of the state conservation officers shall not exceed two thousand two hundred dollars per year. (Code of 1946.)



The beaver with which we restocked our streams and lakes a few years ago are laughing to themselves at the way they're outsmarting man. But man will get the last laugh yet.

BEAVERS OUTSMART US

Those prolific and eager beavers with which we restocked our streams and lakes a few years ago must be laughing to themselves at the way they're outsmarting man. While the busy beavers mow down the trees and saplings along the Little Sioux River and around the Okoboji and Spirit Lake shores, man stumbles around in his own red tape trying to figure out how to stop the rodent.

Do you live along the Little Sioux River or do you ever enjoy a tramp along the stream or go fishing there? If you do, you have observed and been heart sick over the number of trees the beaver has gnawed down. Did you ever notice the many, many trees that are chewed off a foot above the ground and abandoned on the shores of our lakes. If not, then take a look around that little lagoon near Crescent Beach Hotel or along the canal.

The state stocked our streams and lakes with beaver less than a decade ago. Before that the beaver was almost extinct. It seemed good to have this picturesque little water animal back. We became interested in the first dams he built. We didn't foresee that these dams were going to grow to

be such a nuisance; that they'd be built in drainage ditches causing them to fill with dirt and in some cases the beaver carries dirt up the large drain tiles impeding the flow of the water.

The state placed protection over these animals when they restocked them here. A farmer can get a trapping permit if his land is being damaged. But trapping a beaver takes a special trap and knowledge of how to do it. The conservation men around here have been mighty fine about doing the trapping at the request of damaged land owners.

These conservation men requested an open season on beaver last year and the Conservation Commission went to the legislature but failed to get authorization.

This year the Conservation Commission again requested action from the legislature. Friday of last week, the senate approved an open season on beaver and sent the bill to the house for action there. The senate bill would allow the Conservation Commission to set open season from November 10 to January 10. Maybe man's going to get the last laugh, yet. With final approval by the legislature on an open season, Mr. Beaver better make plans to duck. There are plenty folk who'll be after his fur hide.—**Spencer Times.**

BUILD FARM POND FOR SPORT, WATER

By Jim Fluke and Lyle D. Miller

A place to swim, skate, fish, hunt ducks are some of the many uses that Clarke County farm youths are finding for the farm ponds, while Dad is using them for water supply for his livestock or controlling the gully. The pond is not only a recreation area for the immediate family, but the rest of the neighborhood youths that are interested in clean wholesome recreation.

Typical of the farm ponds in the county that are used for recreation is the one on the Guy Reed farm in Fremont Township. It has not only been a good water supply for livestock but has developed into a neighborhood recreational area of swimming, fishing and ice skating.

Select Site

The most important thing to consider when building a farm pond is the selection of the site. A suitable site for the farm pond is very important. A drainage area of from three to eight acres is recommended by the Soil Conservation Service. This area should be kept in a permanent grass or if in cropland it should be terraced, to prevent silting.

Stake Pond

Prior to the building of a pond it should be staked out by a representative of the Soil Conservation Service. He can stake it so you will have the proper 3:1 slope on the upper or water side and 2:1 on the lower side. In constructing the pond a core trench should be cut the entire length of the center of the proposed dam and then it should be back filled with clay and packed to prevent seepage through the dam.

A one to one and one-half inch galvanized pipe should be placed through the dam before the construction is started to pipe the water to the stock tank below.

An old steel barrel filled with small rocks makes an ideal filter.

Holes should also be drilled into the pipe that goes into the barrel to allow the pond water to enter. The barrel can be placed on some flat rocks or a small concrete foundation in the pond.

The pond should have a water surface area of one-half of an acre or larger and a minimum of eight feet of depth if it is to be stocked with fish. The pond should be fenced from livestock with the cut-off located inside of the fence.

Rose Fence

A living fence of multiflora rose can be used for the border of the pond. Inside this, hardwood and evergreens and maybe a few shrubs can be planted. Reed canary grass makes an excellent planting next to and immediately above the shore or water line as well as in the spillway.

Fish Species

Several species of fish can be used for stocking. A good combination is bluegill or sunfish stocked at the ratio of 300 bluegills to 100 bass per surface acre. For example, a pond of one-half acre in size would have 150 bluegills and 50 bass. To have maximum fish production the pond should be fertilized, because soils on watersheds above the pond are very frequently deficient in some plant food elements, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. A commercial fertilizer such as 6-8-4 is recommended to be applied at the rate of 100 pounds per water surface acre several times during the year.

Fertilizer is the key to a pond full of big fish. About any pond will support fish without care and the result will be about 10 pounds of fish a year from a pond of one acre. This same pond properly handled can produce from 75 to 125 pounds of fish for the family table annually.

Commercial fertilizer stocks the fish pantry with plant food. To keep the fish fat and happy spread



According to the Democrat's fishing calendar, May 15 rates as a good day, with the best fishing hours from 2:00 to 5:00 a.m. and from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jim Sherman Photo.

FROM 6 TO 10 FOR FISH

It doesn't take long for some of us, after the turn of the year, to begin thinking about fishing again.

A fishing calendar we received the other day from Tom Needham of Houston, Texas, kept us occupied most of an evening, figuring out how good the fishing will be come next May 15, which, by the way, falls on Sunday in 1949, which will make a lot of fishermen happy.

This calendar we got from Tom is based on the fishing theories of George W. Wylie, whose forecasts leave room for the fisherman to figure in his own local weather and stream or lake conditions.

50 pounds of fertilizer over the one-half acre of water eight to ten times each summer.

Sport at Home

Farmers like to fish just as any one else does, but they seldom have the time to go to the mountain streams for trout or drift around a lake in a boat. The best opportunity they have is their own farm pond. If they have managed their pond in the right way they have a spot which is close to home where they can exercise the old rod and reel an hour or so after the chores are done, because after all the fish bite best at this time.

Bass will weigh one pound in a favorable one-year period. Excitement will add to the catch in three to four years when you hook that sly one that has given you the slip each year, and now you have a three-pound bass, fighting as though he weighed all of 10 pounds.

—Osceola Tribune.

As a result, Mr. Wylie's calendar can't tell us exactly now how fishing will be May 15 when the pike and perch seasons open. But we figured the thing out according to his point system on the governing factors already known and May 15 rates as a "good day" with the best fishing hours at 2:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

All such calculations are intriguing but we have yet to see a prediction for good fishing that can be accurate in the face of adverse weather or water conditions. The moon, the sun, the tides and the whole solar system can be poised exactly right for good fishing but if the river you're working at the moment is high and muddy, you aren't going to catch any bass or trout.

The same goes for lake fishing. If your lake has been stirred up for a day by high, shifting winds and thunderstorms are booming overhead, the fishing isn't going to be good, or so we have found it.

And we have all discovered that certain times of the day, to the feeding habits of fish, usually afford better fishing than other times. Are we alone in liking, above all, the hours immediately after sunset? We would trade a full morning and afternoon of fishing on West Okoboji for the twilight period when, on serene summer evenings, the calico bass are dimpling on top and the walleye pike are moving in from the deep.

Thumbing through the Wylie calendar, we notice one of the peak fishing hours of every day of every month seems to be somewhere between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m., so we find Mr. Wylie agreeing with us on that score. —Emmetsburg Democrat.



A place to swim, skate, fish, and hunt ducks are some of the recreational uses farm youths are finding for farm ponds, while Dad is using them for stock water and controlling gulleys. Montez Brothers Photo.

Channel Cat...

(Continued from page 113)
the catfish from knowing that you are there is to fish for him at a distance. Use all the line that you can handle and get your bait out away from you.

Now, when and where to fish for catfish. For the most part, catfish are nocturnal feeders. That is, they feed primarily during darkness. As the name, channel catfish, implies, they feed for the most part in the river channel. They take only a small amount if any food during the daytime; therefore, the best time to be on the river is in the early evening when feeding is heaviest, and then fish in the channel.

If you are adverse to night fishing, you can enjoy successful daytime fishing but you will have to use a different technique.

In the daytime fish the shelter areas beneath snags, sunken logs, drift piles, etc. Since catfish exhibit a certain aversion toward daylight feeding, it will be necessary for you as a fisherman to search out the hungry individuals. So, if you fish during the daylight hours, fish the cover areas and move from one to another frequently.

Since a catfish will eat anything from soup to nuts, your choice of bait may include anything from a long list, depending upon your likes and desires. Regardless of the kind of bait you choose, the main factor is that you have the utmost confidence in it as a fish getter. If you lack confidence in your bait, you will not fish it right, and unless you fish right you can't expect to catch fish.

Even though catfish eat any and everything, at times they are apt to become as fastidious as a dower on a diet about what they consume. In cases like this, it is

a good idea to try several different baits before giving up.

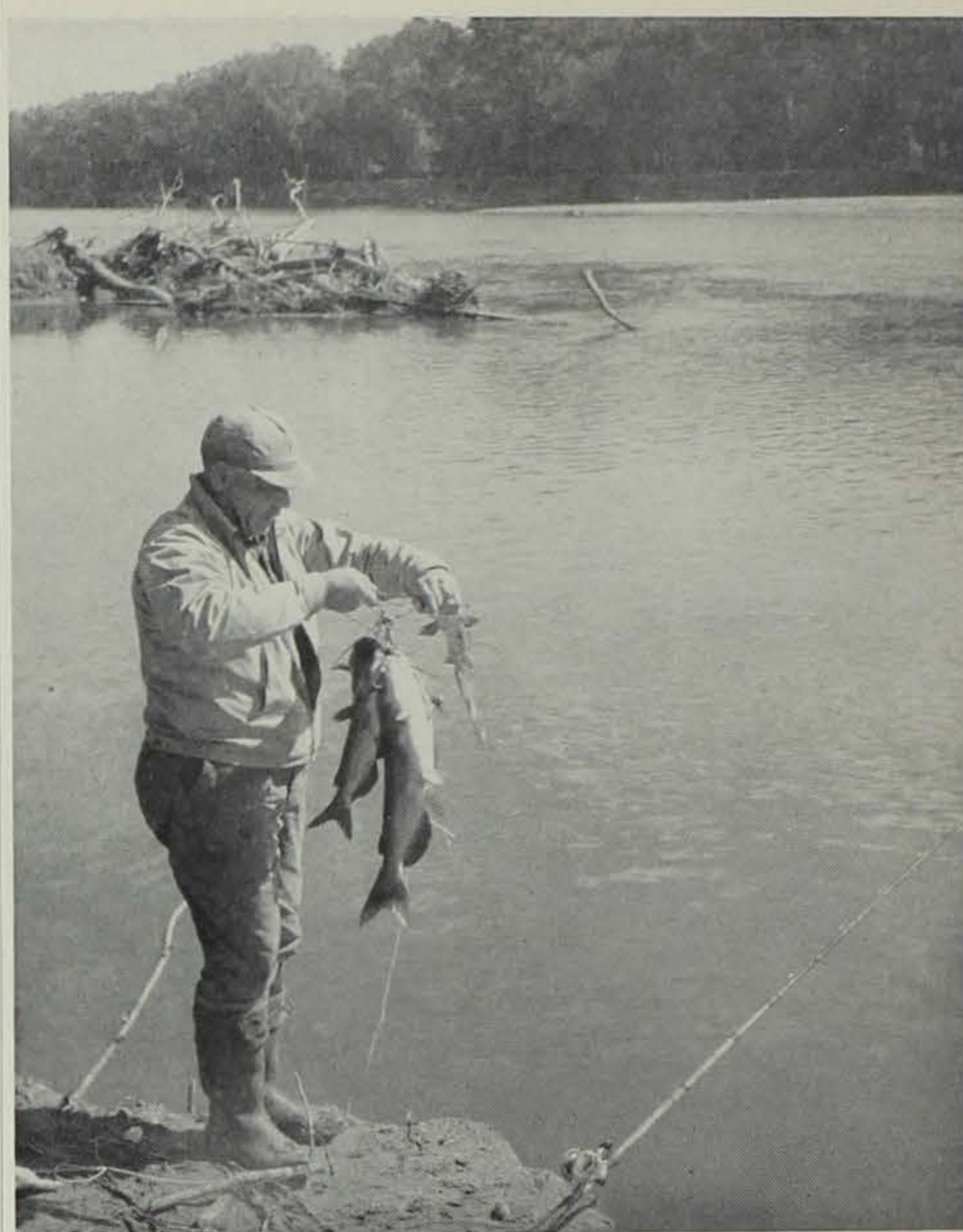
A few baits found to be particularly good include blood, cut-bait, cheese bait, carp chunks and chicken guts. Blood is probably the best catfish getter of all baits, but has disadvantages in that it requires a lot of attention in preparation. In addition, it is so attractive to undersize catfish that they will clean your hooks before the more deliberate large fish get a chance to hit.

Cut-bait is prepared by first scaling and then filleting any species of rough fish (carp, sucker, buffalo). Cut the fillets into chunks and let them sour for a day in a glass jar. Cut-bait has an advantage of staying on the hook. Little fish can chomp on it by the hour, and if the big ones are hitting slow, you can wait 'em out before the fiddlers steal your bait.

Carp chunks and chicken guts are very good baits, but are messy to handle. Then, too, unless the hook is properly baited, they are apt to string out and many a strike will be missed by the catfish hitting the bait trailing behind the hook.

Cheese baits work well for catfish, but like blood it is apt to be cleaned from the hook by small fish. These baits find particular favor in that they are readily available in stores and sporting goods shops and require no special attention between fishing trips.

If you are going to get any number of catfish you will have to be on your toes every second that your bait is in the water. To catch more fish, have your rod in your hand at all times and be ready to set the hook the instant the fish takes the bait. You won't have any luck if you fish by lying on your back counting the stars with your pole five or six feet out of grasp when the fish strikes. By all means fish while you are at the



To catch the big cats with regularity you must learn proper catfishing techniques and be on your toes when King Cat knocks at the door. Jim Sherman Photo.

river and do your star gazing some place else.

The anglers who have been observed to catch fish follow the techniques set out above. If you are not satisfied with the number of catfish you are catching, now would be a good time to analyze your fishing procedure and if you are not following all of the rules, how about changing and seeing the difference.

For purpose of clarity, the techniques are summarized as follows:

1. Avoid disturbing the water or making unnecessary noise.
2. Use lots of line.
3. Fish early evening in the channel.

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W. A. BENTS, CONSERVATION LEADER, DIES AT CRESCO

W. A. Bents, 51, former member of the State Conservation Commission from 1939 to 1941, and former state representative, died January 30. Mr. Bents, known to his friends as Bill, was an active participant in many outdoor organizations and activities. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Cresco Chamber of Commerce and the Wildlife Club. He held the tri-states trap shooting championship in 1929, 1930 and 1932, and was Iowa champion in 1943.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS VERSATILE

To be a conservation officer or game warden requires a lot of talent other than a knowledge of game laws and the best places to hunt and fish. It requires ability as a public speaker.

This can be judged from the fact that Walter Harvey, game warden for Marshall and Grundy counties, has talked at 157 meetings since January 1, 1948, and has addressed 14,961 persons.

Considerable variety of subject matter was used in these talks. Included were talks on furs, firearm safety, fish and game, and conservation of natural resources. Motion pictures were shown on fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation.

Field trips were held for juvenile groups making nature studies and round table discussions were held.

To attend these meetings, make hunting and fishing patrols, conduct game counts, and other game management work, Harvey drove nearly 32,000 miles last year. During January this year he gave 20 talks and 16 in February.

But he is happy with the work and declares Marshall and Grundy counties have "the best conservation programs in the country."—**Marshalltown Times Republican.**

The mountain goat is not a true goat; it is an antelope.



When fishing for channel catfish during the daytime fish the shelter areas beneath snags, sunken logs and drift piles. Jim Sherman Photo.



In a study of small streams in northeastern Iowa the Cooperative Research Unit found smallmouth bass in unsuspected numbers. Jim Sherman Photo.

Fish to Be Caught . . .

(Continued from page 113)

progressed these fish scattered over the lake and were not so easily caught as when they schooled in the spring. Most of the fishermen continued to fish in the same spots and became discouraged and soon stopped fishing altogether.

If they had changed their tactics, they could have made good catches of bluegills and largemouth bass. Bill Lewis found that fishermen using the right fly rod lures could catch better than one legal sized bass per two hours of fishing during the summer. Fishermen using other methods caught less than one bass in twenty hours of fishing.

The fishing possibilities are also being missed in the numerous farm ponds found throughout southern Iowa. Several hundred of these ponds have been stocked by the Conservation Commission and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Not many of these ponds are being fished enough and one of the principal reasons is that most people do not know how to fish for the largemouth bass and bluegills which seem best adapted to these ponds.

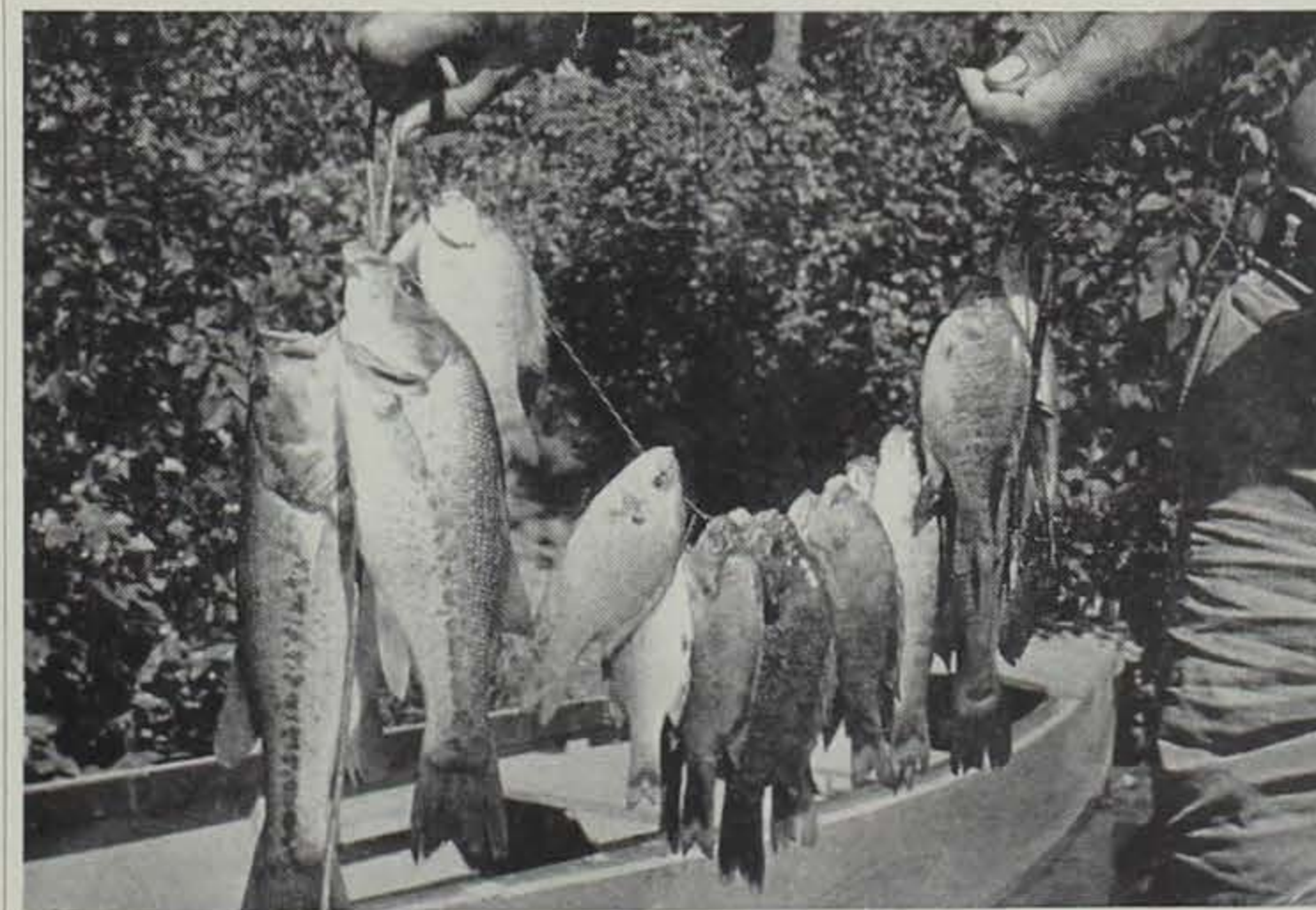
Investigations on Clear Lake and other lakes in the state also indicate an abundance of fish which are not being caught. In many of these lakes, relatively few fishermen catch the bluegills and other fine panfish.

In the winter of 1947-48, the state seining crew, while removing rough fish from Storm Lake, caught many large walleye pike and other game fish. Robert Cooper, Superintendent of Fisheries, reports that the general public was invited to see these fish as they were caught and returned to the lake. He felt that the local fishermen should see for themselves the kind of fish that were present so that they would realize

that there was no need for planting more fish in the lake. The following summer there was more fishing on Storm Lake than there had been in many years, and, according to reports, this fishing was very successful.

It might seem rather unusual for a conservationist to encourage more fishing. Modern conservationists, however, are no longer interested merely in preserving a fish or game species for posterity. It is now recognized that many fish populations will produce more fish if they are harvested as they reach catchable size than if all the fish are left in the lake. In many situations it has been found that poor fishing results from having too many fish rather than too few.

The research work now being conducted indicates that many of the fishery resources in Iowa are not being harvested at the optimum rate. More fishing would ac-



In the early part of the season good catches of bluegills, crappies and largemouth bass are made in the artificial impoundments because anglers know how to fish them in the spring. Jim Sherman Photo.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Wendell Simonson, conservation officer in charge of Kossuth County, writes:

"The Post Office Department called me about a letter from Germany. They had quite a time making out who the letter was intended for but they finally doped out the address as 'Fish and Hunting Master of Algona, Iowa, U.S.A.' On the inside was a little card which read, 'I quitted Algona, Iowa, September 25, 1945. You were good to me as boss. I am the little black (hair?) man from Munich. When you remember me. Sincere greetings for you and family. George W.'"

"The letter was for Milfred Smith, Refuge Manager of the Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge here, who had some German prisoners on construction work on the Refuge while the P.W. Camp was here in Algona. Evidently it was from one of the prisoners he had on the job there."

Dwight Bramon, in charge of Washington and Jefferson counties, writes:

"My first arrest as a warden was made during the last duck hunting season. I was assisting Conservation Officer Dave Fisher

usually be a good conservation practice in many of these waters.

Articles giving detailed information on how more fish can be caught will appear in future issues of the "Iowa Conservationist." Among the articles planned for the immediate future are: "Smallmouth Bass Fishing," by William Tate; "Fishing Reservoirs and Artificial Lakes," by William Lewis; and "Fishing Small Ponds" by Tate and Lewis.

on the Mississippi opening day. We had been checking hunters as they came in by boat, at the closing hour. We had about finished checking when I noticed four hunters about a half mile down the levee. I walked down to check their bags but at first could not see them. After a bit I noticed them all squatted down near the water's edge hidden in the weeds. Upon seeing me they motioned me to get out of sight, which I did. I had no sooner ducked behind the levee than all four of them stood up and emptied their guns into a flock of geese which came directly overhead. After they had ceased firing I walked up and one of them said, 'Say, mister, can you tell us what time we are supposed to stop duck hunting today?' They sure had odd expressions when I said, 'Yes, sir. You should have asked that question more than thirty minutes ago.'"

Conservation Officer Dutch Lemke, in charge of Lucas and Wayne counties, writes:

"While working in the pheasant territory last year I was cruising the territory and visiting with hunters who were awaiting the noon opening hour. I saw a car parked on a side road. I pulled up beside it, rolled down my window, and asked the four fellows inside, 'How you doin', men?' Apparently they misunderstood the how part of my question. The driver answered promptly, 'We're saving money, buddy. We're not even going to get out of the car for twenty minutes yet.'"

Charlie Adamson, conservation officer in charge of Scott County, writes:

"Not only do ducks have lead poisoning, but so do tomatoes. The tenant that farms about five acres of the Scott County Sportsmen's Club grounds at Bettendorf had about an acre of tomatoes planted across Duck Creek opposite the trap and skeet fields. When he delivered the tomatoes to the H. J. Heinz Company they rejected about half of them because they contained shot. In checking both green and ripe tomatoes we found from one to five shots in all of those nearest the trap field."

THE BIRD LINE

As the result of a short item in the "Iowa Conservationist," stating that north Iowa has two towns, Curlew and Plover, that perpetuate the names of two bird families, the editor received an interesting comment from Dr. Mary Price Roberts of Spirit Lake, the well known ornithologist, who writes:

"I am told the railroad through Curlew and Plover also goes through Mallard and is locally called the Bird Line."

Fish die in shallow lakes during winter due to low oxygen in the water. Pumping air or cutting holes usually is a waste of time and effort in large lakes.



The ultimate goal in land use is a complete soil and water conservation program on every farm and watershed throughout the country. Soil Conservation Committee Photo.

Land Policy . . .

(Continued from page 113)
recognized nationally:

The conservation of soil, water and interdependent renewable resources involves scientific study and guidance, necessitating the bringing together as a single function many facets of a vast number of scientific fields; therefore, the science of soil and water conservation is intricate and complex.

An inventory of all physical land resources and their condition is of primary importance to serve as the proper guide to the utilization and treatment of these resources.

Specifically, the widespread adoption of a sound land policy should comprehend the need for conservation, development and utilization of land and water resources for: (1) sustained and improved agricultural production, (2) forest protection, regrowth and sustained yield, (3) prevention of erosion and flood damages to safeguard land from overflow and siltation, (4) protection of community and industrial water supplies, (5) maintenance of underground water sources, (6) development and installation of irrigation and drainage as needed to extend appropriate land use and conservation, (7) protection and maintenance of fish and wildlife in accordance with proper land use, (8) development and utilization of areas most appropriately suited for needed recreational purposes, and (9) protection, and, in certain cases, revegetation of areas suited to range utilization.

The ultimate goal in land use is a complete soil and water conservation program on every farm, ranch, forest and watershed throughout the country.

To functionalize the above land policy and the specific principles involved, the Soil Conservation Society of America recognizes that:

The conservation of soil and water by efforts of the individual landowners and operators is the most important contribution that can be made to the carrying out of this land policy. Locally and democratically organized groups of landowners and users are the best known vehicles for carrying out soil and water conservation programs designed to improve and perpetuate the productivity of our basic natural wealth—the land.

Private ownership of land is, for the most part, the most suitable system under which a National Land Policy can be effective. It is recognized, however, that good management, public interest and welfare necessitate public ownership and administration of certain land areas.

The technical, educational, financial and other services necessary to the adoption of a full coordinated land use program should be thoroughly integrated and cooperatively performed, to carry out this land policy and all its principles.

Private, corporate and allied groups have a major responsibility in obtaining adoption of this land policy and in the conservation of soil and water.

A workable method of carrying out coordinated programs of land use, soil and water conservation requires the joint and cooperative efforts of the federal, state and local governments which are, or may become, engaged in these endeavors. It is also necessary that the administrative forces charged with such activities be given explicit responsibilities for contributions to such coordinated programs.

In a great measure, our natural economy, our democratic process and our national security are dependent on the future conservation and use of our basic natural re-

IT FLIES, RUNS, WALKS, CRAWLS—KILL IT!

Perhaps one of the greatest causes of the unnecessary destruction of much of our wildlife is the irresistible urge of some persons to kill something just because it is big and they want to see what it looks like.

Any bird larger than a robin or any animal larger than a squirrel appears to be fair prey for those gun-goons or butchers. They just

can't seem to resist killing it regardless of whether or not it is legal game, in season or out.

One of the most deplorable bad marks on our wildlife restoration program is the story of the sad fate which seems to befall the restocked black bears in sections of Kentucky. Just because those creatures are large, they are tracked down and either shot or have their heads bashed in.

Can we attribute such actions to plain curiosity? Or is it just plain maliciousness?

In either event, the success of any program for restoring big game animals or large game birds to sections of Kentucky, where this sort of big game hunting can again become legalized, is dependent upon the citizens living in the immediate vicinities where the game is to be released. With their help, the program can succeed; without it, nothing can be attained along that line. The citizens of Kentucky must have a will to do if they want deer, bear and wild turkeys to inhabit our fields and forests once again.

A good problem for a psychologist would be:

"How is it that a native of Kentucky can remember when the last bear was seen in the olden days; when the last raven left the cliffs of Wolfe and Morgan counties; when the last eagle eyrie was discovered; and innumerable such events; and then suddenly have his mind go blank when asked who killed a black bear cub less than thirty days before when he was present before the spilled blood of the beast cooled off?"

In view of the events in a court trial to bring to justice the persons responsible for the killing of one of these cubs in Morgan County, the answer to the problem could conceivably be—"a most convenient memory."—Kentucky Happy Hunting Ground.

MULTIFLORA ROSE AGAIN

Multiflora rose hedge would be a wonderful thing to have several miles of right now. If we had a lot of this hedge throughout our country, the winter loss to our birds would be reduced considerably. This hedge will provide enough cover to protect birds from icing up in these sleet storms. It will protect them from predators. It will also give them sufficient winter food to bring them through nearly any emergency. Artificial feeding and shelter building will not save or bring back wildlife where proper natural food or shelter is lacking. Our best prospect for increasing our natural food and shelter lies in the Multiflora rose hedges.—Maquoketa Community Press.

Channel Cat . . .

(Continued from page 118)

4. During day, fish shelter areas (snags, roots, drift piles). Move from one to another frequently.

5. Have confidence in your bait.

6. If your choice bait does not work use others before giving up.

7. Be alert at all times. Hold your pole and be ready to set the hook the very instant you get a strike.

sources. These proposals, therefore, are made in the interest of the public health, safety and general welfare of all the American people—Soil Conservation.



Any bird larger than a robin and any animal larger than a squirrel appears to be fair prey for the gun goons. Here is a double-crested cormorant that approached too close to a trigger happy "nature lover." Harlan News Advertiser Photo.