

# IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

Volume 8

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Number 8

## ANGLING POISON FOR SMALLMOUTHS

### 2,4-D AND THE LADIES

It just seems to take the ladies to get things done. For many months sportsmen have been sitting around at their regular meetings moaning about the damage being done to roadside trees and shrubs by utility spraying crews using the weed killer 2,4-D. While the sportsmen moaned, the trees and shrubs were being killed, and valuable cover and food plants for wildlife were being destroyed.

The garden department of the Davenport Women's Club, especially Mrs. L. J. Moriarty, chairman of the conservation committee, got tired of seeing the foliage destroyed, and about a year ago swung into action. First came action on the local front, then on the state level, and finally at the national convention of the ladies. Resolution after resolution was passed, and petitions were circulated. The gals really meant business.

The Davenport chapter had for its target the telephone company. They were the worst offenders, sending out crews with spraying equipment to thoroughly wet down everything growing beneath their lines and which gave any sign of reaching up into the air. In 1948, by late summer, the effects of the spray chemical were pretty obvious. In 1949 the process began all over again, but this time the ladies were ready. They bombarded the Davenport telephone company office with a sheaf of petitions requesting that no more roadside spraying be done. They were not to be pushed around with any "We'll see what we can do about it" stuff. They demanded action, and got it.

In Scott County went out the first order in the state to stop roadside spraying. The first fruits of victory now belonged to the Davenport Chapter of the Women's Clubs. Reporting to state headquarters that group, using as a lever the success of the stop-the-spray movement in Scott County,

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The flyrod is the most versatile weapon for smallmouth bass fishing. A wide variety of this fish's food can be simulated by flyrod lures. The rod can also be effectively used with live bait. Jim Sherman Photo.

### EDUCATION—THE FIRST BIG STEP

By George W. Worley  
Education Assistant

Most of us believe that the more valuable a belonging is, the better care and protection it should have. With this thought in mind, let's look at what we do with our most precious property.

As a nation and as individuals, we abuse, waste, and recklessly destroy our most valuable and necessary possessions—soil, water, forests, minerals, and wildlife. These are the source of our life. Without them we could not exist.

Why do we believe one thing and do exactly the opposite? Can it be

that we do not understand the absolute necessity of conservation?

Is that the reason for our strange behavior? It is, indeed.

If we did understand, we would give our soil and other natural resources the protection and care they merit and must have. We would not stand for the waste we see on every hand. If we really understood, we would begin at once a program of real conservation.

We must consider our nation's future. We do not have the right to ruin our land. What we call "our land" does not belong to us. It belongs to our children and their

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By Bill Tate

Iowa Cooperative Fisheries  
Research Unit

With fishing, as with other skills, there is no substitute for experience. This know-how may be acquired by the individual the hard way, along stream or lake shore, or by the purchase of experience of others.

Many of us pay a day's wages for the experience of a guide or lay several greenbacks on the counter for a book on fishing. The outdoor magazines and newspapers carry articles by skilled fishermen that are valuable aids to the beginner. The luckiest fellow is the one who can cultivate the friendship of the neighbor who usually brings home a couple of "good ones," for demonstration is the easiest and fastest way to teach angling tricks.

This article is primarily for those who are unskilled in stream fishing for smallmouth black bass. No one can tell you how to catch bass, but we can tell you how bass have been taken in the past. During the 1947 and 1948 bass seasons, the author and his fishing companions caught 459 smallmouth on flyrods.

#### Use A Flyrod

We believe the flyrod to be the most versatile weapon that can be used against the stream smallmouth. A wide variety of the foods of the smallmouth can be simulated by flyrod lures, and the light rod can also be effectively used with live bait. Most of our bass were taken on artificial lures.

Almost anyone with a little instruction and a few hours' practice can cast 30 feet of line accurately, and that is all that is needed to take your first smallmouth. Before buying equipment examine that of your friends and profit from their experience. A split bamboo flyrod for bass fishing should be at least eight feet in length and five ounces in weight to "stand up" under the punishment it is sure to get. Lighter rods will not last if spinners and other heavy lures are used. The modern steel rod has al-

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## Iowa Conservationist

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### GOVERNOR BEARDSLEY APPOINTS TWO NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

Governor Beardsley has appointed  
Mrs. David S. Kruidenier, Re-  
publican, of Indian Trail Farm,  
Wauke, and C. A. Dinges, imple-  
ment dealer, Democrat, of Em-  
metsburg, to succeed Mrs. Addison  
Parker, of Des Moines, and Frank  
Mattes, of Odebolt, respectively.

Mrs. Parker was appointed to  
the commission in May, 1937, to  
complete the unexpired term of  
Mrs. Henry Frankel of Des Moines,  
was reappointed in July, 1937, for  
a six-year term, and again in 1943  
for another six-year term. She  
was recently appointed to a mem-  
bership on the new Resources  
Council.

Mr. Mattes was appointed in  
February, 1943, to the vacancy on  
the commission left by R. E.  
Garberson of Sibley. He was re-  
appointed in July, 1943, for a six-  
year term.

The appointments of Mrs. Krui-  
denier and Mr. Dinges were effec-  
tive July 1, and expire July 1,  
1955. Both appointments are sub-  
ject to confirmation by the State  
Senate during the next legislative  
session.

### Believe It Or . . .

All tall tales don't originate in  
Texas. These are vouched for by  
California conservationists: A  
coyote was seen racing madly  
away from a black-tail doe . . .  
A porcupine ate a wooden pump  
pullet, shutting off a forest ranger's  
water supply. . . . Another  
forest ranger lost his lunch to a  
bear which was drinking coffee  
from the ranger's thermos. . . . A  
beaver colony destroyed a man-  
made dam and made one of their  
own.—*Sportscaster.*



Five Island Lake near Emmetsburg is undergoing a "face-lifting" operation by one of two state-owned dredges. Removing silt from the natural lakes is a major conservation program recommended in the Iowa Twenty-five Year Plan. Bob Cooper Photo.

## LONG WANTED JOB IS GETTING DONE

By Ken Fairburn

Here is a little "mud-slinging" northwest Iowans don't mind—especially sportsmen.

In fact, at present it's the biggest "mud-slinging" project Iowa is experiencing.

That's the Iowa Conservation Commission's job of dredging Five Island Lake at Emmetsburg.

By fall Emmetsburg will have one of Iowa's best interior lakes, ideal for boating, swimming and fishing, especially.

### Full of Silt

Before the dredging started, tests showed the lake was 73.9 per cent full of silt. The dredging of Upper Lake alone will result in a 20 per cent improvement.

The average depth of the silt in the lake is about 10.85 feet. But there are some spots where the mud is 21 feet deep. This is all being sucked out and run over low spots around the acres of farm land surrounding the lake.

This is the first time Emmetsburg has had a real opportunity to get the long awaited dredging done. The city spent about \$50,000 on its own hook back in 1915-17 dredging South Lake.

### Fight for Dredge

Ever since then the town has been trying to get state help to do the job right. Endless efforts were spent to get one of the state's two dredges to tackle the job. Practically every lake area in the state is clamoring for the machine.

Finally the huge vessel was taken out of Lake Cornelia near Clarion last summer and dismantled. It was a great day in Emmetsburg when the town heard the flat-bottom craft was on its way to Palo Alto County.

But first the machine had to undergo a complete change of engines from electric to diesel. This cost \$35,000 which was added to the Emmetsburg state appropriation.

### Better Job Done

But the improvement is Five Island's benefit. First, the diesels

prevent breakdowns, which is very important when racing against time. Second, the new power units enable better gouging ability.

Last summer Glen Powers, commission engineer, and his crew, after a late start, removed 428,000 cubic yards of silt from the Upper Lake. However, there are still some 500,000 cubic yards left to be sucked out in that area.

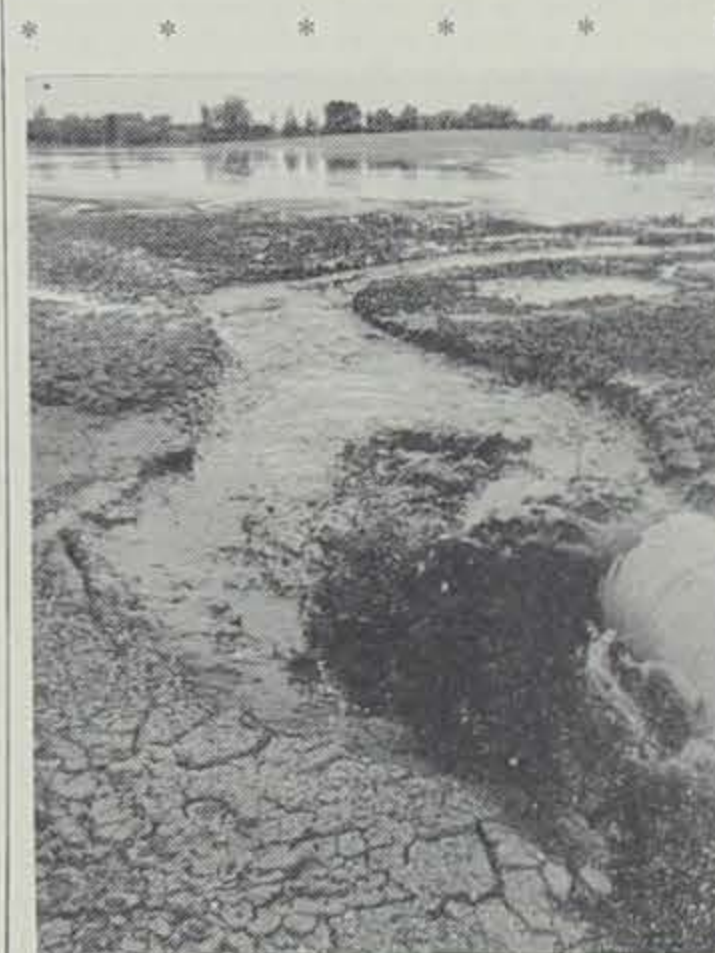
So far the dredge has removed silt from the west side of Third Island and dug a channel to the north end of the Narrows. Its next job will be to dig out two areas, one nearly 50 acres in Wilson's Bay.

Then it will return south down the Narrows and clean out two areas between Gappa's Point and Nolan's Bay.

### Will Raise Bridge

By the time the dredge works its way down the channels, it is expected that the Rock Island bridge will have been raised.

At first that bridge caused sportsmen here quite a "headache"—especially motorboat operators. The bridge spans the Narrows only



More than half a mile from its lake bottom source, thick mud pours from the 12-inch dredge line into a settling basin constructed well back from the lake shore. Bob Cooper Photo.

a few feet off the water level. However, after considerable discussion between railroad officials and the state legislature, the bridge was ordered raised.

Arthur Smith, chairman of Emmetsburg's Lakes Committee, said, "We expect to have the dredging completed this year."

### Done By Fall

Despite a few minor power interruptions and a late start, the crew is still plugging away to get the job done before fall. The work in the north end is going along smoothly and is expected to be cleaned out next month. This is one of the biggest and toughest sections of the whole project.

Five Island Lake is one of the most popular fishing spots in north-west Iowa. Residents here can count all the way from 15 to 25 different county license plates around the lake practically any Sunday afternoon.

### Good Fishing

Not long ago a group of Iowa anglers, about five in all, left the lake one Sunday evening with 212 bullheads. And on that Sunday afternoon fishermen were scattered all around the lake wherever the eye could see.

"If the fishing is as good as it is now," says one Emmetsburg old-timer, "what's it going to be like when they get the dredging done?"

## Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Jim Becker, conservation officer for Buchanan and Delaware counties, reports a brand new one in the way of excuses for fishing without a license.

Becker, together with Officers Benson and Fisher, was making a routine check of fishermen along the Des Moines River. The officers pulled into a sand bar to check the licenses of two fishermen seated there. After introducing himself, Becker asked to check their licenses. The first produced one readily enough, but the other man made no move to show his and the officer asked him again.

"Well," the fisherman drawled, "I'll tell you how it is. When I got ready to go fishing this morning, I just didn't have any money to buy a license."

"Where do you work?" Becker inquired.

"Oh," explained the first fisherman, "he doesn't work—he's married."

Conservation Officer Cecil Schomer, whose territory includes Wapello and Davis counties, seems to have taken quite a beating over one of his recent cases.

"While on an ordinary license check at Lake Wapello recently," Schomer reports, "I apprehended a man with a small bass. He was rather put out when I told him he

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Giant ragweed, often reaching ten feet or more in height, is found throughout the state, and although it is a heavy pollen producer, it provides excellent cover for many forms of wildlife. Bob Cooper Photo.

## KERCHOO!— RAGWEEDS

By Roberts Mann

Late summer and early autumn is "hay fever time," dreaded by thousands of people. Then the ragweeds are more abundant and cover more acres in this region than all other weeds combined. And it is then that the ragweeds shed their pollen.

Of the three kinds in our area, the two most widespread are the giant ragweed, also called horse weed, and the common ragweed. Both are annual plants, growing only from seeds and dying each winter. The giant ragweed, commonly reaching ten feet in height and occasionally twenty feet, is our tallest weed. It grows tallest and densest on the rich moist flood plains of streams.

The common ragweed is smaller, seldom taller than five feet. It is easily the most common weed on roadsides, waste places and in stubble fields after the wheat or oats have been harvested. The third species, the western ragweed, is a perennial plant growing both from seeds and from rootstocks that live over the winter, but is less common and less well known.

The leaves of the giant ragweed are large and deeply lobed, usually into three parts. The other two ragweeds have smaller leaves divided and subdivided into many parts. Ragweed seeds—and each plant produces many—are important winter food for many kinds of small mammals, such as mice, and many birds, particularly quail.

Ragweeds are notable for the fine light pollen produced by their many long heads of male flowers. The flower heads of a single plant, if shaken and tapped over a sheet of paper, will often shed a teaspoonful of bright yellow pollen. And each pollen grain is so tiny and light that it is often carried thirty or forty miles by wind. It

is this pollen, largely from ragweeds, that sticks to the membranes of your eyes, nose, throat and lungs and causes hay fever, if you are sensitive to it.

Hay fever symptoms can be caused when there are only twenty-five pollen grains per cubic yard of air. On peak days the count reaches 900 grains. Although it takes billions of grains to weigh one ounce, the total annual crop over the whole country is estimated to be a million tons.

Ragweeds are the champion sneeze-makers.

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR RESIGNS

Mrs. Enid Brown, associate editor of the "Iowa Conservationist," has resigned and moved to Winterset, where her husband, Earl, a GI pharmacy graduate of Drake University, has entered his profession. Mrs. Brown was an editor's dream, competent and hard-working.

Enid became "step-mother" of the four-year-old "Iowa Conservationist" in June, 1946, upon resignation of associate editor Lois Ames. The "baby" accepted the foster parent almost immediately, and thrived under her administration.

Now the husky seven-year-old has another change in "mamas". Lois Recknor takes over parental duties as associate editor. Lois Recknor is the former Lois Ames, the "Conservationist's" first associate editor. Enid Brown is the former Enid Ames—so the baby is still in the family, and we expect it to continue to thrive on the same formula of competence and hard work.

The editor cannot help but wonder if Mrs. Electa Ames, of Afton, has any more daughters hidden out in the "wilds" of Union County—just in case. And we wish for Enid and "Brownie" the best success in their new venture.

The hum of the bee is due to the very rapid vibration of its wings.

## A BALTIMORE PIANO MAKER'S INVESTMENT SAVED SOME OF IOWA'S NATIVE PRAIRIE

By Robert M. Bliss

Chester, Iowa—Two and one-half miles southwest of here, the prairie is wild and free, just as it was when the great-grandparents of the present generation settled Howard County in the 1850's.

On 240 acres now owned by the Iowa State Conservation Commission, the virgin upland prairie will be kept free from the plow in perpetuity, so that future generations of Iowans can see what their state looked like during the centuries when their forebears inhabited another continent.

Iowa can thank the fortunate eccentricity of a piano manufacturer and his heirs and assignees for this area where the wild flowers bloom from spring to fall and the broad sheathed prairie grasses wave.

In the middle of the last century the Knabe piano, manufactured in Baltimore, Maryland, was the dean of American parlor instruments, and the Knabe family decided to invest the profits in western land.

They purchased 200 acres southwest of Chester in 1868. Later the property was transferred to Charles Keidel of Baltimore, a partner in the firm, and on his death in 1924 it devolved on numerous heirs.

Throughout this period, neither Knabe, Keidel or the heirs would allow the tract to be plowed. So far as is known they never stated a reason. They simply instructed the late John Kakac of Cresco, Iowa, their manager, to allow haying only on the tract.

Three generations of Chester farmers have hayed the area. The late W. W. Cray, father of Win Cray, the Chester banker, who lived his entire 87 years in Howard County, used to go into the area and camp during the haying period.

The broad sheathed native prairie grass makes excellent livestock feed, and the tract used to yield one to two tons per acre.

Joe Armstrong of Chester hayed the tract for years and the Strand cattle sheds of Manly, Iowa, used it.

When Charles Keidel's will came up for probate in 1924, he owned so much land in various states that the document had to be printed in book form.

During the war, when the estate again was probated, it was another lawyers' field day. W. L. Barker, Cresco attorney, handled the legal work regarding the Howard County holding, which was sold for the heirs to Jesse S. Walton, an Oklahoma professor, and his wife.

In the meantime, Dave Evans of Cresco, supported by Louis P. Barth, longtime editor and publisher of the Howard County Times, and other conservation enthusiasts, had long hoped that the

area might be preserved in its natural state.

With the assistance of conservation and women's organizations, they persuaded the State Conservation Commission to buy the tract on April 10, 1945, although the local sponsors felt that the price of \$50 per acre was too high.

They hope that native prairie animal and bird life will return to the area where the native flora has been preserved so well.

As Mr. Evans puts it, "While no prairie chickens have yet returned to nest . . . game bird specialists have not given up hopes. The upland grass had been harvested until a couple of years ago and short grass is not attractive to prairie chickens."

"Botany students are enthusiastic about the succession of the many attractive prairie flowers which adorn these natural prairies from early summer until late fall, and the State Conservation Commission has a committee of faculty members in the botany department of Iowa State College, which is charged with the well-being of the prairie preserves."

"I am told that agronomy students find much interest in the study of these unspoiled soils."—*Waterloo Courier*.



Lois Recknor, associate editor of the "Iowa Conservationist," admires a bouquet of blazing star, one of the many magnificent wild flowers of Iowa's prairies. Bob Cooper Photo.

## Only 40 MPH!

A West Virginia train engineer clocked a whitetail deer at 40 miles per hour. The deer ran directly beside the engine cab for a mile. A fence near Hinton put an end to the race.—*Sportscaster*.

The smallest of all our North American mammals is the shrew, and it is also one of the fiercest. It burns up a terrific amount of energy and can eat the equivalent of its own weight in meat every three hours.





Being entirely without weapons or armor, the bullfrog must escape from his many enemies by leaping into the water and hiding.

## THE BULLFROG

(Reprinted from the Missouri Conservationist.)

The bullfrog does much more than just sit on the bank or a lily pad and bellow. He puts up with a routine of life much like the rest of us. Even if he is a cold-blooded vertebrate, he has his moments. During the warmer days of spring he emerges from hibernation in the bottom mud of creek or pond and goes forth with one eye peeled for food and the other for a mate. Chances are, he won't readily see a mate, so he sets to work calling for one.

His croaking or bellowing is produced by forcing air back and forth between the lungs and the mouth cavity across the vocal chords, which are stretched on either side of the larynx. Scientists say that his "music" is primarily a mating call, but the bullfrog continues his racket through much of the summer, probably just to let the lady friends know that he's still around.

While mating, the female bullfrog lays her 10,000 or more eggs in a gelatinous film on the surface of still water. Upon hatching, the frog is a familiar character known as the tadpole. At first, the tadpole resembles a small fish and, for that matter, lives much like one. It even has gills which, during final transformation, conveniently convert into other useful organs. There are various stages in tadpoles—the creature adds legs, absorbs its tail, and comes to look more and more like a frog. Since there are many kinds of frogs, there are differences in tadpoles. It's rather hard to tell them apart, but if you find a tadpole over three inches long you can almost bet that it is a bullfrog—or will be. The bullfrog spends two and sometimes three years as a tadpole, and another two years to mature in size.

The bullfrog is a useful creature and perfectly harmless. His tongue is long and sticky and the frog has a trick of flipping it out to snatch mosquitoes, flies, and assorted bugs before the hapless insects know what is going on. He has a voracious appetite and consumes delightful quantities of these pests. He eats other things, too—swallows them whole, and depends upon his insides to digest them. One frog hunter reported cutting a frog open and a tiny live turtle clambered out. The frog's lack of discrimination to any moving

meal-sized object is often his downfall, for he has been known to snap up a bare fishhook dangled before his eyes without giving the matter due consideration.

Being entirely without weapons or armor, save his tough and slippery hide, the frog must escape from his enemies by leaping into the water and hiding. Snakes are the chief enemy of small frogs, while shore-feeding birds, cranes, herons, crows, turtles, raccoons, skunks, and many other animals prey on him. Probably his greatest predator is man, for "fried frog legs" is a dish known far and wide as fit for kings.

## FISH IN WAPSIE GET BIG CHARGE OUT OF THE ELECTRICAL STORM

Fish in the Wapsie River have a natural dislike for lightning. That's the conclusion reached by a group of fishermen when suddenly hundreds of fish surfaced with considerable splashing and noise after lightning struck about a mile away.

The men, who were fishing for catfish, said that right after the flash of lightning the entire area became alive with fish which came to the surface of the water all at the same time. They decided the reason was that the water had served as a conductor for the electricity and the fish had received a mild shock from the lightning bolt.—*Independence Bulletin Journal*.

## "JOE BEAVER"



By Ed Nofziger

"We've got the best land in the valley—get all the topsoil and fertilizer that washes off the farms."



For more than ten years, nuisance beaver have been live-trapped and released in suitable habitat in all sections of the state. Here Conservation Officer Gregory is removing a pair from a Lyon County dredge ditch.

## Woman's Wiles

Catching fish probably is one of the most skillful of sports. In fact, sometimes it requires such skill that sportsmen frequently come home empty-handed. Leave it to a woman to do it the hard way.

Conservation Agent Arthur D. Province tells of watching a woman threshing water for some time with a plug. He checked her creel, found one bass, one jack salmon, noted she had tied her plug on backwards.—*Sportscaster*.

## 1949 BEAVER SEASON

An open beaver season will definitely be held in Iowa in 1949 for the first time in more than 75 years. The Commission will set the dates under authority of a law passed by the Fifty-third General Assembly.

This valuable fur-bearer, extinct in Iowa for many years, began a remarkable comeback in northwest Iowa in 1932. Subsequent live-trapping by the Conservation Commission and restocking in suitable beaver environment has resulted in this historic fur-bearer's becoming over-abundant in many sections of the state.

Conservation officers and game biologists are at present surveying beaver populations and will make recommendations relative to seasons and localities where beaver may be trapped during the coming winter. Under present plans, beaver will be open to trapping only in those sections of the state where a surplus exists. Pre-survey indications are, however, that at least 50 per cent of the state will be open to trapping.

Because beaver trapping requires much larger traps (number 4) than those used for other fur-bearers, arrangements should be made to secure traps well ahead of the opening of the beaver season this fall.

## Beaver Airlift

Idaho people know beavers are worth a dam. In fact, when eager beavers do give a dam, people profit. These days, Idaho's state fish and game department parachute beavers from an airplane wherever they are needed.

Beavers are dropped from an altitude of 500 to 600 feet. They are enclosed in a clamshell box, hinged at the bottom. When the beaver strikes earth, the box opens.—*Sportscaster*.





Burrowing owls are natives of the prairie and are still found in many northwest Iowa counties, sometimes nesting in communities of several pairs. Maynard Reece Drawing.

## OWLS OF THE PRAIRIE

So far this year, we have not seen a single burrowing owl in this locality. Some years ago, several pairs nested here regularly every summer, and they used the same burrows, or burrows on the same hillsides year after year.

When we mention burrowing owls, we usually associate these birds with the prairie dog "towns" of the dry western plains. Standing on a mound near the entrance of a deserted prairie dog burrow, these little nine and a half inch owls are in their natural environment, but in recent years these owls have extended their range to more fertile areas. Around 1900 the western burrowing owls began to make their appearance in northwestern Iowa and western Minnesota, and it is very likely that more dependable sources for food have influenced these migrations.

While the name of these owls may infer that they dig holes in the ground, and they may have been excavators in times gone by, it is rare now to find a pair of western burrowing owls that resort to digging their own burrow. They find it much more convenient to appropriate deserted burrows of animals and repair them to fit their own use. While the prairie dog burrows are the right size for these owls, they are forced to find deserted skunk, fox or badger dens to fit their needs, even though they are too large for the feathered occupants.

The common story about prairie dogs, owls and rattlesnakes living together in harmony in a burrow, is only a fairy story. Prairie dogs will desert a burrow when a rattlesnake enters, and burrowing owls do not have any liking for either rattlesnakes or prairie dogs.

When a pair of burrowing owls take possession of a den that some animal has deserted, they proceed at once to clean house, and a heap of earth and leavings of the former occupants near the entrance mark such places. This mound near an

owl den is used by both the parents and the young as a vantage point to watch for danger or air themselves. An enlarged chamber is excavated in a burrow at a distance of from five to ten feet from the entrance, and the nest occupies this enlarged part. Weed stalks, or other available materials, are used in constructing a rude nest, and a nest may contain from five to ten white eggs.

A family of western burrowing owls perched together on a bare mound, near their burrow, is an interesting sight, and the long legs of these owls make them appear larger than their actual size. But the young are always nearly full-grown before they make their appearance above the ground. These owls are not annoyed by daylight, and they are quick to notice everything about them. They sit upright, bob their heads up and down, and make quick short runs as they change positions. When they sense danger, the parents fly to some distant stone or post, and the young scurry into their burrow. The presence of these families around a burrow after the young are full-grown often leads to the belief that these owls nest in colonies. They nest in pairs, although several pairs may nest in a locality.

The general color of the western burrowing owl is a dull reddish-brown, spotted with light brown or buff. In comparison with other members of the owl family, their head is small and their legs long.

The food of the burrowing owl consists largely of insects, such as grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, and locusts. Mice are also consumed in numbers, and sometimes these owls catch young ground squirrels and small snakes. While burrowing owls seem to be able to see almost as well in the daytime as at night, they hunt for their prey during evenings and at night. Young burrowing owls have ravenous appetites, and with a good food supply at hand, a young owl has been known to consume its

weight in food in twenty-four hours.

As nearly all the food of the western burrowing owls consists of noxious vermin, these birds should be considered very beneficial in agricultural areas, and they deserve the fullest protection at all times.—*Ruthven Free Press.*

### "No Good" Dog O.K.

Romaine Severance, veteran hunter of Bridgewater Corners, Vt., tells about a no-good coon dog that made good. Previous owners thought the half Bluetick, half English setter "no good" because he'd go off chasing neighborhood cats. Romaine decided to convert the dog's hatred of cats into something useful.

Romaine and his dog "Joe" now are the champion bobcatting team of the Green Mountains. "Joe" always gets his limit. He has run down as many as 10 bobcats in a season; one weekend he ran down four.—*Sportscaster.*

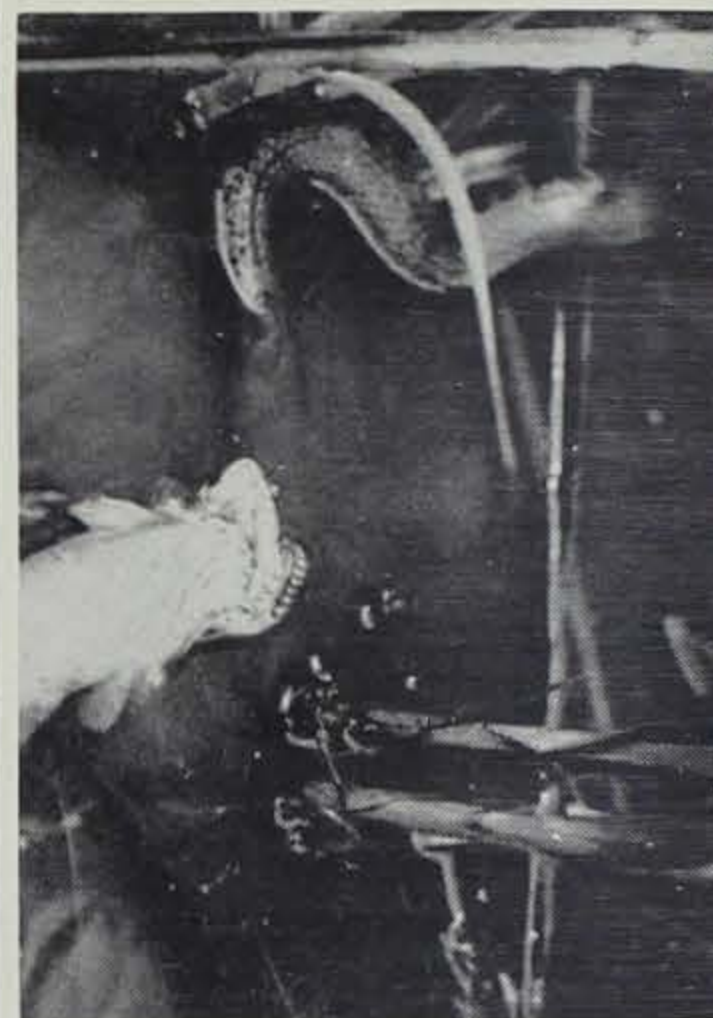
## STOCK WALLEYE PIKE FRY IN STREAMS

Experimental stocking of walleye pike fry has been completed in the Des Moines River at Camp Dodge, the Iowa River at Marshalltown, and the Cedar River at Palsades, Waverly and Cedar Falls. Fifty thousand fry were stocked in each location.

It is believed by fisheries biologists that proper spawning environment may be lacking in present day Iowa streams, limiting the number of walleyes produced each year. Survival of the inch-long fish will be checked by fisheries employees periodically to determine survival and growth rate during the next three years. If the plantings are successful, walleye pike fry plantings may become a standard stream stocking practice.



Fisheries employees stocking walleyes. Stream stocking of walleye pike fry may become a standard stocking practice if present experimental stockings pay off. Jim Sherman Photo.



Common water snake swallowing a catfish. Allen Green Photo.

## A SNAKE STORY

By Allen Green

We were photographing wild ducks on the Allen Green Refuge near Oakville. We had on our hip boots and our camera ready to make a quick shot. Suddenly we heard a splashing sound coming from a clump of three-cornered grass. It wasn't wild ducks making the noise—it sounded like fighting wild animals. We cautiously approached the scene, and to our amazement we saw a large water snake force its head completely out of the lake while in its mouth was tightly gripped a catfish it was in the act of swallowing. We snapped our camera again and again trusting to luck that we might get at least one picture to record this most unusual sight. Fortunately we were rewarded.

We have seen snakes swallow half-grown rabbits, frogs, etc., but how in the world did this water snake ever get its jaws past those horns of the catfish? Probably its oddly hinged jaws accounted for its success.





Pools below dams have a fatal attraction for smallmouths, especially in midsummer. Aerated water and an abundance of natural foods are probably the reasons for the gathering of the bass clan at these sites. Jim Sherman Photo.

## Angling . . .

(Continued from page 153)

most the action of a bamboo rod and will outlast a bamboo rod in the same price range. A steel rod may also be used more safely in bait fishing than any bamboo flyrod. Any type of reel is satisfactory unless it is too heavy.

### Line, Leaders and Hooks

The fly line must be of the proper weight for the rod if the casts and action are to be satisfactory. The size and test of leader should be determined by the weight of the lure and by the conditions of the water. In clear water four-pound test leaders will bring more strikes than heavier ones. Light leaders should be frequently examined for knots while fishing, for a knot will greatly reduce the breaking strength of any leader. When the water is clear, a long leader will often bring results when a short leader fails. The author uses a leader nine to twelve feet long in clear water. An inch or two should be removed from the end of the leader after catching a fish or two or when changing lures.

Heavy leaders will "kill" the action of many types of lures unless a split ring is used. Split rings should be attached to lures such as flyrod spoons and plugs. When bait fishing, a shorter heavy leader can be used effectively. The hook size should be determined more by the size of the bait being used than the size of fish you would like to catch. The hook should be large enough so that the barb is not covered, when using large crayfish or minnows. When using small baits a size 6 or even size 8 hook is large enough.

### Care in Approach

When fishing along a bass stream, stay as far from the spot being fished as possible unless there are bushes or vertical banks to conceal your movements. White clothing has no place along a bass stream. Dress in darker colors. All movements should be slow and deliberate. When possible, fish from

the shade or from a spot where your shadow does not fall upon the water. In fast current most fish will head upstream and, therefore, if you approach a pool against the current you are less likely to be seen by the fish.

Each pool should be approached

### Lures on Which 353 Smallmouth Black Bass Were Caught in Small Iowa Streams in 1948

Type of lure	June			July			August			September		
	No. caught	Avg. size inches	Pct. legal	No. caught	Avg. size inches	Pct. legal	No. caught	Avg. size inches	Pct. legal	No. caught	Avg. size inches	Pct. legal
Hair fly . . . . .	3	11.2	100	2	12.7	100	1	6.0	—	—	—	—
Wet fly . . . . .	4	9.2	50	9	9.4	47	9	9.6	33	1	9.8	0
Streamer (feather) 1	8.9	0	1	7.3	0	107	9.3	27	18	9.9	39	—
Spinner and hair fly . . . . .	13	9.9	46	30	10.0	50	1	7.6	—	2	9.2	0
Spinner and wet fly . . . . .	8	9.9	38	8	9.9	38	7	8.7	29	1	10.0	100
Spinner and streamer . . . . .	13	9.7	38	2	11.1	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cork bodied popper . . . . .	—	—	—	3	10.6	67	6	9.7	51	—	—	—
Hair frog (surface lure) . . . . .	3	10.3	67	1	10.2	100	40	9.7	33	15	9.8	26
Bait* . . . . .	—	—	—	1	10.0	100	6	9.7	17	37	9.7	25
Totals and grand average 45	9.8	47	57	10.1	50	177	9.5	27	74	9.7	30	—
Catch per man hour of fishing**	0.53			0.43			1.5			1.2		

\*Includes minnows, crayfish, grasshoppers, worms and frogs.

\*\*This includes all time spent processing fish and in making observations.

with caution, and a few minutes of watching the pool will often pay off. A rising fish is usually a feeding fish, and a cast to a rise will often end with the bass wrapped in cornmeal. One of the most productive spots for fishing is at the head of the pool where the current enters. Cast into the fast water and let the current move the bait through the pool. Submerged boulders, logs, and stumps and undercut earth banks are also spots to be particularly watched. Every part of the first few pools fished should be covered. If you see that the bass are in one particular location in each pool, such as the head of the pool where the current enters, then time and energy may be saved by fishing only the head of succeeding pools. When one fish has been taken, try the same location with several lures. The author has taken as many as twenty bass

from one pool (the fish were tagged and released). Try a good pool from several fishing locations. If bass aren't striking in one locality, move along the stream, for often fish are caught in only one or two pools in a mile of stream in an entire day.

### Natural Baits

Bait fishing for stream bass may be done with a casting rod or even a bamboo pole, but the baits may be more accurately and naturally presented with a flyrod. If a weight is needed to get the live bait to the desired depth, the sinker should be as small as possible. When using a bobber use a small one weighted until it barely floats to reduce the drag when the fish takes the bait.

Use baits normally found in the stream being fished. Minnows, hellgrammites, crayfish, frogs, angleworms and grasshoppers can frequently be caught in or along the stream and make the best live baits. Worms, hellgrammites, and crayfish are normally found on the bottom and therefore should be fished deep. Minnows may be fished at any depth and are probably best adapted to bobber fishing. They also can be cast and retrieved with a spinner ahead of them.

Ordinarily when a bass seizes a

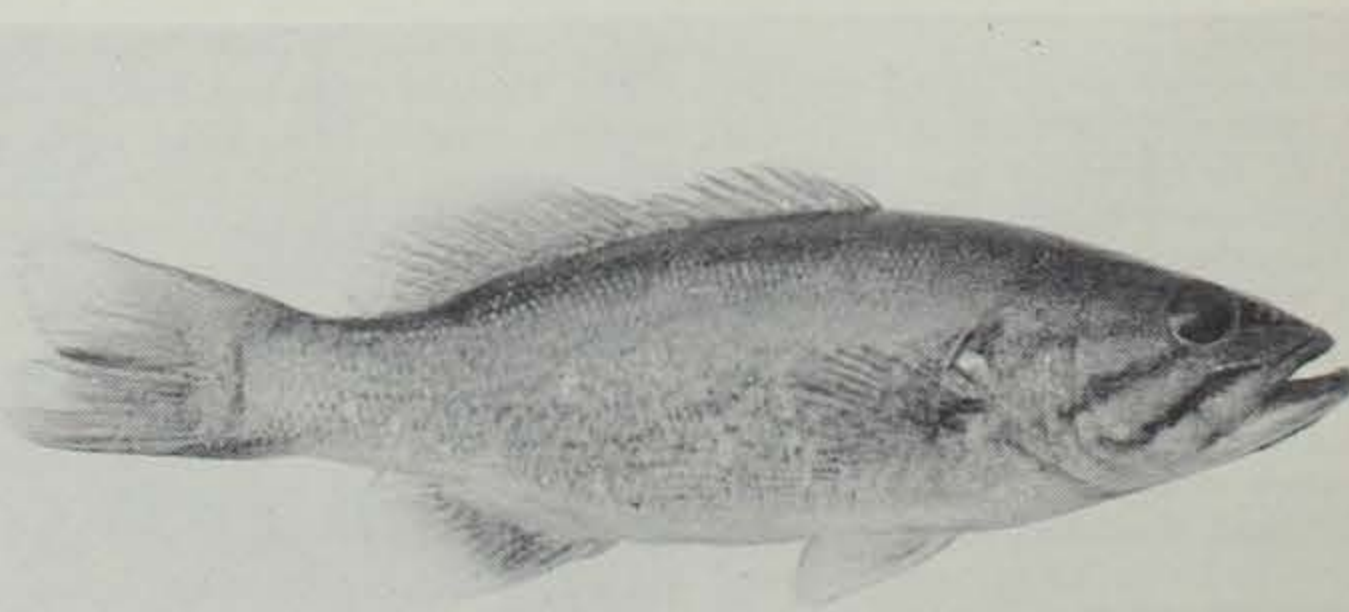
times a bass will take a bait and remain motionless. When this occurs, cautiously tighten the line, and when there is a steady pull on the line, set the hook. Occasionally a bass will take a bait with a terrific rush. Many such strikes are missed. The best policy is to just hang on and let the fish hook himself. A fish should be struck to set the hook only when the line is taut and the strike should not be gentle. The mouth of the bass is bony and tough, and it takes a sharp yank to overcome the friction and stretch of the line and to drive the hook barb home. Rear back and don't spare the rod!

### On Your Toes

With artificial lures, the hook should be set immediately. This is a difficult thing to learn, but you'll not land many bass until you have learned to strike hard and quickly when a fish takes the lure. After a fish has been hooked, let the rod tire him out, applying just enough pressure to keep him from reaching roots or other obstacles. When a fish strikes near a stump or submerged tree top, he can usually be stampeded away from his lair if he is "horsed" away when he first strikes. When a bass is hooked on a light fly, and rushes toward the surface to jump, lower the rod tip so that the fly will not pull out. When fishing with a flyrod plug or a spinner and fly, keep the line taut to prevent the bass from "throwing" the lure while he is in the air. Do not attempt to land a bass until he is tired enough to swim on his side. Pick out a sand bar and head him toward it, keeping his head high. If he doesn't turn to run again, slide him out on his side. Sometimes several attempts are necessary to land a good fish. The best method of landing a fish is, of course, with a landing net. When the fish has tired, sink the net in the water and lead him into the net head first. The net should be inclined at an angle so that the leader doesn't touch the top of the net hoop until the fish is well into it.

### Artificial Lures

Almost any artificial lure will catch fish if used at the right time, but some lures are better than others. Some fishermen become more skillful with certain lures, (Continued on page 160)



The smallmouth bass is considered by many to be the outstanding fresh water game fish in America. Its devotees repeat over and over the slogan "Ounce for ounce, pound for pound, gamest fish the world around." Jim Sherman Photo.





It is our solemn duty to provide coming generations with an understanding of the need for conservation. Teaching conservation in the schools is the first big step. Jim Sherman Photo.

## Education . . .

(Continued from page 153)  
children's children. We are but temporary custodians.

The human race has only two choices open to it. *Either we use resources wisely and carefully, or we starve.* America or any other nation is only as strong as its remaining natural assets. If we continue to waste our soil, water, and forests as we have in the past, it is certain that we will bring about economic, social, and cultural destruction. This has been the fate of all ancient civilizations.

The present generation has failed to solve our conservation problems and now lacks time.

We can and must make certain, however, that the coming generation does understand the need for conservation. Our boys and girls must understand how man depends upon natural resources. They must place the proper value on their heritage and be prepared to give it the care and protection it must have. It is a solemn duty of the present generation to provide this education now.

The solution to this problem lies mainly with our schools. So far, most of our schools have failed to provide for basic conservation education. Ask about your own local school. Probably you'll get a reply something like this: "Oh, yes, we teach conservation here." But do they really? Is the necessity of "wise use" stressed as it should be? Is your school really doing the job? Will your boys and girls practice conservation?

In most schools there is some endeavor to give pupils an understanding of what is meant by wise use of natural resources. Now and then we find a teacher who is actually getting the job done. This teacher is giving his or her pupils an understanding which, if uni-

versal, would make us a nation of true conservationists.

These few are teaching our boys and girls about wise resource use in the face of almost every imaginable handicap. Most textbooks give the subject but passing and inadequate attention. This condition is improving. Most films and other conservation teaching aids are expensive and impractical, especially for the smaller schools. Most free bulletins are not adaptable for classroom use by the average teacher because of the vocabulary used, manner of presentation, or poor illustrations. Often they are not applicable to local conditions or problems.

Most important of all, the teacher has had little or no chance in our colleges and universities to receive adequate training for teaching this most vital subject.

Cooperation of parents with teachers is essential. There is a need for some immediate and certain way of awakening Mary's and Johnny's father and mother to the desperate need for bringing about these changes in their children's training quickly. Without parental insistence, these needed changes may never come.

There appears to be an ever-growing concern about conservation teaching in our schools. There are encouraging signs of progress toward better training of teachers and revision of curricula and subject outlines.

The Iowa State Department of Public Instruction has developed new teacher outlines for teaching conservation. Long needed, these outlines will provide valuable assistance to teachers of elementary grades.

Iowa State Teachers College, at Cedar Falls, has faculty members especially trained in conservation education. Since this college is concerned almost entirely with

teacher training, its influence can be tremendous.

In September, the Iowa State Teachers College will begin a ten-week extension course in teaching conservation at Marengo. This is a long step in the right direction. It is hoped that this type of in-service training may soon be widely available to teachers. It will be if teachers and parents demand it.

Other Iowa colleges and universities are endeavoring to widen the bottlenecks in conservation education.

The State Conservation Commission has recently established a position of Education Assistant, charged with expanding the Commission's contribution and cooperation in this field.

There is at this time a desperate need for a coordinating body or office to serve all agencies concerned with conservation education. A study of the plans of educators and public and private agencies shows that they are all working toward education for wise resource use. Yet few of these groups are fully aware of what others are doing. More efficiency and less over-lap is necessary. We need a clearing house for conservation education.

We are lagging behind many other states in providing for conservation education. Yet Iowa, the bread basket of the hungry world, has more reason to be concerned than any other state. Much of our fertile soil is gone forever.

By coordinating and intensifying our program of education for "wise use" in our schools now, we will insure enlightened stewardship in future generations.

Destruction of resources must not continue if our nation is to survive. It will continue, however, until the parents of our boys and girls insist on a continuous, sound conservation education program in this and other states. We must all demand proper emphasis on education for wise resource use. Conservation Can't Wait!

## Down But Not Out

A pugnacious billy-goat flattened a four-point buck deer near Remote, Oregon. At the count of three, the deer arose. He promptly was butted back to the ground. Deciding that too much of anything was enough, the buck went to work on the goat with both front hooves and horns. From then on it was no contest.—*Sportscaster.*

## Weary Wayfarer

A red salmon, marked by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries in Alaskan waters, was caught 44 days later in a Siberian stream. He'd traveled 1,300 miles from release point.—*Sportscaster.*

The sea otter habitually uses its chest or abdomen as a table and its sense of balance is so fine that no meal goes overboard, even when rocked by waves.

The wolverine, a short, bow-legged Napoleon, is the strongest for its size of all North American mammals.



Boys and girls must learn the proper value of their heritage of natural resources, and they must be prepared to give this heritage the care and protection it deserves. Jim Sherman Photo.





Pet crows get into more trouble than a small boy with a pocketful of marbles. This bedraggled looking mischief-maker is drying off after a swim in a can of cooling cream.

### PET CROW LEAVES TOWN

Sambo was too smart for his own good. That's why he no longer lives at the Cecil Griffith home in Swea City. In fact, that's why he no longer lives.

Sambo was one of two pet crows the Griffith son, Charles, brought home and tamed last year. Possessed of considerable intelligence and even greater quantities of mischievousness, the crows made life miserable for the neighboring dogs. They soon learned to imitate the bark of a dog, and great was the puzzlement of the canines at hearing apparently authentic barks coming down from above. The crows themselves were as good as a watchdog, raising an alarm if a stranger so much as entered the yard.

Sambo's propensity for mischief made washday a war of nerves in which the Griffiths hung out the clothes and Sambo, as soon as the coast was clear, deftly removed the clothespins, leaving the laundry to drop in mud or snow, and hiding the pilfered clothespins in impossible places. A neighbor put paper collars around his cabbage plants recently to foil the cutworms. Sambo promptly removed the collars and hid them.

The end came when Sambo neatly removed all the green tomatoes from the Griffith garden and hid them under leaves in the yard. Goodbye, Sambo.—*Mason City Globe Gazette.*

The eggs of the gar are considered extremely poisonous to humans.

God washed the earth yesterday. He scrubbed the trees and leaves and then rinsed them clean. Man's thoroughfare, the highway, was cleansed from dust and debris. The city's street was polished in the fashion of a Dutch home. And then God sent the wind to dry it all, and the sun to purify the air and all that is in it.—*Bellevue Leader.*

### Wardens Tales . . .

(Continued from page 154)  
would have to go to Bloomfield, the nearest justice court.

"As I was starting to row for the dock, however, I happened to glance up and notice that the justice from Bloomfield was just at that moment arriving at the lake.

"A few minutes later we had had a brief conference, and by agreement of all parties court was held in the boat house. The man pleaded guilty to the charge, paid his fine, and was given a receipt by the justice. The apprehension, trial, and all took perhaps twenty-five minutes.

"The sportsmen in my territory got quite a kick out of it, and as a result I have acquired a new nickname—'Quick Justice' Schomer."

"As I was patrolling the Skunk River by boat recently," reports Dwight Bramon, conservation officer for Washington and Jefferson counties, "I noticed an animal's head protruding from under an overhanging grapevine along the steep river bank. At first sight it

appeared to be a ground hog, and since it did not run away, I thought it might be sick. I pointed it out to a friend who was with me and turned the boat around to investigate.

"Closer inspection revealed it to be a mother beaver and her four babies, which were about one-third grown. The mother hesitated for about a minute before she dived into the river, followed by the four kits. Just a few feet from their hiding place Father Beaver appeared, looking us over carefully before he took to the water.

"This sight struck me as a rare and spectacular one. It was my first opportunity to see a pair and their family out of water. If I had had my camera, I would have had ample time to photograph them at close range."

Free-swimming animal organisms hardly visible to the naked eye form the principal food of the large-mouthed buffalo, which attain a weight of over 50 pounds in Iowa lakes.

The Columbian ground squirrel of northwest United States, Canada and Alaska does not require water and may never take a drink in its life.



Unnecessary burning on railroad right-of-way destroys much of the finest wildlife habitat in Iowa. Perhaps the railroads could take a lesson in public relations from the Davenport Telephone Company. Jim Sherman Photo.

### 2,4-D . . .

(Continued from page 153)  
wanted to know of telephone officials why it couldn't be done in the entire state. It could. On Friday last the order went out to all Iowa districts that henceforth no more 2,4-D roadside spraying by the telephone company would be done.

Orchids to the ladies. They did a swell job, and they certainly pointed the way for a lot of sportsmen's groups who have been sitting on their hands doing nothing. And while we are at it, honorable mention to the telephone company for a nice display of public relations, and a real contribution to the conservation movement.

There has been an awakening with respect to the use of 2,4-D. Hailed as the magic chemical, it

has been found to have a lot of drawbacks. While highly beneficial when properly used, it can kill a lot of things very valuable to agriculture and to mankind's welfare.

As Mrs. F. B. Ebersole said when we discussed this matter with her, she being one of the hard-working committee members, "You can't go around destroying nature's balance with a lot of chemicals and expect bumper crops, as many farmers are now finding out."

And just by way of warning, the ladies have their heavy artillery trained on the pollution problem. Will they make things hum? And we suggest they start with the Iowa legislature, but that will be another story in another column.—*Davenport Democrat.*

### Angling . . .

(Continued from page 158)  
while others take fish with different lures. In the accompanying table the lures used to catch 353 smallmouth bass in 1948 are listed, showing the number of smallmouth bass caught and the percentage that were of legal size.

Although spinners aided in the capture of bass earlier in the summer, they had lost their appeal by August, when the water cleared up. In a test made with spinners of all types in low clear water, twenty fish were repelled by spinners and only one was attracted. Eight of these fish were taken on a streamer fly by a second angler only a few feet behind the angler using the spinner and fly combinations. When the water is low and clear, a streamer or standard pattern wet fly will take bass. Floating bugs and poppers also are effective in midsummer, particularly along rocky shores and vertical banks in the late afternoon and evenings. The hair frog took more large bass than all other lures combined. Popping bugs and other surface lures should be retrieved very slowly with just an occasional twitch to move the lure. Most strikes will come when the bait is motionless on the water. Where the bank is undercut by a swift current, floating lures will bring strikes when cast close to shore and allowed to drift with the current. Repeated casts around stumps, rocks or logs often bring a strike.

When fishing with the wet fly or hair fly, best results are usually obtained by allowing the lure to sink to the bottom and then retrieving with a twitching motion of the rod. Don't discard old bedraggled flies, for they usually look more like the insects you are trying to imitate than new ones. Streamer flies and hair flies that simulate minnows should be retrieved rather fast with a jerky motion. If a bass starts to follow such a lure, increase the speed of the lure so that the fish won't discover that the quarry he is chasing is a fraud. Even if he doesn't strike on the first retrieve, he's usually a "sucker" for a second cast in the same vicinity.

If experience has taught us anything, it is that smallmouth don't follow rules. The comments and procedures outlined here are intended only as a starting point. Some "character" will probably go out and catch his limit of smallmouth by doing all the don'ts and "don'ting" all the do's. But that's what makes smallmouth fishing interesting. Treat the smallmouth as an individual, and he'll give you a treat.

The glass snake is not a snake but a legless lizard, differing from snakes by the presence of eyelids and external ears.

Men, the males in the sunfish family build the nest, care for the eggs and the babies without help from mama.