

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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LOAFING WITH A MOTIVE—SQUIRRELS

1952 HUNTING PROSPECTS

By John Madson
Education Assistant

In general, the 1952-53 hunting prospects are good. Opening September 15, squirrel season started things off with the promise of good shooting. There is a slight increase in squirrel populations. The entire state is open to fox and gray squirrels, with a daily bag limit of six and a possession limit of 12 after the first day. Squirrel season will extend through November 15.

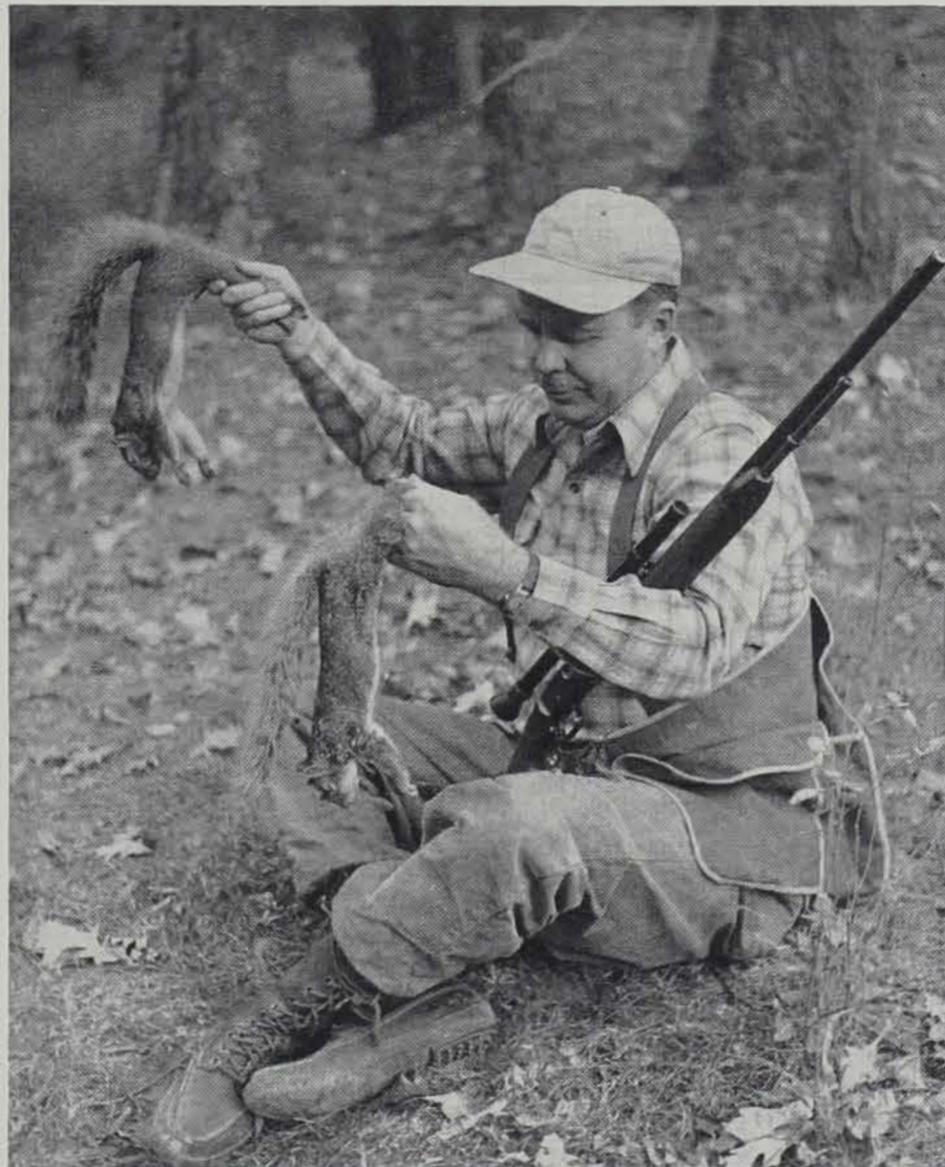
Rabbit season also opened on September 15 but will extend through January 31, 1953. The daily bag limit is 10, and there is no possession limit. Shooting hours are from 6:00 in the morning until 6:00 at night. There were good rabbit populations during the late summer in most parts of the state. Even considering the usual fall decline, late fall and winter shooting should be the best in several years.

Opening on October 8, the duck season will extend this year through December 1. This is four days earlier and six days later than the 1951 season. This increased shooting season indicates more ducks. Nothing phenomenal, but there is a slight increase in populations. As usual, shooting will begin at noon on opening day. Daily bag limit of ducks is four with a possession limit after the first day of eight. Not more than one wood duck may be held in a bag or possession limit.

Goose shooting will be limited to a bag of five geese, not more than two of which can be Canada geese, their sub-species, or white-fronted geese. Bags may be made up entirely of blue geese, snow geese, or any combination of them. Possession limit of geese is five.

The bag and possession limit of coot is 10 birds. The bag limit of American and red-breasted mergansers is 25, with no possession limit.

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The squirrel season rolls around just when leaves need raking, fall housecleaning starts and storm windows loom large in the basement; then the squirrel hunter comes into his own.

SHOOT WITH BOTH EYES OPEN

By Henry P. Davis

Hand a novice shooter a rifle or a shotgun and he'll almost always instinctively put it to his shoulder and squint down the top of the barrel, closing one eye. Concentrating on one-eyed aiming seems the natural thing to do, but by so doing the shooter is unknowingly handicapping himself.

"Two eyes are better than one in any form of shooting," says Henry P. Davis, public relations manager, Remington Arms Com-

pany, Inc. "Whether it be shooting at game in the field or at still or moving targets, the beginner should start out by learning to shoot with both eyes open. This will enable him to get a clearer 'sight picture' much quicker and improve his chances to score a clean hit.

"Although at first it seems necessary for the beginner to sight down the barrel with one eye closed, with a little practice he will soon realize that it is much better to keep

(Continued on page 70)

By John Madson
Education Assistant

Where squirrel hunting is concerned, the lazy man comes into his own. The season rolls around just when leaves need raking and the wives start worrying about fall housecleaning, storm windows and other foolish things. Which is a good time to mutter something about laying in provisions and turn your face to the woods.

Squirrel hunting is a highly refined technique, perfected by generations of very tired men. Its purest form, still hunting, is probably the deadliest. This consists of relaxing everything but your eyeballs and eardrums. After all, you are a lot lazier than a squirrel; he can stand just so much quiet and then he has to cut loose. Some of the boys work hard at squirrel hunting, but they probably like work in the first place and aren't worth dwelling upon.

First of all, sit down at the foot of some tree. An oak-hickory timber is the best, but nearly any woodlot near a cornfield will be good. A sure bet is a "cover lane" which connects two woodlots and serves as a squirrel highway. Pick a comfortable spot, because you must sit quietly for some time. You should have neutral-colored clothing and a .22 rifle.

The trees around you aren't as dense as they look. Inspect the trunks and work up. Look at each main limb as it comes, following it up to its outer twigs and branches. Pay special attention to crotches. Watch for any bulge or knot that looks fuzzier than a bulge or knot should. And carefully check the undersides of limbs for tufts of hair. Most squirrels are literally killed by their tails.

This still hunting enables a man to concentrate intensely on sounds and movement. You will be surprised at how easily you will notice a feeding nuthatch fifty yards away. And if you grow impatient, remember this: each passing moment is an investment. Each minute you sit still adds to the itching impatience of the squirrels that are

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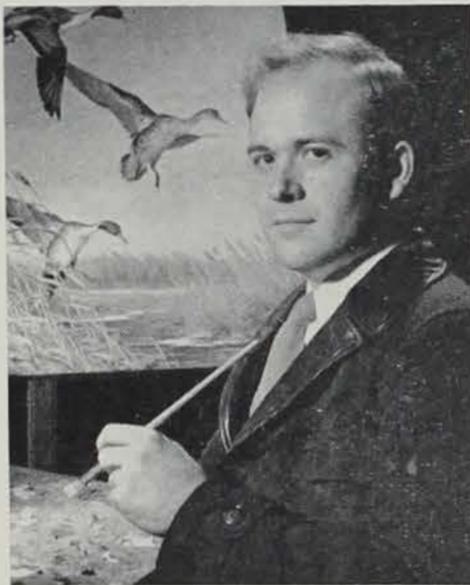
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Jim Sherman Photo.
Maynard Reece.

MAYNARD REECE TO FREE LANCE

Maynard Reece has resigned his position as staff artist with the State Department of History and Archives to enter the free lance field.

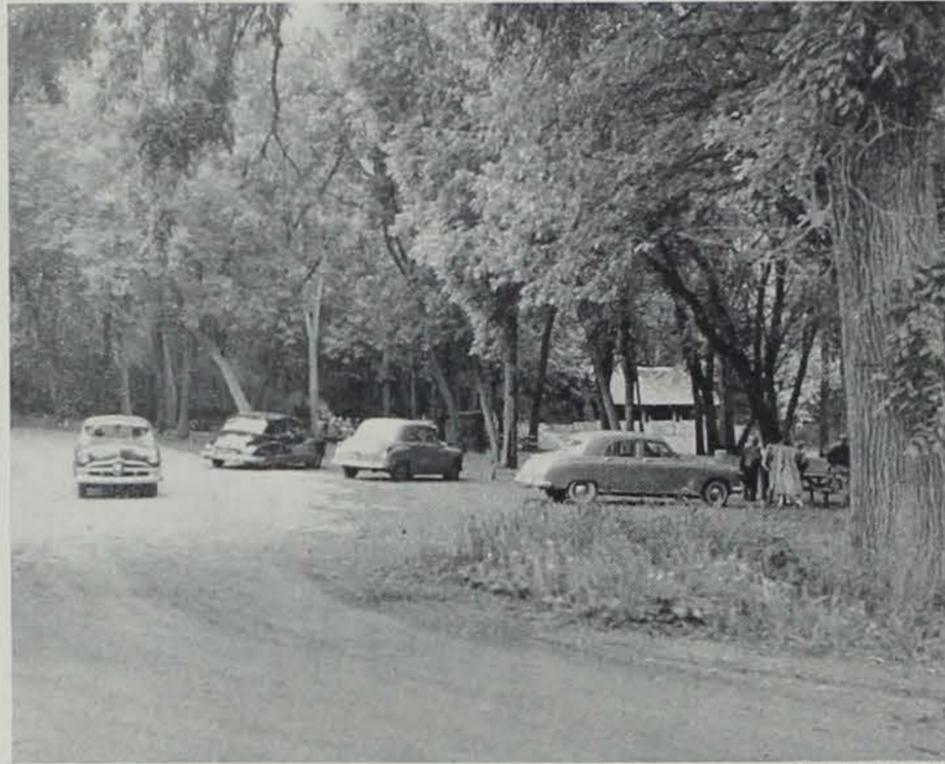
In addition to painting and selling wildlife portraits through an eastern market the artist will do considerable work for magazine and calendar publishing firms.

The young artist has gained nation-wide fame for his work in illustrating books and magazine articles.

In competition with leading artists in the country his drawings have twice been selected for the federal duck stamp design.

His work is probably best known in Iowa for his illustrations in the books, "Waterfowl in Iowa" and "Iowa Fish and Fishing" and through reproductions in The Sunday Register Picture section.—*Eldora Herald Ledger.*

Maximum populations of game fish cannot be maintained by regulations alone. Peaks and depressions in the curve of population densities depend upon reproduction survival. Dynamics which govern wildlife population are not fully understood. E.R.



Jim Sherman Photo.
The main attraction in Wanata State Park is the wonderful tract of timber well known to picnickers long before it became a state park.

WANATA STATE PARK

The main attraction at Wanata State Park is the forest. This wonderful tract of timber was well known before the area, just south of Peterson in southwestern Clay County, became a state park. It drew visitors from far and wide. The forest is indeed a wonder and a delight, but the area has geological features which the visitor is likely to miss.

The park is an area of about 150 acres on the south side of the Little Sioux River. Most of the park area is really the valley side. Anyone who has climbed up the Hi-Wood trail from the picnic area must have reflected upon the steepness of the slope. Perhaps no thought was given to the reason for this. It is indeed a steep slope, and it is noted elsewhere as one follows along the upland train on the side of the valley. Weathering and erosion are responsible for this steep valley-side.

The most significant part in the creation of the topography in the park has been played by the Little Sioux River. It has been following its present course at least since the time of the Iowa glacier. For tens of thousands of years the river has been flowing along, carrying its load of sediment, and deepening and widening the valley. Valley widening has been hastened by creep, slump, and landslide. The river slowly shifts its course during the years. When it gets against the side of the valley it undercuts the slope. Heavy soaking by rain adds to the weight of the soil and subsoil. Being poorly supported, masses break away and slide toward the river. Thus more material is brought within reach of the river current. At the same time a scalloped depression, a landslide scar, is left on the side of the valley. Thus this steep valley-side has been developed. Landslide scars may be noted on the trail along the river.



Jim Sherman Photo.
The stones used in the construction of the shelter house at Wanata and the fireplaces of the picnic area have come from the glacial till in the area.

Run-off down the slope helps to widen the valley. In the course of the years the river may shift away from the valley side. Then gradually the slope becomes more gentle. Water running down the side is partly responsible. Also, there is a slow creep of the top soil, as it wets and dries, freezes and thaws. The slope across the river from the park is much more gentle. It was once as steep as on the south side. If in the course of the years the river is again against the north side it will be steepened once more.

Rivers such as the Little Sioux are continually shifting their channels. Loops called meanders are formed. If the neck of the loop becomes narrow it may be broken through in time of flood, and the meander will no longer be occupied by the river. At first there may be an ox-bow lake. In the course of time this will be filled in by sediment, deposited when the river is in flood. The swampy strips on the river bottom, now grown up to rushes, are deserted river channels. These may be seen along the river trail.

The river valley is notably narrow at the park, being no more than about 2,000 feet across. Elsewhere, just west of Peterson for example, it is wider. It is also as much as 200 feet deep at Peterson, so it is no wonder that the hikers find it somewhat breath-taking to climb to the heights of the park.

Nothing has been said about the gullies cut into the valley side. These are mostly short, but are slowly being deepened and widened. Some are deep enough to expose good sections of the underlying subsoil, the glacial drift of the area. This is brown in color because of weathering, and is a sandy, silty clay containing pebbles and larger rocks. There is no arrangement to the material, and it is the glacial subsoil called till. The stones used in the construction of the shelter house and the fireplaces of the picnic area have come from this glacial till. The upper end of one of the gullies has been somewhat stabilized by a couple of large trees. The water has cut deeply below the trees, so that the gulley ends in a small amphitheatre. The path goes along the upper edge of this.

What lies beneath the park beside what one can see exposed in the gullies? Well-records show that the glacial deposits are about 200 feet deep at Peterson. Below that begin the deposits of the ancient seas. The first one encountered is a soft sandstone—the Dakota formation. This is nowhere exposed in this county, or even in some of the adjacent counties, but is it known to underlie a vast expanse of country, clear to the Rocky Mountains. It is the deposit from the last sea to invade the interior of the county, in remote geological times.

One female cottontail may produce 16 young per season. The average number of young per litter is four.



Give a hooked bass plenty of time to tire or you'll invariably lose it as you try to horse it from the water.

FALL FISHING

Right now the smallmouths are hitting and I've seen some up to about four pounds. Of course, you'll fish for them along rocky shores where there is plenty of current—smallmouths don't like muddy silt, and neither do they stay in still or stagnant water. Preferred bait for smallmouths is crawfish—and don't use them too large. The crawfish must be lively—soft-shells are tops if they are not so limp they can't wiggle. I prefer those in the papershell stage and about two inches long. Best technique, so far as my experience is concerned, is to float the bait along the shoreline in from two to three feet of water, using only enough sinker to hold the bait under the surface. After the bass strikes I let it run for four or five feet before setting the hook. Give the hooked smallmouth plenty of time to tire—you'll lose the bass invariably if you try to "horse" it from the water.

If you care to fish for channel catfish, and if you'll explore until you find the right water along the Wapsie, you can get your limit of catfish quite speedily right now. My experience the past three weeks is that they take ripened dead minnows best. Fishermen who employ the floating bait are getting the most catfish and the biggest—most catfish anglers use altogether too big a hook and too big a sinker. The right idea in fishing for "cat" is to merely "sink" the bait—never to anchor it.

The other day I was working for catfish in the Wapsie, and I'm sure I had the right bait, tackle and everything. If I had one run that day, I had 50. But somehow I was missing the strikes, and it both bothered and peeved me. We started fishing at about 9 in the morning—at 4 in the afternoon I had two small catfish, yet I'd had enough runs to have given me my limit twice over. After seven hours

of futile fishing I went into a huddle with myself and doped out what was wrong. I was fishing a loose line—when the fish struck and ran, there was a big bow in the line, and when I tried to set the hook all I did was to take some slack out of the line, never touching the fish. Well, I remedied my technique. In the next hour, fishing tight line, I had my limit, one weighing 11 pounds.

It is pleasing to read fishing columnists advocating angling for carp as a sporting enterprise. Inch for inch and pound for pound, there isn't a harder battler than the carp, and no fish in the water will test your tackle as will carp. And it is all fol-de-rol that carp are not good food. If you were willing to learn how to prepare them, carp are excellent food fish. Smoked carp is better than smoked salmon—sweet spiced carp beats the best of imported fish delicacies. And fried carp fillets are better-flavored than either bass or walleyes.

I've been seining my bait from the upper reaches of Delaware county creeks. In addition to the large number of small bass found in these small creeks, I'm astounded at the great numbers of big chubs. In a haul of the minnow seine recently I had about 20 chubs that would average better than eight inches in length.—*Manchester Democrat*.

SHRIMP CRISES

Shrimp is considered a luxury at our house and I was delighted when I saw a package in the freezing compartment. I learned that it had been brought home for fish bait! I didn't say too much when meat was brought home for the dogs and we ate eggs, or when we bought baby food for the puppy, or when we bought pellets for the rabbit, but when we buy shrimp to feed catfish—that's just too much.—*Eldora Herald Ledger*.

DUCKS IN THE NORTH

Reports from the north on the duck hatch are the most promising in years.

LOCALLY-reared birds are so plentiful in Minnesota, the Gopher state hunters want an early October opening in order to enjoy good shooting before the teal go south.

The same good news is coming out of Saskatchewan, where T. M. K., business manager of the Emmetsburg Publishing Co. and Scratch Pad columnist, recently spent a vacation.

Tom spent a week or more on Lake Kenosee, near Carlyle, which is 150 miles north of Minot, N. D., and in the middle of Saskatchewan's great duck factory.

As usual, on his trips to Carlyle, T. M. K. had some talks with George Kratsch, an authority on hunting and fishing in that country, and George said he had never seen anything like the duck hatch this summer.

There was exactly the right amount of water in the potholes, not too much and not too little, and that is something that hardly ever happens. Usually there is too little, and the ducks are burned out, or too much and they are drowned out, or rather, many of their eggs or ducklings are.

George reports the ideal conditions this summer resulted in double production of young birds over a normal year. Whole broods survived the natural perils of their surroundings because the perils of water extremes were missing.

That territory is chiefly mallard country and Kratsch, out checking up on how things were coming, found big broods wherever he happened to be. Nests built on the shores of the potholes, which often are drowned out, survived as well as those farther out on safer ground.

"There will be nothing to it this fall," Kratsch told Tom, shaking

CATCHES MINK ON MINNOW

Fall fishing is supposed to be the best fishing of the year. Many smart anglers save their vacations until fall for this season and throw in some hunting for good measure. Now fall can hardly be considered as here yet, but some mighty good fishing results are being enjoyed.

Every week we hear of several large Northerns being taken on the Wapsie River. Probably the most unusual catch of the year occurred this week when Don Elliott



of Cedar Rapids, while fishing near his cabin at Troy Mills, cast a four-inch minnow out for his second Northern. He had a strike but found that his catch was a large mink. As soon as the mink was brought to shore Don lost his hook and leader.

Don hopes the trapper who eventually takes the mink will find the hook and prove his story. Vain hope; the mink like other animals, has a strong digestive system.

Quite often dogs pick up and swallow catfish bait. In most cases all one has to do is to cut the line off close to the dog's mouth and let nature take its course.—By Russ Graham, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

his head. "We will be getting the limit in minutes."

Even with a big increase in ducks, it will take longer to bag a limit in northwest Iowa. However, the increase in that particular area in Saskatchewan should help here because it is a feeder spot for this end of Iowa.—G. K., Jr., *Emmetsburg Democrat*.



Already the ducks on the potholes of the Canadian provinces are gathering for their annual fall flight south.

Jim Sherman Photo.



Handling a gun safely and carefully is the way of the experienced shooter and is something that sets him apart from the novice.

GUN SAFETY PAYS

By John Madson
Education Assistant

There is an excitement in the air this time of year. The leaves are beginning to turn and the dogs are getting restless in their runs. It is a time of golden days and chilly nights; of neatsfoot oil and gunsmoke. It may also be a time of sudden death.

For the hunters are getting out their guns again, many for the first time, some for the last, if old patterns hold true. There will be tragic new accidents for the same old threadbare reasons. Carelessness, perhaps, or lack of respect for the gun. Whatever the cause, the effect is the same.

When you have pheasant, duck, and squirrel hunting on your mind, safety rules aren't very appealing. You're less concerned with safety bromides than with how the dog is going to work this year. But there are reasons for such rules . . . good ones.

Many reasons for the Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety are found in the files of the State Office of Vital Statistics:

1. **Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.** Age 21. Male. Accidentally self-inflicted .22 rifle gunshot wound in head. Fussing with loaded gun . . . careless handling.
2. **Carry only empty guns, taken**

down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp, or home. Age 7. Female. Bullet wound in skull. Riding in back seat of car, leaned forward. Gun in front seat of car; rifle fired accidentally.

3. **Always be sure that the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.** Age 48. Male. Shotgun exploded.
4. **Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.** Age 46. Male. Accidental shotgun wound in head. Deceased slipped on ice, accidentally discharging the shotgun.
5. **Be sure of your target before you fire.** Age 15. Male. Companion did not see victim in line of fire.
6. **Never point a gun at anything you do not wish to shoot.** Age 5. Male. Shot in head while playing "cops" with gun. Neighbor's son pointed shotgun at boy crawling on floor.
7. **Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.** Age 22. Male. Killed by gunshot wound. Rifle discharged when it fell after having been leaned against a support.
8. **Never climb a tree or fence with a loaded gun.** Age 43. Male. Accidental gunshot wound in head. Shotgun discharged while deceased was crawling under a fence.
9. **Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water.**

Age 15. Male. Bullet shot from companion's rifle ricocheted from rock and struck him in forehead.

10. **Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.** Age 40. Male. Shotgun wound apparently self-inflicted. Coroner's report: intoxication. These were Iowans, out to have a good time, but something went wrong.

A gun is not a plaything. Its only basic purpose is to kill. Yet some men handle guns as carelessly as umbrellas. This is the hallmark of a greenhorn, a fool, or both. The only safe attitude toward any firearm is one of understanding and respect.

Extreme care in handling firearms will not stamp you as a neurotic or amateur. Ever watch an old gunsmith or target shooter?

It's something to see. Under no circumstances will they handle a gun that is given them without breaking it to look in the chamber. And they will not allow the muzzle of a gun to cross their own or someone else's body. Handling a gun safely and carefully is the way of the experienced shooter and something to be proud of.

We don't want to discourage shooting or spoil the chances of a .22 for Christmas. For a gun properly used opens the door to one of the greatest sports in the world.

Good luck to you! We hope you make some of those crossing shots you missed last year, and that you get goose shooting some morning when you are only expecting ducks. But while you're doing it, remember this: shooting is fun only for those who are careful.

WINNEBAGO PHEASANT STUDY

What pheasants in Winnebago County are doing may prove to be the basis for understanding and knowledge of all pheasants in the United States.

With little publicity, the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research unit has been conducting surveys of pheasants in Winnebago County since 1935. They have been attempting to determine a number of things about the feathered favorite of the hunters, such as nesting habits, survival and ways of determining population.

These surveys have been conducted on a 1,520-acre plot of land in Eden township by the unit which is cooperating with the Iowa State Conservation Commission, Iowa State College, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wildlife Management Institute.

Edward L. Kozicky is heading the research in the county. This summer he has been assisted by Eugene Klomlan, a student at Iowa State College.

Kozicky reported that this summer the nesting loss in alfalfa fields in the area has been "very high." Out of the 57 nests in a first-crop hay field, only one nest hatched through June. High-speed machinery is given as the cause for this high loss of nests. Oftentimes the pheasants will attempt another nesting in another field, he pointed out, but these new nests are likely to be in an oats field and there, too, are destroyed with high-power machinery.

They have discovered that 26 out of 100 nests in an oats field or late hay field survive. Kozicky suggests farmers should use a flushing bar on their mowers to reduce the nest loss in hay fields.

The two men, who enjoy hunting pheasants themselves, but "not in the survey area" where they know where the pheasants are located, wouldn't predict the pheasant prospects for this coming year. They believe the season will be a good one in comparison to the previous years. "It won't be as good as the 1940-41 season" which they believe was the best since their

(Continued on page 71)



Since 1935, the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit has been conducting a continuous survey of pheasants on a 1,520-acre plot in Winnebago County.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Any bulge or knot that looks fuzziar than a bulge or knot should attract the eye of the squirrel hunter. The squirrel's bushy tail is a dead give-away.

Squirrels . . .

(Continued from page 65)

watching you, and don't worry, there are some watching you! You will probably hear movement before you see it. When the squirrel breaks loose, get your rifle on him while he is running, so that when he stops you can nail him without frightening him with movement.

If you haven't done any good in twenty or twenty-five minutes, better move on. Over years of scientific sitting we have timed many squirrels, and have found that if things are going to happen, it will be in that span of time.

Now that you are finally on your feet, perhaps you will prefer to "walk hunt" for a while. More than ever before, you now need neutral clothing and soft shoes or boots. Wear a soft, old hat, not only to break the outline of your head and shade your face, but to keep other hunters from parting your hair.

There's a lot to be said for the "squirrel hunter's tread" of the mountaineer. Walk softly and slowly. Make no quick movements and watch the ground ahead. To do it right, you must hunt as you have never hunted before. See everything, and take it easy. Watch for the very top of a squirrel's back when he's on the other side of a limb. Watch for any hint of that tail hanging down. If you startle a squirrel that runs haltingly and not too fast, freeze. He'll be stopping. But if he's in a great

hurry and traveling in a straight line, he has something in mind. He is going to den up, and you might as well move on. Waiting out holed squirrels can waste a lot of time, because they often forget what they were frightened about and go to sleep. We have watched holes for an hour and a half with no results. It's better to move on, keeping that ace up your sleeve for the return trip.

If a squirrel takes to a nest, forget him. Nest shooting is a nasty business at best. Sometimes it works but more often it doesn't, and a squirrel dies for nothing. Our Iowa fox squirrel deserves something better than being gut-shot in a nest.

A .22 rifle is the gun for squirrels. It is more sporting than a shotgun and more effective. A squirrel is one of the toughest game species in the business, and he is very tenacious of life. Shotguns often fail to do the job. We have killed squirrels with shotguns, only to skin them and have shot rattle out on the paper from under their skins. Many squirrels killed with rifles can be found carrying old shotgun pellets. But watch it! Your .22 long rifle will shoot a mile. Always think beyond your target.

Most hunters prefer to hunt early in the day, since the daily peak of squirrel activity is between 8 and 10 in the morning.

The secret of squirrel hunting is in stealth, concentration, and laziness.

But still-hunting or walking, the easy way is the best way.

Using either method, you won't be worn out when you get home, but it would probably be a good idea to pretend you are. Because those ?*§! storm windows aren't up yet.

SKUNK RIVER CATFISH

The Iowa Conservation Commission conducted a series of experiments to determine how many catfish, if any, there were in the Skunk rivers. Their conclusions were that there were very few, so they put some in.

Of late we have been conducting our own tests of the situation and we find a little difference. There are some fish there, some fine fat channel cat. But not many and they are not hungry. The river is full of small fish, river minnows, little carp and buffalo, and lots of bullheads, and many crawfish. There are not enough large fish to keep the little ones thinned down. So the large ones are fat and lazy, and not hungry, so they are hard to catch. You cannot get a big string of them, but will have to be content with a few.

Yet, there is no fish, anywhere, the equal of a Skunk river catfish, for eating.—*Sigourney Review*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By John Madson
Education Assistant

As if there wasn't enough confusion in the world, we have the common names of animals. These names, or rather the animals, aren't those animals at all, but others, and the animals should carry names carried by the wrongly labeled animals. See what I mean about confusion?

For example, the horned toad is not a toad, but a lizard. You probably already knew that one. But did you know that a pronghorn

antelope isn't an antelope? Its scientific name *Antilocapra* indicates that it is an antelope-goat, but this isn't correct either. Actually, it is like nothing else in the world. Unlike the deer, the pronghorn has no dew claws, and unlike the antelope it sheds its horns, or at least the outer shell of them. So we have an animal that has neither the bony, annually-shed antlers of the deer, or the perennial horns of antelope and goats.

On the other hand, the Rocky Mountain goat is not a goat, but an antelope, closely related to the mountain chamois of the old world. And of course the American buffalo isn't a buffalo at all, but a true bison. Buffaloes are represented by the water buffaloes of Asia and the terrible cape buffaloes of Africa.

The little Iowa civet cat is not a civet cat, but a small spotted skunk. The true civets are restricted to the old world. You'll probably tear your hair when I tell you that largemouth and smallmouth black bass aren't bass. Well, they aren't—they're sunfish. The true bass are represented by our freshwater white and yellow bass. And the walleyed pike isn't a pike, it's a perch. Nor is the lake trout a trout; it's a charr, in an entirely different genus than the true trout. To top the whole thing off we have the Atlantic salmon, which isn't a salmon at all, but a trout.

The robin that we are glad to see in the spring is really a thrush, and the English sparrow that we are never glad to see is a finch, not a sparrow.

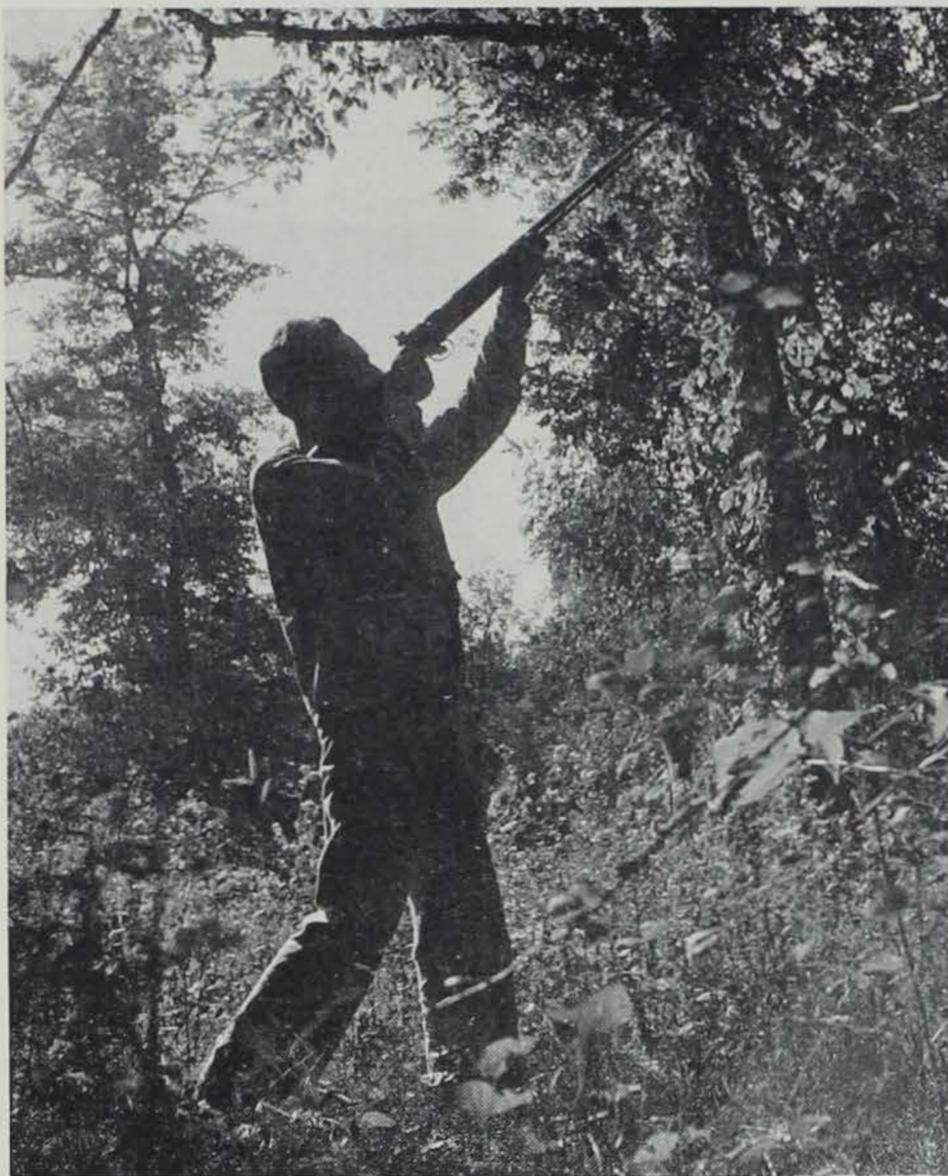
To make things even worse, the jack rabbit isn't a rabbit, but a hare, and the common glass snake is a lizard. Which just about brings us back to where we started.

Yet, some of the names are accurate. The 13-striped spermophile is a spermophile, and the Gila monster is certainly a monster. But on the other hand, a magpie isn't a pie . . . that's enough.



Jim Sherman Photo.

And to make things worse a jack rabbit is not a jack rabbit at all, but a hare.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Two eyes are better than one, whether game shooting or at targets. The beginner should start out by learning to shoot with both eyes open.

Both Eyes Open . . .

(Continued from page 65)

both eyes open and thus relieve himself of the unnecessary strain of squinting or closing one eye. The shooter uses only one eye in aligning his sights anyway, and that eye is his 'master eye.'

"Every one has a 'master eye' and the other is merely an auxiliary. This can be proved simply by pointing your finger at some object on the wall with both eyes open. Then close one eye at a time. You will find that one eye will retain the sighting alignment along the finger, while the finger seems to jump off the target when the other eye is used exclusively. When both eyes are opened, the experimenter will find that the finger is still pointing at the target. The eye which retains the sighting alignment is the 'master eye'. The domination of sighting by the 'master eye' when both eyes are open is called 'sight accommodation.'

"Do the same thing with the gun. With both eyes open point the barrel at an object. If you are right-handed, close your left eye as your right eye will generally be your 'master eye'. The gun will still be aligned on the object. Now open your left eye and close the right. The barrel will seem to be pointing several inches to the right of the object.

"The great majority of expert riflemen shoot with both eyes open. This is particularly true when open sights are used. When peep sights

are used, one eye is often closed until the sights are properly aligned and then opened. This greatly reduces eye-strain. In shooting with a telescope sight, a considerably lower percentage of experts shoot with both eyes open, but many of them wear a patch over the 'extra' eye to ease the strain of keeping it closed and some have tabs placed on the rear of the sight so that the eye which is snugged up close to the aperture is not interfered with.

"In field shooting at moving game with a telescope sight, it is best to keep both eyes open when bringing the rifle up to alignment. In this way the shooter does not lose sight of the target or game and does not experience difficulty and valuable loss of time in finding the target in the restricted field of his lenses. The idea is to get on the target as quickly as possible and this can best be done by keeping both eyes open.

"Practically all expert pistol shots shoot with both eyes open. After all, shooting a pistol is just like pointing your finger and a natural and comfortable stance always makes for better marksmanship in any kind of shooting.

"Many expert pistol and rifle shots have trained themselves to shoot with one eye closed and if they are making good scores consistently with this method, it is not recommended that they switch over to two-eye or binocular shooting at once. But this type of shoot-

ing is to be encouraged always and in the vast majority of cases an improvement in marksmanship will soon be noted.

"The best shotgun shots, whether it be at game or clay targets, always shoot with both eyes open. The scatter-gun artist seldom sees his sights, or, in many cases, even his gun barrel. His eyes are constantly on the target or game, and he trains himself to instinctively swing the gun in perfect alignment. When the shooter learns to make the gun a part of himself, shooting becomes a comparatively easy sport. When he learns to lead flying or moving targets properly, he approaches perfection.

"Every shooter should practice gun-handling until the gun seems to become a natural part of the body," says Davis. "Some shooters seem to almost tie themselves into a knot when shooting at moving targets. They are constantly 'working' on their guns instead of making the gun work for them. Many build up mental obstacles which are reflected in their scores, but the fellows who really bring home the bacon are the ones who put into actual practice the old slogan of 'Easy Does It.' The fact that everyone can always see better with both eyes open needs mentioning only as further proof that shooting with both eyes open maintains the natural balance of vision. You can't hit 'em unless you can see 'em.'"—*Remington News Letter.*

CORN OUT BY PHEASANT OPENING?

Announcement of state regulations for the 1952 pheasant hunting season has started the boys chattering about the prospects and most agree the outlook is good. Better than last year—and that's something. The cover situation will be back to somewhere near normal. The abundance of cover in the fall of 1951 permitted the birds to do their vanishing act with the greatest of ease, even giving dogs a bad time.

Right now it looks as if many fields of corn throughout the areas will be picked before the opening day, November 11. Harvesting of this year's king crop might well get underway in September for it's a full three weeks ahead of schedule as a result of favorable weather that reigned during the last spring and summer.

And the weather was also favorable for a marked increase in the pheasant population, too. From dog owners who have been training their animals for the coming season come reports of ring-necks in spots where they were conspicuous by their absence a year ago, after months of cool, rainy weather.—*Stan Bruner, Waterloo Courier.*

Conservation applies to all people, rural and urban, and to be most effective must be practiced universally.



Cindy on Vacation.

CINDY TAKES A VACATION

I think that our dog, Cindy, enjoyed our vacation just as much as we did. It was the first time we had let her run without a leash and she made the most of her opportunity.

But it was her fishing that sent the family into hilarious laughter. At first she didn't want to get into the boat, but once she had tried it we couldn't get her out. Whenever I grabbed my fishing tackle and headed for the dock, she was always right on the spot and would race down to the boat and wait for me.

She was more excited and pleased when we would catch a fish than we were and she kept constant watch of all the lines no matter how many were fishing. She would look at mine, then Joree's, then the girls'.

The minute one of us started to reel in, she was right there to see the landing done properly. She was very patient waiting for the fish to bite, but showed her disappointment if we didn't land one within what she thought was a reasonable length of time.

When I would put the fish on the stringer over the side of the boat, she would stand guard over them from then on. If the current would swing them under the boat so she couldn't see them, she would set up a fuss and I would have to shorten the stringer so the fish were in view.

One of the most amusing incidents occurred when I came in early one morning to pick up one of the girls. There were three or four fish on the stringer and I just left them hanging over the side of the boat while I went up to the cottage.

But Cindy didn't want to leave the fish and kept jumping in and out of the boat, eyeing the fish, and barking. I started up the steps from the dock to the cottage, stopped about four steps up and turned around to see what she was doing. Evidently she thought I had forgotten the fish because she had leaned over the side of the boat, taken hold of the stringer and was pulling the string out of the water into the boat. I had to get the fish and take them up to the cottage before she would come with me.—*Clear Lake Reporter.*

Not all fish eggs are of the tiny variety, for a species of shark lays eggs larger than those of the ostrich. B.C.



Late fall and winter cottontail shooting should be the best in several years.

Prospects . . .

(Continued from page 65)

Shooting hours for migratory waterfowl will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset. Shotguns are limited to a three shell capacity, and all migratory waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 must carry federal duck stamps.

There has been a slight decrease in quail populations, but nothing critical. In the long zone, the season will be from November 1 through December 15, with a daily bag limit of six birds. Possession limit is six birds, with shooting hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The counties open in this long zone are: Tama, Benton, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, Clinton, Scott, Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, Muscatine, Louisa, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Appanoose, Davis, Van Buren, and Lee.

In the short zone, quail season is November 1 through November 15. Shooting hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, with a bag and

- SQUIRRELS
- RABBITS
- DUCKS
- GEESE
- QUAIL LONG ZONE
- QUAIL SHORT ZONE
- PHEASANT LONG ZONE
- PHEASANT SHORT ZONE

	SEPT. 15	OCT. 15	NOV. 15	DEC. 15	JAN. 15
SQUIRRELS	[Solid black bar]				
RABBITS	[Solid black bar]				
DUCKS			[Solid black bar]		
GEESE		[Solid black bar]			
QUAIL LONG ZONE			[Solid black bar]		
QUAIL SHORT ZONE			[Solid black bar]		
PHEASANT LONG ZONE			[Solid black bar]		
PHEASANT SHORT ZONE			[Solid black bar]		

Open game seasons—1952.

possession limit of six. The short zone includes: Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Marshall, Guthrie, Adair, Adams, Page, Dallas, and Polk counties.

This year's pheasant population promises to just about the same as in the 1951 season. Although early censuses showed a few less birds, reproduction was good and all indications point to shooting at least as good or a little better than last year.

The pheasant season is unchanged from 1951, opening on November 11 and closing 4:30 p.m. December 5 in the long zone. Three cock birds is the bag and possession limit. Shooting will be from noon to 4:30 p.m. each day in both the long and short zones.

Counties in the long zone include: Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Clayton Fayette, Chickasaw, Floyd, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Palo Alto, Clay, O'Brien, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Butler, Bremer, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton,

Scott, Jones, Linn, Benton, Tama, Marshall, Story, Boone, Greene, Carroll, Crawford, Monona, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, and Muscatine.

Pheasant season in the short zone will open on November 11 and last through November 22. Bag and possession limit is three cock birds. Short zone counties include: Harrison, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair, Madison, Adams, Union, Clarke, Lucas, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Louisa, Washington, Keokuk, Mahaska, Dallas, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Page, Monroe, Appanoose, Polk, Warren and Marion.

Pheasant Study . . .

(Continued on page 68)

surveys were started. In setting up the program in 1935, the unit attempted to point out the importance of suitable winter cover to adequate food supply as corn fields in the winter survival of pheasants. There was a 40 per cent loss in 1935-36, he said.

In 1939-40-41, they conducted pheasant nesting studies, showing the importance of pheasant nesting success and nesting efforts in the fall population. No work was done on the survey during the war years.

He said two phases were studied starting in 1949—continuing the nesting studies and learning more in census techniques. They are attempting to determine what constitutes nesting effort and the population outlook through intensive study in a small area.

To be taken into account in fall roadside pheasant census are such items as air temperatures, dew, wind, rainfall, humidity, time of day, seasons of the year. When they complete this study they hope to be able to determine the pheasant population on the basis of checks along a roadside.

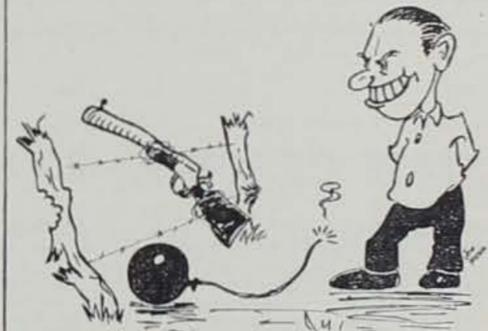
The men feel they have accomplished a great deal in their work with the pheasants and are looking forward to greater knowledge in the field.—Forest City Summit.

The paired fins of fish are not used for propulsion through the water, but serve primarily as stabilizers, turning devices and brakes. B.C.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk from the Field

A. E. McMahon, in charge of Carroll and Greene counties, has this to say about old ordnance: "I was recently asked to blow up an old 12-gauge, damascus-barreled shotgun to be used in safety demonstrations. Lashing the gun to a fence brace, I plugged the barrel with mud and pulled the trigger with a cord. This blew out the front sight. I tried it again, splitting the end of the barrel. Then, for a really horrible example, I placed a 20-gauge shell in the barrel and a heavy duck load in the chamber. It nearly destroyed the fencepost, but the gun was unharmed. Getting mad, I drove a



wooden plug halfway down the barrel, plugged the barrel with mud, and loaded up with a high velocity, three-inch magnum shell. When the smoke cleared away, the gun had broken its moorings, but not its breech. There was only a small bulge in the barrel and a post shot full of wood and mud. While most old guns will blow up, I believe that some of them are safe for anything under bazooka rockets."

* * *

From Harold Brucklacher, formerly in Lyon and Osceola counties, comes a story of a new low in sportsmanship. While watching a fishtrap at Buffalo Run, Harold saw a car stop and a man got out. Looking cautiously around, the man began fishing just below the trap with his fly rod, keeping a sharp lookout as he did so. Having



no luck there, he began fishing in the trap itself, but still no strikes. He then returned to his car, got a dipnet, and netted a crappie from the trap. He carefully hooked the crappie on his fly, threw it into the water, and began horsing it in.

Unhappy as he was to see Harold, he was even unhappier to see the justice of the peace, who took a dim view of the whole thing.

* * *

Ward Garrett, conservation officer in Pottawattamie County, tells one about a pheasant with a knapsack. It seems that last pheasant season a young man on his first

(Continued on page 72)



Jim Sherman Photo.

There has been a slight decrease in quail populations, but nothing critical is apparent.

1952 ANNUAL FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST

Complete details of the fourth annual contest to select the 1953-1954 federal "duck stamp" are contained in a leaflet which is now available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., according to an announcement recently made by Albert M. Day, service director.

This public contest is open to all interested artists—amateurs as well as professionals. Entries submitted in accordance with contest rules must reach the service's headquarters office in Washington on or before January 12, 1953.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp—better known as the "duck stamp"—has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country

since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it costs \$2, and everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have this stamp in his possession, validated by his signature.

Each year the design used on the duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the nation.

The winning artist will receive no direct compensation if his design is selected, but the distinction is unique and worthwhile. Many of the winning artists in former years have been able to capitalize on their designs by selling autographed prints; all such projects,

however, are subject to the terms of the contract which the winning artist signs with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Artists will be given a wide latitude in the choice of medium—pen and ink, oil, watercolor, etching, pencil, etc.—and in their subject. The subject, of course, must be a true-to-life portrait of wild waterfowl. Most of the winning entries in previous years were of ducks and geese in action. At any rate, the birds should be in position and plumage "as the hunter sees them."
—Department of the Interior.

It is believed that anglers catch just as many if not more fish in the Iowa lakes today as they did in the so-called "good old days." The fish per man may be less but there are hundreds more fishing now than then. E.R.

Wardens Tales . . .

(Continued from page 71)
hunting trip approached Ward and told him that he had killed a very unusual pheasant.

According to the young hunter, this cock pheasant was carrying a little sack filled with corn around his neck, which was so heavy that the bird couldn't fly. He could only run down the corn rows ahead of hunters, where the young man shot him.

Ward investigated the matter closely. "Evidently," Ward laughs, "the man had never seen nor heard of a bird's crop. We didn't let him up for several days."

Next to the grasses which comprise about 3,000 distinct species trees are the most widely distributed and best known members of the whole vegetable kingdom. B.C.

DUCK HUNTING HOURS

1952

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA—30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE AND 1 HOUR BEFORE SUNSET SCHEDULE

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

(Note: This table has been compiled from official schedules furnished by the Weather Bureau Stations listed. A schedule from the Omaha, Nebraska, Station is used because there is no station in southwestern Iowa. The difference in time between stations should be taken into consideration in figuring the exact time at your particular location.)

	DAVENPORT		BURLINGTON		DUBUQUE		KEOKUK		CHARLES CITY		DES MOINES		OMAHA, NEBR.		SIOUX CITY	
	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset	30 Min. Before Sunrise	1 Hour Before Sunset
Oct. 8	Noon	4:34	Noon	4:35	Noon	4:33	Noon	4:37	Noon	4:41	Noon	4:45	Noon	4:55	Noon	4:56
9	5:38	4:32	5:39	4:33	5:38	4:32	5:41	4:35	5:47	4:39	5:49	4:43	5:59	4:53	6:01	4:55
10	5:39	4:30	5:40	4:32	5:39	4:30	5:42	4:34	5:48	4:37	5:51	4:42	6:00	4:52	6:02	4:53
11	5:40	4:28	5:41	4:30	5:41	4:28	5:43	4:32	5:49	4:36	5:52	4:40	6:01	4:50	6:04	4:51
12	5:41	4:27	5:42	4:29	5:42	4:27	5:44	4:31	5:51	4:34	5:53	4:39	6:02	4:49	6:05	4:50
13	5:41	4:25	5:43	4:27	5:43	4:25	5:45	4:30	5:52	4:32	5:54	4:36	6:04	4:47	6:05	4:47
14	5:42	4:24	5:44	4:26	5:44	4:24	5:46	4:28	5:53	4:31	5:56	4:35	6:05	4:45	6:07	4:46
15	5:43	4:22	5:45	4:24	5:45	4:22	5:47	4:27	5:55	4:29	5:57	4:33	6:06	4:44	6:08	4:44
16	5:45	4:20	5:46	4:23	5:46	4:20	5:48	4:25	5:56	4:27	5:58	4:31	6:07	4:42	6:09	4:42
17	5:45	4:19	5:47	4:21	5:47	4:19	5:49	4:24	5:57	4:26	5:59	4:30	6:08	4:41	6:10	4:41
18	5:47	4:17	5:48	4:20	5:49	4:17	5:50	4:22	5:58	4:24	6:00	4:28	6:09	4:39	6:11	4:39
19	5:48	4:16	5:50	4:18	5:50	4:16	5:51	4:21	6:00	4:22	6:01	4:27	6:10	4:38	6:12	4:38
20	5:50	4:14	5:51	4:17	5:51	4:14	5:52	4:20	6:01	4:21	6:02	4:25	6:11	4:36	6:13	4:36
21	5:52	4:14	5:52	4:15	5:52	4:12	5:53	4:18	6:02	4:19	6:04	4:25	6:12	4:35	6:15	4:35
22	5:53	4:13	5:53	4:14	5:53	4:11	5:54	4:17	6:03	4:18	6:05	4:23	6:14	4:33	6:16	4:34
23	5:54	4:11	5:54	4:12	5:54	4:09	5:55	4:16	6:04	4:16	6:05	4:22	6:14	4:32	6:18	4:32
24	5:55	4:10	5:55	4:11	5:56	4:08	5:56	4:14	6:06	4:15	6:07	4:20	6:16	4:30	6:19	4:31
25	5:56	4:09	5:56	4:09	5:57	4:06	5:58	4:13	6:07	4:13	6:07	4:19	6:16	4:29	6:21	4:29
26	5:57	4:07	5:57	4:08	5:59	4:05	5:59	4:12	6:08	4:12	6:08	4:18	6:17	4:28	6:22	4:28
27	5:59	4:05	5:59	4:07	6:00	4:03	6:00	4:10	6:10	4:10	6:11	4:16	6:20	4:26	6:23	4:26
28	6:00	4:04	6:00	4:05	6:01	4:02	6:01	4:09	6:11	4:09	6:11	4:15	6:20	4:25	6:24	4:25
29	6:01	4:02	6:01	4:04	6:02	4:01	6:02	4:08	6:12	4:08	6:13	4:13	6:22	4:23	6:25	4:24
30	6:02	4:01	6:02	4:03	6:03	3:59	6:03	4:06	6:13	4:06	6:14	4:12	6:23	4:22	6:27	4:22
31	6:03	4:00	6:03	4:01	6:05	3:58	6:04	4:05	6:14	4:05	6:14	4:11	6:23	4:21	6:28	4:21
Nov. 1	6:04	3:58	6:05	4:00	6:06	3:57	6:05	4:04	6:16	4:04	6:17	4:09	6:26	4:19	6:28	4:20
2	6:06	3:57	6:06	3:59	6:08	3:55	6:06	4:03	6:17	4:02	6:18	4:08	6:27	4:18	6:31	4:18
3	6:07	3:56	6:07	3:58	6:09	3:54	6:08	4:02	6:19	4:01	6:19	4:07	6:28	4:17	6:32	4:17
4	6:08	3:55	6:08	3:57	6:10	3:53	6:09	4:00	6:20	4:00	6:20	4:06	6:29	4:16	6:33	4:16
5	6:09	3:54	6:09	3:56	6:11	3:52	6:10	3:59	6:21	3:58	6:21	4:05	6:30	4:15	6:34	4:15
6	6:11	3:53	6:11	3:55	6:13	3:50	6:11	3:58	6:22	3:57	6:23	4:04	6:32	4:14	6:36	4:13
7	6:12	3:51	6:12	3:53	6:14	3:49	6:12	3:58	6:23	3:56	6:24	4:02	6:33	4:12	6:37	4:12
8	6:13	3:50	6:13	3:52	6:15	3:48	6:13	3:56	6:25	3:55	6:25	4:01	6:34	4:11	6:38	4:11
9	6:14	3:49	6:14	3:51	6:16	3:47	6:15	3:55	6:26	3:54	6:26	4:00	6:35	4:10	6:39	4:10
10	6:15	3:48	6:15	3:50	6:17	3:46	6:16	3:54	6:27	3:53	6:27	3:59	6:36	4:09	6:40	4:09
11	6:16	3:47	6:16	3:50	6:19	3:45	6:17	3:53	6:29	3:52	6:28	3:58	6:37	4:08	6:42	4:08
12	6:18	3:46	6:17	3:49	6:20	3:44	6:18	3:53	6:30	3:51	6:30	3:57	6:39	4:07	6:43	4:07
13	6:19	3:45	6:19	3:48	6:21	3:43	6:19	3:52	6:31	3:50	6:31	3:56	6:40	4:06	6:44	4:06
14	6:20	3:44	6:20	3:47	6:22	3:42	6:20	3:51	6:32	3:49	6:32	3:56	6:41	4:06	6:45	4:06
15	6:21	3:43	6:21	3:46	6:24	3:41	6:21	3:50	6:34	3:48	6:33	3:55	6:42	4:05	6:47	4:04
16	6:22	3:42	6:22	3:45	6:25	3:40	6:23	3:49	6:35	3:47	6:34	3:54	6:43	4:04	6:48	4:03
17	6:24	3:42	6:23	3:44	6:27	3:39	6:24	3:48	6:36	3:46	6:36	3:53	6:45	4:03	6:50	4:02
18	6:25	3:41	6:24	3:44	6:28	3:38	6:25	3:48	6:37	3:45	6:37	3:52	6:46	4:02	6:51	4:01
19	6:26	3:40	6:26	3:43	6:29	3:37	6:26	3:47	6:39	3:44	6:38	3:52	6:47	4:02	6:53	4:00
20	6:27	3:40	6:27	3:42	6:30	3:37	6:27	3:46	6:40	3:44	6:39	3:51	6:48	4:01	6:53	4:00
21	6:28	3:39	6:28	3:42	6:32	3:36	6:28	3:46	6:41	3:43	6:40	3:50	6:49	4:00	6:55	3:59
22	6:29	3:38	6:29	3:41	6:33	3:35	6:29	3:45	6:42	3:42	6:41	3:50	6:50	4:00	6:56	3:58
23	6:31	3:38	6:30	3:41	6:34	3:35	6:30	3:45	6:44	3:41	6:43	3:49	6:52	3:59	6:56	3:58
24	6:32	3:37	6:31	3:40	6:35	3:34	6:32	3:44	6:45	3:41	6:44	3:49	6:53	3:59	6:58	3:57
25	6:33	3:36	6:32	3:40	6:37	3:33	6:33	3:44	6:46	3:40	6:45	3:48	6:54	3:58	7:00	3:56
26	6:34	3:36	6:33	3:39	6:38	3:33	6:34	3:43	6:47	3:40	6:46	3:48	6:55	3:58	7:01	3:56
27	6:35	3:35	6:34	3:39	6:39	3:32	6:35	3:43	6:48	3:39	6:47	3:47	6:56	3:57	7:02	3:55
28	6:36	3:35	6:35	3:38	6:40	3:32	6:36	3:42	6:50	3:39	6:48	3:47	6:57	3:57	7:03	3:55
29	6:37	3:34	6:36	3:38	6:41	3:31	6:37	3:42	6:51	3:38	6:49	3:46	6:58	3:56	7:04	3:54
30	6:38	3:34	6:37	3:38	6:42	3:31	6:38	3:42	6:52	3:38	6:50	3:46	6:59	3:56	7:05	3:54
Dec. 1	6:39	3:34	6:38	3:37	6:43	3:31	6:39	3:41	6:53	3:38	6:51	3:46	7:00	3:56	7:06	3:54